



NACO

NEWS

National AIDS Control Organisation

India's Voice against AIDS

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

www.naco.gov.in

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017

VOL. X ISSUE 13



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



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From the Desk of Patron

I welcome everyone to this edition of NACO News!

I am happy to share the activities undertaken by NACO and SACS in the quarter of July to September, 2017.

NACO has concluded two regional review meetings of North-Eastern Region and Western Region States in Shillong and Mumbai respectively. The regional meetings laid emphasis on proper implementation and monitoring of AIDS Control programme by the State AIDS Control Societies. The progress by SACS in the last three years, taking stock of issues/challenges and road map for adopting innovative approach for AIDS Control Programme has also discussed.

I am happy to share that in the series of building partnership with other key departments/ministries, NACO has signed a MoU with the Department of Internal Security, Ministry of Home Affairs on 1st September, 2017 to reach a large number of Central Armed Police Forces for preventions and control of STI/HIV/AIDS.

As we know, “Test & Treat” strategy is already adopted by Government therefore, it’s a joint responsibility of Centre and State Government to encourage left out PLHIVs and bring them under the ambit of free ART services.

With these words, let me extend my thanks to all the contributors, Newsletter team and readers.

Best Wishes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shri Sanjeeva Kumar
Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India



From the Desk of Joint Secretary

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure in sharing my views and thoughts for the very first time in NACO News!

Most of you would be aware that in the current FY 2017- 18; the second installment to SACS has already been released. Now, it's the time to gear up the execution of the programmes in the field for achieving the set annual targets. Here, I would like to give emphasis on making Expenditure/Advance/Transfer (EAT) module of PFMS fully operational in all SACS for continuing the release of further installments. I hope all SACS will meet the deadline set for making the EAT module operational.

In the current edition, you will find an analysis of HIV prevention and treatment service in prisons; Targeted Intervention (TI) approach and other outreach models currently implemented by NACO through SACS in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In the series of MoUs signed on Metro Blood Bank, an MoU has been signed between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI and Government of West Bengal on 10th July 2017. This formalizes Central Government support to set up and run the centre in West Bengal on the land which has been provided free of cost by the State.

This edition also captures various State Level events like week-long activities for observing International Youth Day (IYD). It is highly appreciating that States have celebrated IYD with full zeal which ranges from cultural events to outdoor events.

I would like to offer my word of thanks to all our readers, contributors, and editorial team for their continuous support.

Please feel free to share your thoughts with us.

Good Luck !

Shri Alok Saxena
Joint Secretary, NACO
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India



From the Desk of Editor

90:90:90 Where we are?

Everyone these days is talking about 90:90:90 by 2020. Let us introspect as to where we are on these and what more is required to attain the stated fast track targets.

First 90 i.e. 90% of estimated PLHIV know their status-As per the latest data achievement on this front is around 75%. 90% of estimated PLHIV comes to 19 lakhs and it seems very likely that in next 3 years India will achieve the stated target with adoption of Community Based Testing and Self Testing initiatives being rolled out in addition to increasing testing of pregnant women and general clients. Every year nearly 2 lakhs people are tested positive out of 3.5 crore tested for HIV.

Second 90 i.e. 90% of those who know their status are put on ART-This in fact is becoming challenging inspite of Treat All policy as there is a big list of LFUs and tracing them is an exercise which requires a mammoth effort of all partners. Nearly 11.5 lakh PLHIV are on treatment and by 2020 this number should be 17 lakhs. All those who were on Pre ART are continually being put on ART yet it may take 9-10 months more to complete the exercise. More than 22000 additions are being made monthly to the list of ART beneficiaries and with this speed in next 2 years we can be there around 15 lakhs. A little more push will probably take us to the desired target.

Third 90 i.e. 90% of those who are on ART have their viral load suppressed – This indicator has two purpose one it is proxy indicator for knowing how many of those on ART are being retained and second with routine monitoring there will be early detection of failure on first line. Monitoring by viral load testing routinely is yet to start but with the progress on various fronts this may be initiated in the first quarter of next year and once started it will be scaled up rapidly as NACO is working on 3 fronts i.e. Outsourcing testing to private agency- process is almost complete for award of contract. (ii) Strengthening public health Infrastructure by procuring 80 Viral load machines- process is likely to be complete by March 2018. (iii) Using spare capacity of Genexpert machines – This process practically for NE and remote areas may also start in 1st quarter of next year.

So to summarize we have already put the systems in place and we are absolutely sure that India will attain these fast track targets of 90:90:90 by 2020.

Let us all together provide the extra push to be on track.

Jai Hind

Dr. Naresh Goel
DDG (IEC & LS),
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

COVER STORY

Regional Review Meetings of National AIDS Control Programme - North Eastern & Western Region

In the line of reviewing and evaluating progress status of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) conducted Regional Review Meetings of North-Eastern Region and Western Region in Shillong, Meghalaya and Mumbai respectively. The aim of these Meetings was to review the progress made by SACS in the last three years, take stock of issues/challenges and provides road map for adopting innovational approaches for improving effectiveness of AIDS Control Programme.

The first Regional Meeting was held in Shillong from 23rd to 25th August, 2017 in Hotel Pinewood in partnership with CDC and FHI 360. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, IAS, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO. Shri. P.W. Ingty, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shri HM Shangpliang, Secretary & MD (NHM), Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya were also present in the meeting. Project Directors (PDs) of all the 8 State AIDS Control Societies (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura), representatives from the health departments, Assam Rifles, prison department, CDC, FHI 360, community representatives, officials from SACS and NACO attended the 3-Day meeting. The progress made in each and every component of NACP (TI, Monitoring & Evaluation, DAPCU, STI, Basic Services including Counseling, Testing, HIV-TB, elimination of MTCT of HIV and Syphilis, Operational Research, IEC & Mainstreaming and Lab Services) was meticulously reviewed. Project Sunrise supported by CDC through FHI 360 was also reviewed. The meeting identified

key areas wherein actions need to be taken. The Epidemiological Fact-sheet: Volume I on North Eastern States and the Assessment of Blood Banks report were also released during the meeting.



