SOM KUMAR SHARMA

PUBLIC HEALTH | HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS | PROGRAM STRATEGY

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Public health leader with 20+ years of experience implementing complex, multi-state health and social-development portfolios in partnership with government, CSR donors, corporates, and international organisations. Brings deep expertise in healthcare operations, program strategy, governance, grants, MEL, digital systems, and team leadership, with a consistent focus on scalable models that improve access and quality for underserved populations.

LEADERSHIP & FUNCTIONAL EXPERTISE

STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE | Portfolio leadership, board and executive reporting, risk management, government liaison, systems strengthening

OPERATIONS & DELIVERY | Pan-India operations, program start-up and scale-up, facility-based services, hospital operations, quality and compliance

FINANCE & PARTNERSHIPS | Budgeting, grants and contracts, CSR engagement, bilateral and multilateral partnerships, resource mobilisation

DATA & INNOVATION | MEL, real-time MIS, data quality, evidence generation, digital health, AI-enabled systems, climate-resilient approaches

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Director | Family Health India | New Delhi **Feb 2016 - 31 May 2026 | 10 years**

- Led pan-India operations and large-scale public health portfolios, spanning program design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and end-to-end grants management.
- Managed strategic relationships with CSR, bilateral and multilateral donors, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, corporate partners, consortium members, and implementation agencies.
- Contributed to organisational vision, strategy, governance, and systems strengthening as a member of the senior management team, while guiding multidisciplinary teams and partners.
- Strengthened evidence-based decision-making through data-quality systems, IT-enabled real-time MIS, financial accountability, results tracking, and knowledge dissemination.

Senior Manager - Programs | Population Services International (PSI), India **Apr 2015 - Feb 2016 | 1 year**

- Led the Expand Access and Quality program in Uttar Pradesh, strengthening public-private provider networks to improve family-planning access, quality, and method choice.
- Managed government, consortium, provider, NGO, and professional-association partnerships and supported formal provider engagement with state systems.
- Designed rollout strategies, led provider capacity-building through CMEs, and oversaw communication support for facility-based and fixed-day RMNCH+A services.
- Used client feedback and assessments to guide delivery and supported adolescent sexual and reproductive health interventions at facility level.

Program Manager | FHI 360 | New Delhi **Apr 2011 - Mar 2015 | 4 years**

- Provided state-level leadership for the Urban Health Initiative in Uttar Pradesh, supporting RMNCH+A and family-planning interventions across 31 districts for urban poor populations.
- Managed teams, budgets, grants, contracts, and consortium partners, maintaining performance, compliance, and quality standards.
- Worked with National and State Health Mission leadership and consortium partners to support National Urban Health Mission rollout, expand method choice, develop SOPs, and build state and district capacity.
- Strengthened client-feedback systems and documented scalable practices for Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Sub-Regional Training Coordinator | SMNet, UNICEF Initiative / IPE Global **May 2009 - Apr 2011 | 2 years**

- Designed and delivered capacity-building for SMNet teams, partner organisations, and frontline workers across the Kanpur, Allahabad, and Aligarh sub-regions.
- Developed curricula and training-of-trainers programs covering maternal and child health, routine immunisation, diarrhoea management, WASH, behaviour-change communication, and supportive supervision.
- Provided structured mentoring and field supervision that strengthened service delivery, immunisation coverage, and engagement with hard-to-reach families.

Resource Person | Voluntary Health Association of India | New Delhi **Jan 2009 - May 2009 | 5 months**

- Supported implementation of the Link Workers Scheme for HIV and AIDS prevention and care in Madhya Pradesh, with a focus on behaviour-change communication and community outreach.
- Established the district office, recruited and trained field teams, coordinated with the district administration and health department, and accelerated rollout across three blocks.

Program Coordinator | Sambhav Social Service Organization **Apr 2004 - Dec 2008 | 4 years**

- Coordinated large-scale WASH programs supported by WaterAid India and community eye-health initiatives supported by Sightsavers International in Madhya Pradesh.
- Led school, Anganwadi, adolescent, and women's-group interventions and demonstrated Community-Led Total Sanitation approaches in partnership with district administration and Zila Panchayat.
- Managed multi-program operations and team development across PACS, population stabilisation, community health, and government-convergence initiatives.
- Oversaw eye-health service delivery for more than 5,000 visually challenged people and managed a 60-bed eye hospital serving poor and vulnerable communities.

SELECTED RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

- Published: “High malaria-endemic districts report a dramatic reduction in new malaria cases in Madhya Pradesh, India” - Malaria World Congress, 2018.
- Presented: “Antenatal family planning counselling and immediate post-partum IUCD services increased overall IUCD and contraceptive use” - American Public Health Association, New Orleans, 2014.
- Paper accepted: “Improving equitable access to information, counselling, and service utilisation in urban slums” - International Conference on Family Planning, Indonesia, 2015.
- Co-authored: “Systematic interventions for male participation facilitated significant increases in male sterilisation acceptors” - American Public Health Association, 2014.
- Facilitated applied research on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and on adolescent hygiene practices and health impact, supported by Godrej Industries and WaterAid India.
- Led and supported health-impact assessments and thematic studies with JBIC, Japan; VHAI; and MAMTA, New Delhi.

ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

- Led the SAHYOG capacity-building project supported by GFATM and NACO, strengthening community systems and institutional capacity for HIV and AIDS response.
- Supported Community-Led Monitoring of HIV and AIDS services with UNAIDS to improve service quality, accountability, and community voice.
- Led a rural community-empowerment initiative to increase demand for healthcare and nutrition through local self-government, health-system, and ICDS engagement.
- Managed the RCH-MNGO Scheme across 15 districts of Madhya Pradesh, strengthening outreach, service delivery, and community participation.
- Coordinated Project Aparajita for earthquake relief and rehabilitation in Bhuj following the 2001 earthquake, in collaboration with the Voluntary Health Association of India.
- Led interventions addressing trafficking, HIV prevention, and protection among Bedia and Saharia communities.
- Managed UNICEF-supported behaviour-change communication, Border District Cluster Strategy, and Child Environment Project initiatives focused on priority health behaviours and reducing IMR and MMR.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Public Health | Ongoing

Postgraduate Diploma | Public Health Nutrition

Master of Social Work | Social Work

Master of Science | Botany

CAREER THEMES

Healthcare operations | RMNCH+A | Urban health | Family planning | HIV and AIDS | WASH | Eye health | Quality systems | Grants and financial stewardship | Digital health | Evidence and policy translation | Cross-sector partnerships | Inclusive team leadership | Pan-India delivery