

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN



ICMR-REGIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE, GORAKHPUR

(ICMR-RMRCGKP)



Project Concern International (PCI)

2026

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as MOU) is made on theday of 2026.

Between

ICMR- Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur, whose address is Baba Raghav Das (BRD) Medical College Campus, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh PIN-273013 India (hereinafter referred to as "ICMR-RMRCGKP").

And

Project Concern International, India ("PCI"), a not-for-profit society having its principal place of operations at F-87, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020. (hereinafter referred to as "PCI").

Whereas

- A. ICMR-RMRCGKP and PCI enter into this non-financial memorandum of understanding (the "MoU") to collaborate on research, evidence synthesis, and development of life-course and climate-sensitive health frameworks on _____, January 2026.
- B. This MoU records intent to collaborate and does not, by itself, create any obligation on either Party to provide funds, goods or services for consideration. Binding obligations are limited to the clauses expressly stated as binding.



1. Preamble

ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur (ICMR-RMRCGKP):

ICMR-RMRCGKP is one of the 28 Institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), under Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of Government of India. Initially, it was established as a field unit of ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune in 2008 to understand the problem of persistent acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Due to absence of any single biomedical research Institute in this region, Government of India decided to upgrade Field Unit of NIV at Gorakhpur to full-fledged independent Regional Medical Research Centre in 12th Five Year Plan. The foundation stone was laid by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath and by the then Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India Shri. Jagat Prasad Nadda on 2nd September 2018.

ICMR-RMRCGKP is mandated to generate high-quality biomedical and public health evidence to inform policy and programmes, with a focus on population health, health systems, and regionally relevant public health priorities.

And

PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL (PCI):

PCI is a not-for-profit organization that works with the government as well as social actors to create an enabling environment to improve and activate the social position of marginalized populations, especially women and girls, as well as strengthen convergent actions on the ground. Knowledge and evidence-based decision making, and data- driven management have been a trademark of our programs in India. For over two decades, PCI has maintained a diverse portfolio in India, with a presence in more than one-fifth of all districts in the country, reaching over 10 million people in 2019 alone.

PCI's health, gender, and community development programming focuses on low- income, vulnerable, and hard-to-reach populations, especially adolescent girls, women of reproductive ages and children. By integrating its community mobilization and empowerment approaches into the government strategies and systems, PCI is helping to ensure that millions of vulnerable women, children, families, and communities throughout India have the ability to advocate for, access and utilize quality health, nutrition, and empowerment services and information for generations to come.



2. Objectives of the MoU

This MoU sets out the general framework of cooperation and coordination between the Parties, with the following objectives:

- 2.1 To jointly generate and synthesize policy-relevant quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods evidence on health and wellbeing across the life course.
- 2.2 To integrate gender, intersectionality, and lived experience into research design, data collection, and analysis, in alignment with SDG 5.
- 2.3 To co-develop intersectional, life-course and climate-sensitive health frameworks or packages that integrate epidemiological evidence, community insights, and health system perspectives.
- 2.4 To generate evidence on climate-sensitive disease and climate-resilient healthcare, including the health impacts of heat, environmental exposures, and climate-related vulnerabilities, in alignment with SDG 3 and SDG 13.
- 2.5 To support evidence dissemination and translation for informing programmes, policies, and implementation strategies at state and national levels.

3. Scope of work

PCI and ICMR-RMRCGKP have mutually agreed to work together to collaborate on research, evidence synthesis, and development of life-course and climate-sensitive health frameworks through the following scope of work:

3.1 Joint Research and Evidence Generation

- Observational, implementation, qualitative, and mixed-methods research addressing life-course health and wellbeing.
- Public health and social science research on gendered, occupational, and environmental determinants of health.
- Research on climate-sensitive health outcomes, climate stressors (including heat and extreme weather), and health system responsiveness.
- Secondary data analysis complemented by contextual and community-based qualitative inquiry.

3.2 Development of Life-Course and Climate-Sensitive Health Frameworks



- Co-creation and piloting of evidence-informed frameworks or packages addressing health needs across life stages.
- Integration of climate sensitivity, equity, and gender responsiveness into health system design and service delivery approaches.