Release of Epidemiological Fact-sheet: Volume I on North Eastern States and the Assessment of Blood Banks report during the meeting



Participants during the Regional Review Meeting –North Eastern Region in Shillong, Meghalaya

The Review Meeting for the Western Region was held from 12th to 14th September, 2017 in ITC Grand Central, Mumbai in partnership with USAID and FHI 360. Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO chaired the meeting. Project Directors from seven SACS / District AIDS Control Society (Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Mumbai and Rajasthan), representatives from health department, WHO, USAID, UNAIDS, CDC, FHI 360, community representatives, officials from SACS and NACO attended the meeting.



Release of Epidemiological Fact-sheet: Volume II on Western States and the Assessment of Blood Banks Report in Mumbai

In the meeting, the Joint Secretary, NACO reviewed progress made on all aspects of the programme. Linkage Project and Cluster districts project were also reviewed. The presence of professional associations like IMA, FOGSI, academic institutions social sciences and medical, etc. were the highlights of the meeting. The Epidemiological Fact-sheet: Volume II on Western States and the Assessment of Blood Banks report were also released during the meeting.



Participants during the Regional Review Meeting – Western Region in Mumbai

TI Division & Team, NACO

PROGRAMMES

An Overview of HIV Prevention and Care Services in Prisons under NACP-IV

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)3 has a dedicated target of ending AIDS by 2030. Recommendations have been made to ensure equal access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons. SDG 3 also calls for a 75% reduction of new HIV infections among key populations, people who use drugs and people in prisons, by 2020. Section 22 of the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of Prisoners (approved in 2015) recommends to provide HIV services, including prevention and antiretroviral treatment for prisoners (The Nelson Mandela Rule).

National Consultative meeting with Law Enforcement Agencies and other key stakeholders organized in October, 2014 under the chairmanship of Union Health Secretary paved the way for reviving the National Prison HIV Interventions Strategy. As a precursor to the rollout of prison HIV interventions in the country, NACO had organized a series of regional sensitization workshops and also planned to implement interventions in a planned manner.

Key HIV interventions from the comprehensive package:

1. **Information, Education & Communication (IEC)**
2. **HIV testing and counselling**
3. **HIV Treatment, care and support**
4. **Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis**
5. **Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV**
6. **Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections**
7. **Drug dependence treatment including opioid substitution treatment**

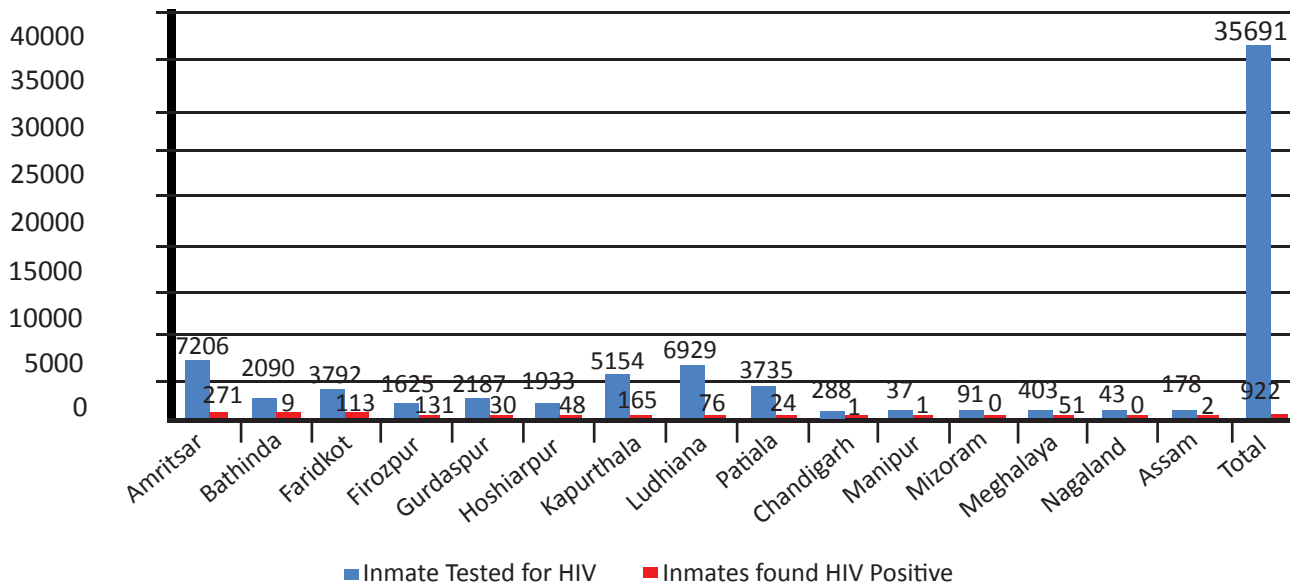
8. **Referral for diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis**
9. **Raising awareness on HIV transmission through medical or dental services**
10. **Raising awareness on HIV transmission through tattooing, piercing and other forms of skin penetration**

Launch of Phase-I Prison HIV interventions:

