

Institutional Strengthening & Cross Cutting-TSC

Recommendation (Lab Services)

Operational

- **Streamline release of funds** and reinstate the activities outlined for Laboratories, accreditation of HIV reference labs (NRLs/SRLs), AMC and calibration of equipment, scheduled trainings coinciding with PT/EQAS distribution.
- **Equipment Management-** SACS to ensure functioning of all key lab equipment.
- **Human Resources-** Vacancies of DD-LS and QM-LS should be filled at SACS and recruitment of TO and LTs should be fast tracked.
- **Assessments/Internal Audits-** The SACS are encouraged to map the available resource and plan internal audits of HIV referral labs in the state.
- **Accreditations-** The labs should be encouraged to replicate the learnings of QMS implementation in all the scope of lab testing.

Recommendation (Lab Services)

Operational (Contd.)

- **Capacity Building-** building capacity of TO in the desired technical areas and make provisions for his mentoring visits in coordination with SACS.
- Expand and strengthen EQAS to include **HIV screening at F-ICTCs.**
- **QMS in STI Labs-** In the pursuit of improving etiological diagnosis of STIs, quality of screening at DSRCs and sample referral mechanisms should be strengthened.

Long Term

- Build Capacity for HIV Drug Resistance testing.

Recommendation (IEC & Youth)

Strategy-related

- Ensure funding commitments for IEC.
- leveraging IEC funds from NHM and other sources.
- Shift focus from static one-way messaging to interactive formats.
- Adopt more strategic approach in harnessing channels for specific audience.
- Development of materials on topics emerged as high priority: Positive Living including Positive Prevention, HIV-TB Linkage, new PPTCT regime, OST, overdose management, and materials specific to IDU and FIDU.
- Sustain and strengthen key youth initiatives of Adolescent Education Programmes and Red Ribbon Clubs.

Recommendation (IEC & Youth)

Operational

- Development of IEC material in local languages.
- Availability of AV display facilities in service centers.
- Optimize the pool of Master Trainers who have been trained on Communication Planning & Management.
- Encourage districts, TIs and others to develop local material, train Master Trainers at district/ TI level to help develop local KP specific communication materials
- Strengthen national helpline.
- More Strategic harnessing of ICT for youth may be considered.
- Out of Collage, Out of School component requires strengthening.

Long Term

- Strategic communication for enabling environment.
- Sustain capacity building in communication.

Recommendation (Mainstreaming & Social Protection)

Strategy-related

- Set up strong coordinating mechanisms & structures between NACO & other ministries/ departments with which MoUs are signed.
- Prioritisation of Ministries should be done and sustained partnership pursued.
- Evolve and recommend a basic minimum social protection package for PLHIV (nutrition, financial assistance, education, shelter & travel for ART etc.)
- Revitalize National Council on AIDS (NCA) at national level and ensure regular meetings of State Council on AIDS (SCA), Legislative Forum on AIDS (LFA) at state.

Operational

- Conduct a study for assessment of utilization, effectiveness and efficiency of help desk and grievance redressal mechanisms in reducing stigma and discrimination.
- Plan and undertake comprehensive capacity building on mainstreaming and social protection for staff at all levels.

Recommendation (Mainstreaming & Social Protection)

Operational (Contd.)

- More focus need to be given on functioning of grievance redressal mechanisms at all SACS.

Long Term

- Need to bring children & youth into the focus of mainstreaming efforts.
- Single window model for easy access of social protection schemes to PLHIV & vulnerable groups, supported by a social protection schemes portal, should be put in place in all districts.
- Priorities and strategize mainstreaming to increase public investment in HIV across all sectors.
- Advocate scaling up enrollment of PLHIV and HRG especially in exclusive schemes to ensure maximum benefits are received.

Recommendation (Cross Cutting)

Policy related

- Need to promote “voluntary disclosure”.
- Advocacy with Niti Aayog & National Legal Service Authority for provision of free legal aid to all PLHIV and for inclusion of PLHIV under the BPL list, to be taken up.
- Institutionalize mechanisms such as broader regulatory instruments covering entire health domains and private health care providers to prevent human rights violations of PLHIV and Key populations.
- Strengthen community monitoring and systems by increasing the participation of PLHIV and key populations networks and communities.

Operational

- Stronger ‘positive speaker’ and ‘positive prevention’ programmes through networks and SACS.
- Stronger Linkages with line departments.
- TRG on Stigma to be convened at the earliest.
- Local initiative needs to be monitored.

Recommendation (Cross Cutting)

Operational (Contd.)

- Commission research on gender-related aspects of HIV programming and service reach.
- Advocacy for taking the HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014 forward.
- Strengthen capacity building efforts on Universal Precautions and Stigma & Discrimination.

Recommendation (Strategic Information Management)

SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Organize an expert consultation to review and evolve a roadmap for development of Surveillance & Research activities.
- Efforts to further strengthen national and state level HIV estimations/projections with Spectrum by using up-to-date surveillance and programme data should be considered.
- Partnerships with national and regional institutes to support surveillance activities should be discussed and reinvigorated.
- Capacitate SIMS as One integrated system for data management & data analysis.
- Strengthen Strategic Information (SI) – Programme Component collaboration & coordination for effective use of programme data for decision making.
- Undertake an indicator rationalization exercise with objective of minimizing the reporting burden from peripheral level and simplify reporting formats.

Recommendation (Strategic Information Management)

SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS (contd.)

- Strengthen data management & data use at sub-national level (state/ district/ block).
- Commission already approved studies on the identified priorities by securing funds from domestic or donor support.
- Review and finalize research mandate at NACO through an expert consultation.

LONG-TERM MEASURES

- Move towards real time monitoring, feedback and action at sub-national level.
- Development of mechanisms and systems to generate outcome and impact data at sub-national level for effective programme response.
- SIMS need to evolve to support individual tracking across TI, ICTC and ART and cascade analysis through case reporting systems, including linkages.
- Identify the evidence & research requirements for NACP V & repeat the flagship initiatives such as NDAP, NHRP at the beginning of NACP V to address them.
- Strengthen surveillances, estimations & modeling to address incidence, prevalence, mortality trends including drug resistance at sub-national level.

Recommendation (Institutional Strengthening)

STRATEGY RELATED

- Promote a healthy work environment and provide incentives for better performance.
- Improve convergence at National, State & District level.
- Strengthen HR functions/ HR units at NACO & SACS levels to manage the large workforce including a clear definition of HR processes and systems for contractual staff.

Operational

- Fill up the vacancies of key positions in SACS, DAPCU and facilities across all states.
- Strengthen capacity building of HR at all levels of programme, through updation of training modules, identification & collaboration with institutions to support capacity building.
- An expert committee may be set up to reassess the current SACS HR strength, composition and distribution.
- Role clarity for TSUs.

Recommendation (Institutional Strengthening)

Operational

- Leverage the successes from the Knowledge Sharing work done at NACO.
- Reaffirm the need for the Technical Resource Groups (TRGs) as an institution for technical advice and support.

LONG TERM MEASURES

- Leverage resources of public health system through bottom up convergence of HIV with the general health system at the sub district /district level.
- Ensure sustainability of the NTSU /TSU structure.
- Develop a think tank body at a state level, eg. State HIV Technical Unit.
- Reconsider and reconstruct the structure and scope of responsibilities of SACS in an environment of progressive convergence with the health system.