3.3 Knowledge Synthesis and Dissemination

- Preparation of technical reports, policy briefs, evidence syntheses, and academic manuscripts.
- Joint dissemination through consultations, workshops, scientific forums, and policy dialogues.

3.4 Capacity Building and Technical Exchange

- Joint development of research tools, qualitative guides, and mixed-methods training modules.
- Technical mentoring and institutional exchange on public health research.

The parties hereby agree to work together on the following—

Project Concern International (PCI) shall:

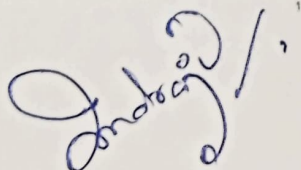
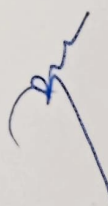
- Lead and support public health and social science research in health.
- Facilitate community engagement, documentation of lived experiences, and intersectional and climate-sensitive analysis.
- Provide operational coordination, field-level support, and systematic documentation.
- Support knowledge translation, engagement and collaboration with intersectoral programme and policy stakeholders.

ICMR-RMRCGKP shall:

- Provide scientific and methodological oversight for research activities.
- Lead epidemiological research where applicable.
- Facilitate ethical review and ensure compliance with ICMR National Ethical Guidelines.
- Support dissemination through appropriate scientific, academic, and policy platforms.

Both Parties shall jointly:

- Collaborate in the design, implementation, review, and dissemination of activities under this MoU.
- Ensure scientific rigour, ethical integrity, and public health relevance of all outputs.
- Share technical inputs and learnings in accordance with agreed protocols and approvals.
- Support joint dissemination through scientific and policy platforms.

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7. Ethical Approvals and Compliance

Each Party shall conduct activities in accordance with applicable laws of India (including applicable state rules), institutional policies and national/international ethical guidelines. Where human participants or patient data are involved, requisite approvals (e.g., Institutional Ethics Committee/TRB approvals) shall be obtained prior to initiation.

8. Confidentiality and Nondisclosure:

Confidential Information shared under this MoU shall be protected using reasonable safeguards and used solely for the Purpose. Personal data, if any, shall be processed in compliance with applicable data protection laws including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and sectoral guidelines. Data-sharing for research shall follow de-identification, minimum necessary access, and secure storage protocols.

9. Intellectual Property, Publications and Branding

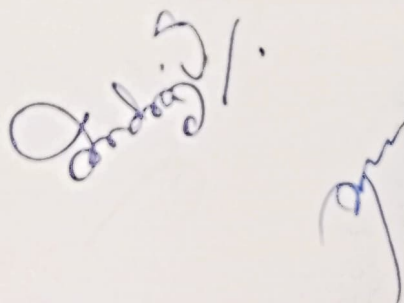
Pre-existing intellectual property (IP) of a Party remains that Party's exclusive property. IP arising from jointly performed activities ("Background" and "Project IP") will be owned as agreed in a Project Annexure; in the absence of such agreement, ownership shall follow inventorship/authorship with a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to the other Party for non-commercial research, training and academic dissemination.

Authorship and publications shall follow accepted academic standards. Use of names, logos or brand identifiers requires prior written consent of the owning Party

10. Non-Exclusivity and Conflict of Interest

This MoU is non-exclusive. Each Party may collaborate with third parties, subject to managing conflicts of interest and safeguarding Confidential Information.

11. No Agency; Personnel; Taxes and Benefits

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink are visible at the bottom of the page. The signature on the left is more elaborate and cursive, while the one on the right is simpler and more stylized.

The Parties are independent contractors. Nothing herein creates a partnership, joint venture, employment, or agency. Personnel remain under the direction of their respective employers; no employment-related benefits or tax obligations transfer between the Parties.

12. Liability; Indemnity; Limitations

Each Party is responsible for its own acts and omissions. To the extent permitted by law, neither Party shall be liable to the other for indirect, incidental or consequential damages arising out of this MoU.

The foregoing does not limit liability for

- (i) breach of confidentiality;
- (ii) infringement or misappropriation of IP;
- (iii) willful misconduct or fraud; or
- (iv) violation of applicable law.