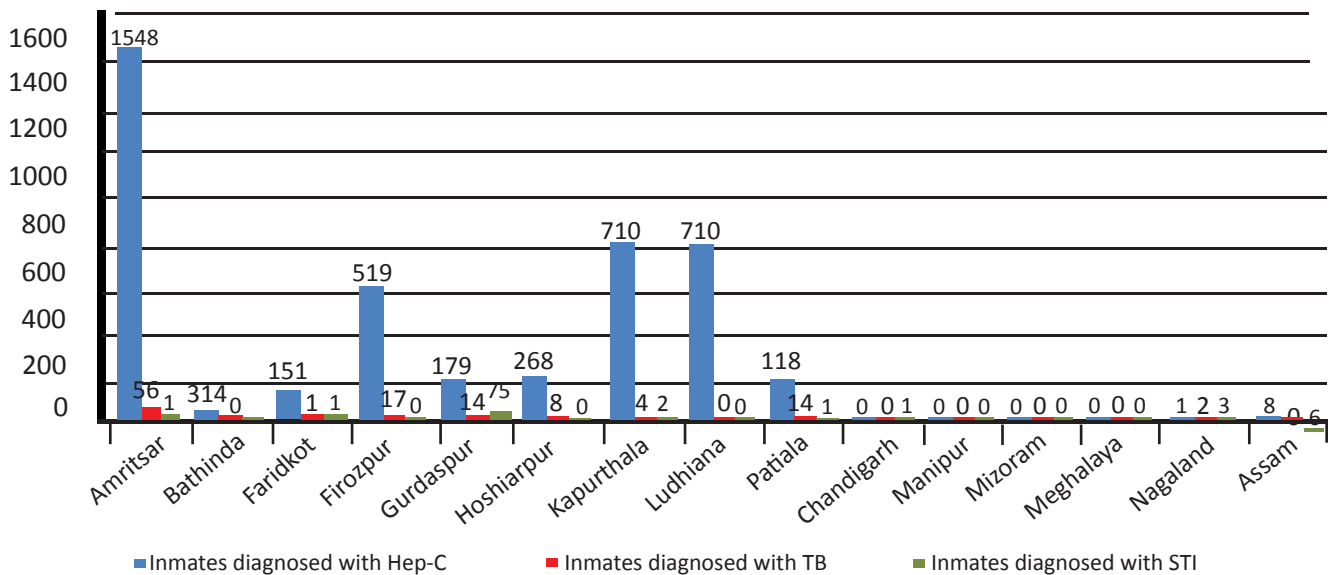
Followed by the launch of prison HIV interventions as part of Sunrise Project (Sunrise Project is supported by CDC through FHI 360 for enhancing HIV prevention and care services for IDUs in North- Eastern States), by Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare on 6th February, 2016 at Imphal, Manipur.

Under the guidance of Additional Secretary & DG, NACO, during an event held on 8th July, 2016 at Chandigarh (Emmanuel Hospital Association provides technical assistance for implementing prison HIV interventions in Punjab and Chandigarh with financial support from Aids Fonds, Netherlands), NACO kick-started Phase-I prison HIV interventions in Punjab and Chandigarh.

The results achieved in the last 12 months of implementation in 15 prison sites across 7 States (10 central jails from Punjab and Chandigarh: Amritsar, Ludhiana, Kapurthala, Ferozpur, Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Patiala, Bathinda, Chandigarh; and 5 central jails from North-East states: Imphal, Aizwal, Dimapur, Shillong, and Guwahati) provide strong evidence to scale up the interventions across other prisons in the country. As on July 2017, nearly 922 inmates were found to be HIV Positive out of 35691 inmates tested for HIV, 603 inmates have already been linked to ART services (2.4% positivity in Punjab).



Majority of the positive cases reported in North Eastern States are from Meghalaya i.e. 7.1%. Overall, 31.9% of 13282 prisoners were infected with HCV of which 869 inmates were treated for Hep-C with the support of medical facilities provided by respective State Governments (18.3% Hep-C positivity registered in North-East). 110 inmates have been linked for TB treatment out of 120 inmates diagnosed with TB. During this reporting period, 90 inmates were treated for STI.



Phase-II & III Prison HIV interventions: State level inter-departmental meetings between SACS and State prisons departments were organized recently to develop prison HIV interventions joint action plan for Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan. These States are currently operationalizing Phase-II prison HIV interventions in 67 prison sites to provide services to nearly 98300 inmates. The process has already commenced to formalize the ongoing HIV interventions including OST services being implemented in Tihar Prisons by Delhi State AIDS Control Society. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh have also initiate the process of implementing Phase-III Prison interventions.

Way Forward:

- Analysis of Indian prison data (2015) indicates that across 1,401 prisons, there were 4,19,623 prison inmates including 2,82,076 undertrials (67.2% of total inmates). 88% of the under-trial prisoners were below the age of 50 years and will eventually return to the community outside the prison.
- Spread of HIV in prisons has significant public health implications as almost all prisoners return to their community and are likely to spread HIV infection to the general population.
- In order to address the critical issue with a comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment service in prisons, TI approach and other outreach models have currently been employed by NACO through respective State AIDS Control Societies in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The recently approved (June, 2017) National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI (2017–2024) titled “Paving the Way for an AIDS Free India” included prison HIV component under NACP-IV which shows the commitment of Govt. of India in marching towards ending AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Mr. Abraham Lincoln, Technical Expert-Harm Reduction
Ms. Sophia Khumukcham, Program Officer-IDU
Ms. Kim Hauzel, Technical Officer-IDU
Mr. Chin Samte, Technical Officer-IDU

Indo-Africa Collaboration: Visit of the Delegates from Kenya and Rwanda



Shri. Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO interacting with delegates from Kenya

One of the key areas of focus in the India-Africa steered South-South collaboration is creation of a suitable consortium between Indian and African clinical research centres (CRCs), key population communities and other institutes and organizations of regional importance. Taking this initiative forward, a nine-member team consisting of community representatives from Kenya and Rwanda and officials of International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) visited India during 24th – 28th July, 2017.

