

Funded by **Ophirex Inc.** and the Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett, in collaboration with the Orissa State Volunteers Social Workers Association (OSVSWA) and the Indian Council of Medical Research—Regional Research Medical Centre (ICMR-RMRC), conducted three outreach workshops from 15 to 18 March 2024 in Ganjam District, Odisha/India.

The aims of these workshops were: i) to disseminate the findings of the LIAS and IEF-funded project [Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India](#) with high-risk groups (women, farm workers and herders) and ii) to explore the **Local-Level Action Network (LAN)** model for and with high-risk groups.



The outreach workshops were conducted in three Gram Panchayats of Ganjam District: Burujhari, Su Mondol, and S. Chachina. 127 people from 13 villages attended these workshops, 75 of whom were women and 52 men.



The workshops were delivered in two parts. The first part assessed the knowledge and awareness of

snakes, snakebites and snakebite deaths through five questions related to myths and six questions related to misconceptions. The data for the myths and

misconceptions were curated from the [Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India](#) project.

A pre and post-knowledge survey was conducted. The findings of the post-survey revealed that all the participants from three workshops scored 100% in increasing their level of knowledge and awareness on snakes, snakebites and snakebite deaths reduction. In the latter part of the workshop, Dr Ray-Bennett mobilised 21 community ambassadors or *dooto* for LAN or **Sthaniyo Kormo Solanjhojona** (SKS).

From 10 to 13 April 2024, these ambassadors were oriented on how to prevent snakebites and snakebite deaths through information, education, and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) materials.

The community ambassadors are currently disseminating the IEC and BCC materials through home visits and community meetings across 13 villages.