13. Term and Termination

This MoU becomes effective on the Effective Date and continues for three (3) years, unless terminated earlier by mutual consent or by either Party upon ninety (90) days' prior written notice. Any binding clauses intended to survive (including Confidentiality, Data Protection, IP, Liability and Dispute Resolution) shall survive expiration/termination.

14. Dispute Resolution; Governing Law; Jurisdiction

This MoU shall be governed by the laws of India. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MoU that cannot be resolved amicably within thirty (30) days shall be referred to arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (as amended). The seat and venue shall be Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The proceedings shall be conducted in English before a sole arbitrator mutually appointed by the Parties. Subject to the foregoing, courts at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

15. Notices

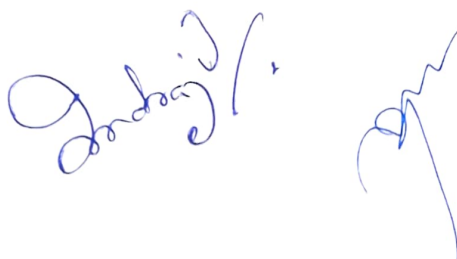
Notices under this MoU shall be in writing and delivered by hand, courier or email with acknowledgement to the addresses specified below, or such other address as notified in writing.



ICMR-RMRC GKP: Prof. (Dr.) Hari Shanker Joshi; Director; director-rmregkp@icmr.gov.in
PCI India: Mr. Indrajit Chaudhuri; CEO & Country Director; ceooffice@pciglobal.in

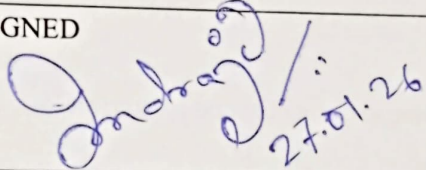
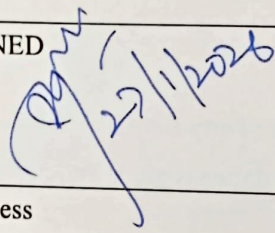
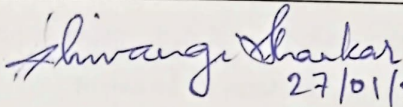
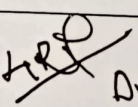
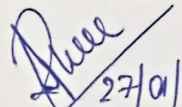
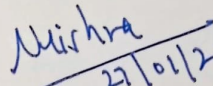
16. Miscellaneous

- (a) Entire Agreement and Order of Precedence: This MoU (together with Annexes) constitutes the entire understanding in relation to its subject. In the event of a conflict, a duly executed Project Annexure or definitive agreement shall prevail over this MoU.
- (b) Amendments: Any amendment must be in writing and signed by both Parties.
- (c) Assignment: Neither Party may assign this MoU without prior written consent of the other Party, except to an affiliate in connection with reorganization without reducing protections.
- (d) Force Majeure: Neither Party shall be liable for failure to perform due to events beyond reasonable control, provided prompt notice is given and performance resumes as soon as practicable.
- (e) Stamp Duty and Execution: This MoU shall be executed on appropriate non-judicial stamp paper as per applicable stamp laws. It may be executed in counterparts and by electronic signatures to the extent permitted by law.

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In Witness Whereof

This agreement is made in duplicate, and both shall be treated as original. The original printed on stamp paper No. _____ will be retained by the first party while another copy printed on stamp paper No. _____ will be retained by the second party. The Parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding this on _____

For and on behalf of the First Party	For and on behalf of the Second Party
Authorized Signatory:	Authorized Signatory:
Indrajit Chaudhuri, Country Director & CEO, Project Concern International F - 87, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase- 3, New Delhi, India. PIN-110020	Prof. (Dr.) Hari Shanker Joshi Director ICMR-RMRC, Gorakhpur Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh PIN-273013
SIGNED  27.01.26	SIGNED  27/1/2026
Witness:	Witness
1.  27/01/26 (Name and Sign with Date) SHIVANGI SHANKAR	2.  Dr. Gaurav R Dwivedi (Name and Sign with Date)
1.  27/01/26 (Name and Sign with Date) RAJSHREE DAS	2.  27/01/2026 (Name and Sign with Date) Dr. NALINI MISHRA