The main objective of the visit was to work towards developing a joint population based community engagement study protocol between India and Africa key populations (mainly GBMSMs) with a focus on early HIV detection and social media engagement. The visit of delegates was sponsored by International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

The delegates visited NACO on 27th July 2017 to interact and share experiences. In the meeting, a comprehensive presentation on the National Response was made and the officials of NACO shared India's experiences and best practices on various components. The delegates also cited various kinds of interventions being carried out in their respective countries. The team also paid a visit to AS & DG, NACO and held discussion on various components of the Indo-Africa Collaboration. As part of their visit, the team also visited Mumbai District AIDS Control Society, TI sites of Ekta Foundation and Humsafar Trust in Mumbai; SPACE, MSM and TG intervention and YRG CARE Sites in New Delhi.

Ms. Vinita Verma,
Consultant (Evaluation & OR), Research, NACO



Dignitaries during workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV in Kolkata

Regional Workshop on “Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV”

The World of Work response to HIV is one of the strategic priorities of NACP IV in order to strengthen HIV and AIDS prevention among work force engaged in formal and informal sector. A National level workshop on ‘Strengthening World of Work and Private Sector Response’ was organized by NACO in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) on 16th-17th February, 2017 in Delhi.

As per the recommendation, a two-day regional workshop on “Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV” was successfully organized by NACO in collaboration with ILO and WBSAP & CS on 11th & 12th July, 2017 in Kolkata. Sharing of good practices on implementation of HIV/AIDS programme by industries, state specific presentations on ICTC data analysis indicating HIV positivity trends in different occupations, experience on reaching workers engaged in informal economy, reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV at workplace were the highlights of the workshop. Team of NACO and SACS visited headquarter of Coal India Limited (CIL) to understand the work initiated by Coal India and their nine subsidiaring units (Public Sector Units) on HIV/AIDS prevention.



Dignitaries during workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV in Bhopal

Another, two day regional workshop on “Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV” was conducted by NACO in collaboration with ILO and MPSACS on 21st & 22nd July, 2017 in Bhopal. Team of NACO and SACS visited Anant Spinning Mill to understand initiative taken on workplace intervention and bringing awareness among youth and nearby communities.



Dignitaries during Regional workshop on "Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV", Goa

In the series, the third regional workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV' was organized by NACO in collaboration with ILO and Goa SACS on 6th & 7th September, 2017 in Panjim, Goa. Industries of Public and Private Sectors, employer organizations, chamber of commerce, trade unions, networks of positive people, civil society organisations and officials from ILO, NACO

and State AIDS Control Societies participated in the workshop. Team of NACO and SACS visited Mormugao Port Trust to understand the activities initiated at the workplace and nearby communities. The meeting were also held with senior management, medical team and concerned officials engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

Major Outcomes and Way forward

- Industries of Public and Private Sectors, Employer organizations like Chamber of Commerce, trade unions and civil society organisations were mobilized to strengthen the world of work response to HIV in three regional workshops held in Kolkata, Bhopal and Goa.
- ICTC data had been analysed for SACS to understand the HIV positivity among workers engaged in various occupations like construction, agriculture, transport etc. SACS have worked out action plans to address stakeholders like industries, employer organizations, etc to implement HIV prevention schemes among workers engaged in formal and informal sectors.
- Action plans were developed for SACS for strengthening world of work response to HIV.
- Major PSUs like Coal India Limited (Coal), Mormugao Port Trust (Shipping), Goa Shipyard (Defence) have shown commitment to strengthen HIV/AIDS interventions.
- Voluntary counselling and testing for workers (VCT@Work) will get priority and enhance linkages with available services.
- State level consultations will be organized by the SACS which participated in the three regional workshops.

Mr. Ashish Verma
IEC & MS, NACO



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO and Dr. Mukesh Saxena, ADG (Medical) CAPFs, NSG & AR, Department of Internal Security, MHA, GoI along with Shri. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO and Senior Officials, NACO

Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Internal Security

Mainstreaming and Partnership is one of the strategic approaches to enhance Inter-ministerial collaboration to strengthen multisectoral response to HIV. Inter-ministerial collaboration is viewed with great importance as an initiative towards building up 'integrated responses', proving to be an effective way in dealing with susceptibility to HIV infection, as well as mitigating the burden of the disease on affected communities. In this regard, NACO had proposed partnership with Key Ministries/ Departments of Govt. of India in order to enhance reach for vulnerability reduction, integration of services and social protection for PLHIVs. NACO has formalized partnership with key Ministries by entering into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

In continuum to its endeavour for strengthening Inter-Ministerial collaboration, 15th Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National AIDS Control Organization and Department of Internal Security on 1st September, 2017 at the Conference Hall, NACO. The MoU was signed by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General, National AIDS Control Organization and Dr. Mukesh Saxena, Additional Director General (Medical) CAPFs, NSG & AR, Department of Internal Security, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Senior officials from MHA and NACO attended the signing of MoU.

