

## Suhana Safar Programme Resumes Workshops for Truck Drivers



Truck Drivers and Helpers participating in the training workshop

**R**ail and road are the principal driving forces in India's transportation sector. In recent times, road transportation has gained substantial significance due to several limitations on rail transport and the emergence of innovative road transport modes. Truck drivers have risen to prominence as pivotal contributors to various industries' broader logistics and transport mechanisms. However, most truck drivers need more formal education and often possess minimal training. Their demanding schedules on the road curtail their opportunities to spend quality time with their families. They encounter many challenges both during their journeys and when off-road, encompassing issues related to their health, access to a secure lifestyle, necessities like water and food, familiarity with safety protocols, susceptibility to highway crimes, involvement in legal matters, and more.

Truck drivers and their assistants and families constitute one of the most vulnerable segments. They face risks of contracting diseases during their travels, endure extended and stressful journeys, unhygienic living conditions, and they have limited knowledge about the significance of maintaining good health and hygiene. The Suhana Safar program aims to achieve multiple outcomes, including engaging with, educating, and supporting truck drivers and assistants in reshaping their daily routines to enhance their quality of life. Another objective is to engage with the local community surrounding truck depots and address fundamental concerns related to safety and WASH (Water, Sanitation, Health & Hygiene). The program is designed to augment knowledge and awareness through organising sessions on adopting a nourishing diet, ensuring access



The communities have benefited from health camps and checkups

to safe drinking water, practising proper sanitation, and embracing a healthier lifestyle. A substantial stride in this direction involves conducting health camps for truck drivers, their families, and the broader community.



After completion of the training workshop, the truck drivers and helpers were apprised of a participation certification

Since its inception in 2016 through a partnership with the Maersk Group, Development Alternatives has undertaken eight successful phases of the Suhana Safar Program. This initiative has enriched participants' knowledge and facilitates skill enhancement in areas such as Road Safety, Signs and Symbols, Government Schemes, Digital and Financial Literacy, Nutrition, WASH, Community Health Awareness, and health checkups. Embarking on its 9th phase in April 2023, the project's primary focus is on establishing collaborative knowledge-

sharing relationships with various stakeholders who exert a direct or indirect influence on the lives of truck drivers and assistants. Through this collaboration, Development Alternatives has positively impacted the lives of more than 137,267 truck drivers, assistants, and their families, fostering their well-being and advancement.