Objectives:

- Reach large number of Central Armed Police Forces with information on preventions and control of STI/HIV/AIDS
- Facilitate building of human perspective and appropriate skills among police forces to reduce stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and MARPs
- Integrate STI/ HIV/AIDS services in the medical and health services under the control of Department of Internal Security, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Direct all forces under purview of Department of Internal Security to include the issue of HIV/AIDS in the training

Mr. Ashish Verma
IEC & MS, NACO

National Workshop to Review the IEC Prototype and Development of Communication Strategies for HIV Counselling and Testing Services (HCTS), Tuberculosis (TB) and STI



National Level Workshop to Review Existing IEC Prototype & Development of Communication Strategy in New Delhi

On the way to eradicate AIDS as public health threat by 2030, India has moved ahead towards achieving the global 90:90:90 target by 2020. Scaling up of HIV Counselling and Testing services (HCTS) is a crucial step towards achieving the first 90, wherein, it is desired that 90% of the estimated PLHIV in the country are aware of their HIV status. For this NACO has developed new “National HIV Counselling and Testing Services (HCTS) Guideline, 2016”.

In order to spread awareness and change behavioral attitude of the target groups and development of IEC material for Basic Service Division (BSD) for service providers, a National Level workshop to Review Existing IEC Prototype & Development of Communication Strategy for HCTS and STI was held in New Delhi on 2nd & 3rd August, 2017 in collaboration with Plan India. The broad review of existing IEC material helped to identify gaps and challenges faced

in the existing material to guide either for adaptation of existing material and development of new material. Participants of the meeting were State representative from IEC and BSD, representatives from all development partners viz WHO, UNICEF, CDC, CHAI, USAID, UNAIDS, PLAN India, SAATHI along with NACO officers.

The workshop moved towards the Group Work. Four groups were formed consisting of about 15-18 participants and each group took up a component of BSD to look into depth the current situation, gaps, and requirement of IEC. The four groups were Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC), Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV and TB Co-infection. The basic Objectives of the Group Work were: 1) Review of existing material 2) Identifying gaps & challenges 3) Existing material for adaptation 4) New material required on themes 5) Strategy with key messages and 6) Innovations.

The following recommendations were made in the workshop

Group 1- ICTC

Group 1 recommended that targeted IEC material for key populations, especially adolescent girls in their reproductive age should be developed and use of digital media, e.g. messaging through online games, advertisement on dating sites (Tinder) should be promoted. Emphasis were made on development of ICTC toolkit for training of staff on the use of media material.

Group 2 - PPTCT

Recommendations for the Public sector:

Group 2 recommended advocacy to generate political will and promotion of a Brand Ambassador through digital and mass media. It also recommended dissemination of SOP for labour room nurses and incentives to providers & beneficiaries

Recommendations for the Private sector:

It was suggested to develop materials on safe sex practices, access to HIV and syphilis testing, and partner testing for pregnant women and their families and also for generating awareness of National level programmes, counselling services, and quality management for HCPs

Group 3 - STI

Group 3 recommended targeted messaging, e.g. integration of STI in the curriculum of paramedical training and Inter-departmental collaboration, for example with NHM (RKSK) and ICTC/STI counsellors to take sessions on STI in Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (RKSK). Initiation of Helpline services and creation of a directory of services were also suggested.

Group 4 - HIV and TB Co-infection

Group 4 recommended making use of digital media to disseminate success stories and bytes on the popular radio show – Mann Ki Baat by the Prime Minister. It also suggested disseminating combined messages, i.e. on co-infection, service delivery etc.

Way Forward

1. The group work done in the two-day workshop has further led to development of prototype of IEC material for Basic Service activities with new innovative messages and concepts.
2. The gaps and challenges in the existing material will be analyzed as per the recommendation shared by the groups.
3. The Communication strategy will be developed for standardization of existing/innovative prototypes and contents will also be developed.
4. The representatives of the target groups will identify draft materials for review and collate various suggestions/ recommendations/ modifications to improve the materials developed.
5. It was suggested to conduct pre - testing to assess developed materials to ascertain whether they are acceptable and impactful by potential groups before launching to the society.

Ms. Neha Pandey
IEC & MS, NACO
Mr. Rajiv Sindhu
BSD, NACO



Delegates in the workshop to proactively engage with CSR initiatives for the welfare of Orphans and Vulnerable Children across Maharashtra

Enhancing and Accelerating Response to the Needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) – A CSR Consultation Learning Workshop

Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) organized a workshop in collaboration with Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS), Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) and American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) with support from USAID to proactively engage with CSR initiatives for the welfare of Orphans and Vulnerable Children especially Children Affected by AIDS across Maharashtra on 14th July, 2017 in Mumbai.

The workshop focused on sharing evidence and programme experiences in the context of children. The participants stressed upon the needs of CABA/OVC across the life cycle which included health & nutrition, education, economic support, skill development / vocational support and building an enabling family ecosystem for a child's overall well being through women's empowerment and financial inclusion initiatives.

Objectives of the workshop

- To share best practices and cross leverage expertise to develop holistic models that address CABA/OVC needs.
- To create a platform for CSR and government bodies to collaborate in a manner that bridge the gap at the knowledge and practice level and also aim to mainstream OVC by developing partnerships, advocacy and creating opportunities to learn from each other.
- To address OVC needs across their life cycle and to build an enabling family ecosystem for the child's overall well being.

MSACS and MDACS presented current evidences, challenges and the needs of OVC, followed by CSR presentations on their models and experiences of working with children. The dignitaries presented in the event were from Government of Maharashtra, MDACS, MSACS and their partners, USAID, CII, CSR leaders from companies and KHPT.



Participants during the workshop on OVC

This consultation will help in initiating and accelerating coordinated efforts between the Corporate sector and the Government bodies for productive planning, optimum resource allocation and proper implementation. A CSR initiatives to address the thrust areas for CABA/OVC like education, skill development and livelihoods, social protection and nutrition. The workshop also created opportunities to elicit best practices from across corporate CSR initiatives involving vulnerable children for developing a compiled publication for visibility and cross learning.

Way Forward

The next step will be the formation of a consortium where CSRs with specific areas of expertise, knowledge and funds will come together to solve issues of children collaboratively.

Mr. Ravi Bhushan
Consultant IEC & MS, NACO

Labs for Life-Cluster activities



Nodal officers Sensitization Meet on 24th July in Mumbai

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with the support of U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), proposes to strengthen 22 Public health laboratories in institutions co-located with ART Centers, in specific districts of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Christian Medical Association of India, through the Labs for Life (L4L) project, is the implementing partner of this initiative.

Objectives:-

1. Bridge the gaps in supporting investigations required as per NACO operational guidelines for Pre-ART and on- ART patients and Free Diagnostic Services Initiative
2. Establishing Quality Management Systems in selected co-located district level laboratories with ART facility;
3. Establishing linkages between ART Centres and the general public health laboratories;
4. Develop mechanisms for detecting Opportunistic Infections (OIs)

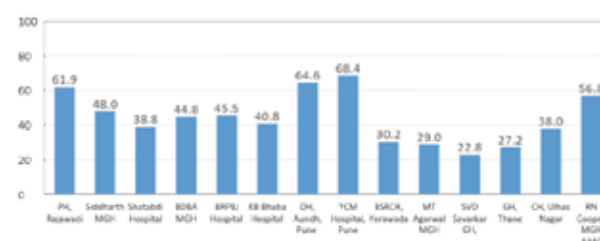
KEY ACTIVITIES under the project are (2017-2019)

- Activity1: Situation Analysis and Gap Assessment
- Activity2: Capacity Building Activities
- Activity3: Implement Quality Management Systems
- Activity4: Addressing Infrastructure Gaps through; Sensitization, Advocacy, and Resource Mobilization
- Activity5: Developing Linkages between ART, ICTC and other labs
- Activity6: Periodic Reviews of the Cluster Activities

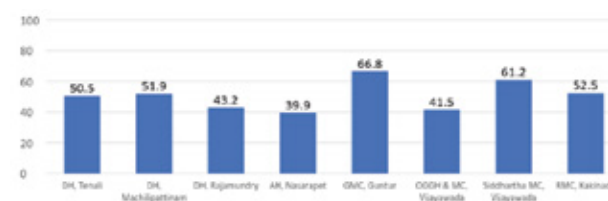
As the first step of this project, baseline assessment by using NHM'S NQAS Checklist no. 13 was conducted in all the 22 public health laboratories which is essential for planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring activities related to the quality of HIV/AIDS laboratory services and establishing referral linkages.

The key findings of assessments are as follows:

A. Overall Institutions Scores - Maharashtra



B. Overall Institutions Scores - Andhra Pradesh



The training on sample collection and pre-analysis of Best Practices were organized on 2nd-4th August, 2017 for Maharashtra districts and 8th-10th August, 2017 for Andhra Pradesh Districts. Now, meetings to disseminate baseline assessments findings are being planned. This innovative project with multi stakeholders seeks to establish quality management systems in 22 identified laboratories in the Andhra & Maharashtra clusters. Additionally, it will offer mechanisms in the identification of Opportunistic Infections. The project will thus enable the selected laboratories fulfill the operational guidelines requirements of NACO and provide laboratory support to PLHIV before and during ART.

Dr. Anu George & Team
Labs for life Project

Brown Bag Seminar – Series of Talks



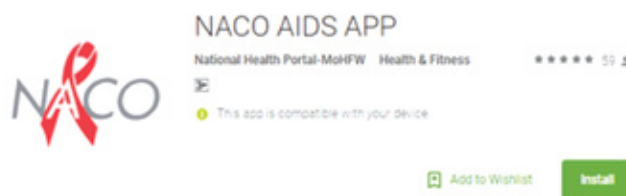
Dr. Bilali Camara as a Speaker during Brown Bag Seminar Series

Contouring the spirit of cross-institutional collaboration and capacity building, there were three talks were organised in the Brown Bag Seminar Series which focused on “Returning to the path of global leadership in HIV response” by Dr. Swarup Sarkar, Director, Department of Communicable Diseases (CDS), WHO SEARO in the month of July and ‘HIV/AIDS in India: How to achieve the remaining 50%?’ by Dr. Bilali Camara, UNAIDS Country Director for India in the month of August. The aim of the seminar series is to inform and build capacities & knowledge of programme managers at NACO, community, development partners and key stakeholders. The seminar series serves as a gateway for knowledge sharing, open dialogue, cross learning on new developments and programme management. The talk by Dr. Sarkar highlighted that as the scenario of epidemic is changing and donor funding is declining, it is important to think of strategies by which India can continue to provide leadership in global response to HIV towards ending AIDS by 2030.

Dr. Bilali Camara spoke about efforts that need to be made in the context of 2030 global commitments. India has made major success in reversing and controlling the HIV epidemic as well as preserving human rights, care & treatment and strategic information. The prevalence of HIV infection has nearly halved in the past decade and there has been a declining trend in AIDS-related deaths in India. The speaker analysed the current epidemiological situation and reflected on the game changers which could unleash the full potential of the National AIDS Programme and bring the country to achieve the 90:90:90 targets and Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission by 2020.

Ms. Vinita Verma
Consultant (Evaluation & OR), Research NACO

NACO First Ever Mobile App : NACO AIDS App



Today, we are living in new digital world, a single click bombards us with flood of information on any theme. Digital devices easily connect to the people across the globe. In the same line, NACO has developed an Android Mobile App "NACO AIDS App". The application was launched by Hon'ble Health Minister and hosted on National Health Portal (NHP), MoHFW. The Application is currently available only for Android users and is available both in English & Hindi Languages. The Application aims at creating awareness and providing meaningful information to the end-users on HIV/AIDS. Some of the key features of Application include:

HIV Risk Evaluator: An interactive risk assessment tool to provide information regarding the risk, a person may have of getting HIV.

Locate Facilities: A tool to locate nearby services such as ART centre, ICTC, STI clinics, Blood Banks & OST centres.

Myths and Facts: The information is helpful to clarify the doubts & myths, people have related to HIV.

Other features include FAQ's, Social Protection Schemes, Toll free helpline number, video spots, etc.

The application is available for download on Google Play Store with the name "NACO AIDS App", and can be visited at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.naco.nhp>. The Application has been rated 4.8 stars by 66 people till date and has achieved 1000+installs.

Some of the reviews received by the users are as below:

Gajula Mahender : *"Very informative and useful for all individuals even counselor and PLHIV also get benefits through this app"*

DAPCU Vizianagaram: *"It's very useful for our nation to fight against HIV/AIDS, not just the patients."*

Kuvethilu Rhakho: *"It's helping a lot since I am working in this field"*

As a way forward, the programme is focusing on updates and customize NACO AIDS App and monitors the facilities on regular basis. After the success on Android platform, it is being considered to launch the application on iOS platform. NACO advocates communities and general population to download the application and take the opportunity to get relevant information on HIV/AIDS at one click.

Ms. Nidhi Rawat & Ms. Piyushi Kothiwai,
Consultant (IEC Division), NACO

Flag off of Metro Blood Bank Project: State-of-the-Art Transfusion Services in Kolkata, West Bengal



Shri R K Vats, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt along with Shri Anil Verma, Principal Secretary, Health, Govt of West Bengal and Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Sri Anil Verma, Principal Secretary Health, Govt of West Bengal & Shri R K Vats, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt on 10th July 2017. This formalizes Central Government support to set up and run the centre in West Bengal on the land which has been provided free of cost by the State.

Mr. Jolly J Lazarus
PO (VBD), NACO

STATES

Mumbai

State Level Consultation on Uptake of Social Protection Schemes for PLHIVs/-CLHIVs -Balsangopan & Sanjay Gandhi Yojna



Representatives during State Level Consultation Meet in Mumbai

A State Level Consultation with Women & Child Development Department & Sanjay Gandhi Yojana was organized by Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society on 27th July, 2017 with the support of KHPT. The objective of the consultation was to explore & overcome the challenges faced by people & children living with HIV/AIDS in availing Balsangopan & Sanjay Gandhi Yojna. Sh. Parimal Singh, IAS, Project Director, MSACS; Smt. Prashila Jadhav Dighavkar, Deputy Collector, Mumbai Suburbs; Dr. Padmaja Keskar, Project Director, MDACS; Dr. Shrikala Acharya, APD, MDACS; Sh. Phadol, District WCD officer, Thane; Sh. Patankar, District WCD Officer, Mumbai Suburb; were also present in the meeting. Sh. Ashish Verma, Programme Officer, NACO emphasised on adapting Social Protection Schemes from other states as a cross learning. Smt. Prashila Jadhav Dighavkar, Deputy Collector, Mumbai Suburbs shared SGY schemes & Sh. Patankar, DWCD officer focused on Balsangopan Yojna. "Voices from the community" by children living with HIV & SLN were an eye opener.

Outcome of the meeting:

- Dy. Controller, Mumbai has assured that the Self deceleration of income of Rs. 21000/-P.A. will be given to needy person

- Transgenders can change their names through proper procedure and submit the gazetted copy along with the application.
- Talathis needs to be sensitized on the vulnerability issue. MDACS can initiate sensitization workshop.
- MDACS will prepare list of needy people and submit for further necessary action.
- Appropriate action will be taken to resolve the issue while providing benefits under Balsangaon.

Ms. Dnyaneshwari Sonawane
Dy. Director (MS) MDACS

West Bengal

HIV Screening of Infants/Children

West Bengal has recently introduced HIV screening of infants/children admitted to SNCU (Sick Newborn Care Unit) and NRC (Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre) after four symptom clinical screening i.e Prematurity, Oral thrush, Pneumonia & Sepsis. The parents of the reactive children are informed once ICTC confirms their status.



New born baby under going HIV Screening

The training on screening has been initiated in all districts. In total, 16 symptomatic babies are tested for HIV at SNCU and 7 are tested at NRC.

Ms. Sumita Samanta
Deputy Director (Mainstreaming)
WBSAP & CS

Swachhta Pakhwada- A Campus Cleanliness Drive



Release of West Bengal Newsletter on the occasion of Swachhta Pakhwada

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Cell of West Bengal State University in collaboration with West Bengal AIDS Control Society (WBSACS) observed Swachhta Pakhwada, a Campus Cleanliness Drive for a fortnight i.e 1st -15th August, 2017. It is an initiative of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, GOI and Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, GoWB. Professor Basab Chaudhuri, Vice-Chancellor, WBSU acted as the Chief Patron. Ms. Piyali Das, Asst. Director, WBSACS had taken a session on HIV/AIDS and also interacted with the students.

Ms. Piyali Das
Assistant Director (Youth Affairs)
WBSAP & CS

Karnataka

Nutrition programme for CLHIV



Scholarship Distribution by the Director, ODP

The Organization for the Development of People (ODP) Snehashraya Samithi Kodagu, an NGO working with the Self Help Group in coordination with ODP staff, Commissioner-Scouts & Guide, Lioness Club Madikeri, Social workers, Mahilodaya Mahila Okkuta, SHG members, DACO, DIS, PLHA & others has decided to provide nutritional support (Cereals, Pulses, oil etc) on monthly basis to the HIV Positive Children in the Kodagu District with the support of Clinton Foundation.

No. of Children provided Nutritional Support

28

18

No. of Children provided Scholarship

No. of Children provided Sweaters, Umbrella, Notebooks

24

1

No. of Children provided Housing Support

Mr. Govindaraju T
Deputy Director (Mainstreaming & Social protection)
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society

Telangana

Inter - Departmental Meeting on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS



Discussion among Members during Inter - Departmental Meeting

The State Level Inter departmental meeting on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS with Departments of Government of Telangana was held on 4th August, 2017. The Department of Labour Employment Training and Factories, Department of School Education, Department of Youth Advancement, Alliance India, VIHHAN, SAATHI and positive networks participated in the meeting.

Highlights

- Identified areas where coordination efforts are required by departments to address the issues of HIV/AIDS.
- Nomination of Nodal officers on HIV/AIDS and providing list of participants for creating pool of ToT on HIV/AIDS in departments.
- Identified the scope of extending social protection schemes to PLHIVs and MARPs through the line departments.
- Implementation of approved Mainstreaming Annual Action Plan by NACO with the departments.
- Implementation of action plans for Adolescence Education Programme and Red Ribbon Club programme.
- Training of staff and other stakeholders.

Mr. S.Srikar
Consultant Mainstreaming,
TSACS

Chhattisgarh

Mega Blood Donation Camp



Volunteer blood donors during the camp

A Mega Blood Donation camp was organized on 8th August, 2017 at National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), Jagdalpur. In this Mega Blood Donation Camp, approximately 500 blood bags were collected by Jagdalpur Medical College.

.....
Mr. Ajay
Regional Coordinator

Join Hands to Stop AIDS -Human Chain Formation for HIV-AIDS Awareness



Formation of Human Chain of more than 4000 representatives

With the vision to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and reduce stigma faced by vulnerable communities and people living with HIV, Madhya Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (MPSACS) organized a campaign "Join Hands to Stop AIDS" on 12th September 2017. The highlight of the awareness campaign was the formation of a 3 KM long Human Chain of more than 4000 representatives from various educational institutes, professional training colleges, Targeted Intervention, NGOs, Lions club, Rotary club, Red Cross Society, Chambers of Commerce, Positive Networks etc. A huge human chain was successfully formed at the picturesque location of VIP Road, on the bank of Bhopal Lake.

The participants were equipped with hand outs and banners. Boards, flexes and big cut - outs of Red Ribbons were also displayed and Folk Troupes & magicians performed various eye-catching shows.

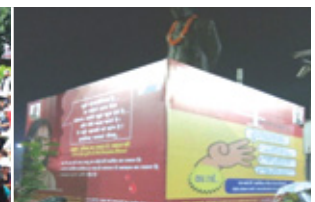


Shri Rustam Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh addressing participants

Shri Rustam Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh flagged off the campaign and inaugurated Human Chain formation. During the Inaugural Session, Shri Rustam emphasized that due to the effective strategies and efforts made by MPSACS, the infection rate of HIV has drastically reduced. He also added that awareness plays a vital role in controlling infections and youth can also support in awareness generation activities. He appreciated the effort made by MPSACS and personally congratulated the team of MPSACS.



Magic Show on AIDS/HIV awareness



Pre-publicity of the campaign

Other Dignitaries like Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil, Commissioner Health, Mr. Umesh Kumar, Project Director MPSACS, Mr. Veerendra Mishra, National Director of NSS & IPS, Mr. Rajeev Verma, D.G.Police, Dr. R.K. Vijay, Famous Film Actor and Director along with the Deputy Secretary and State Head of NSS, Department of Higher Education were also present in the event.

.....
Ms. Savita Thakur & Team
MPSACS

EVENTS

International Youth Day

International Youth Day (IYD) is celebrated on August 12 every year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. IYD 2017 is dedicated to celebrate young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace. The Theme of the IYD was **"Youth Building Peace"**.

State AIDS Control Societies also observed IYD across the nation in the form of rallies, street plays, folk shows, exhibitions, Painting competitions, road shows and informative sessions at colleges and organised blood donation camps. Let's have a look!



Nagaland



Punjab



Uttar Pradesh



Assam



Chhattisgarh



West Bengal



Karnataka



Jammu & Kashmir



Manipur

Maharashtra

The IYD was organized at CSIBER College in Mumbai and Miss. Hemal Ingale, Miss India Exquisite queen for the cause 2016-17 and Miss Earth India Fire 2016 was the Chief Guest. She expressed her wish for to work as an "ambassador" for the Nobel cause of HIV/AIDS Prevention for Kolhapur District and also appealed to the youth to not forget their social responsibilities. Mr. Hittesh Mandodi, National Racing Champion along with the Civil Surgeon of CPR Hospital, Principal Social Work Dept. and staff of CSIBER & DAPCU team had also participated in the event. More than 400 college students attended the event.





Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India



RAKTDAAN

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**Let's join hands,
And pledge to save lives.
Blood Donation matters,
Let's make it our choice.**

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Donate blood at your nearest licensed blood bank or voluntary blood donation camp. For more information visit www.naco.gov.in



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Patron: Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health) and Director General, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Joint Secretary, NACO: Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO

Editor: Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (NACO)

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NACO News is a newsletter of the National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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Editing, Design & Production: The Visual House, email: tvh@thevisualhouse.in

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