

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
signed on  
14<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2013

BETWEEN

DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL,  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

&

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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hereinafter collectively called as the "**Parties**". It was agreed between the parties that there is a sufficient scope for collaboration and cooperation:

## **WHEREAS**

1. **DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL** is the nodal agency in India for coordinating response with respect to HIV/AIDS.

India, even though a low prevalence country with the prevalence rate of 0.27 percent, has the third largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. As per HIV estimates, 21 lakh people are living with HIV/AIDS in India. Department of AIDS Control has been working for prevention and access to care, support and treatment for HIV/AIDS through National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).

National AIDS Control Programme aims to halt and reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India by integrating programmes for prevention, care, support and treatment with larger health systems and services. Major strategic focus for achieving the desired objective is to prevent new infections in high risk groups and vulnerable groups and provide greater care, support and treatment to a larger number of people living with HIV/AIDS.

NACP places importance on targeted interventions amongst high risk groups and bridge population. HIV infection is transmitted from high risk groups to general population

through bridge population, which constitutes long distance truck drivers and single male migrants. Ports being the transport hubs have abundant of both, truck drivers and single male migrants.

Given the need to prevent the spread of infection from high risk groups to vulnerable and general population, NACP initiated efforts to address the social economic determinants through relevant Ministries and departments to integrate HIV prevention and management into their ongoing activities.

## **2. MINISTRY OF SHIPPING**

Ministry of Shipping is the nodal agency for coordination and administration of Maritime Transport which is a critical infrastructure for the social and economic development of a country. Ministry of Shipping encompasses within its fold shipping and ports sectors which include shipbuilding and ship-repair, major ports, national waterways, and inland water transport.

India is a major maritime nation by virtue of its long coast line of around 7517 Kms on the western and eastern shelves of the mainland and also along the islands. It has 12 major and 200 non-major ports, strategically located on the world's shipping routes, its long tradition of seafaring with a large pool of trained maritime personnel. Ports are the gateways to India's International trade by sea and play a vital role in the overall economic development of the country. About 90% by volume and 70% by value of the country's international trade is carried on through maritime transport.

## **3. RATIONALE FOR MAINSTREAMING OF HIV/AIDS**

By virtue of being nodal trading centers, ports are high risk zones for communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS. They are the source, transit and destination points for migration of number of people in coastal areas. Population living around ports and shipyards is dependent on fishing, shipping, ship breaking and other associated trades. Most of people in this segment are migrants from adjoining or distant areas. These include both single men involved in fishing and sailing and also single unmarried girls

involved in cutting, cleaning and packaging of sea products. Ports are also the destination places of truck drivers and their helpers/porters for loading and unloading, who carry goods from all parts of country. All these sections are vulnerable to STI/HIV/AIDS.

The vulnerability of people in coastal areas is reinforced by International Hazard Datasheets on Occupation for sea men prepared by International Occupational safety and Health information centre of ILO which mentions the following as one of the biological hazards:

*“Risk of communicable diseases transmitted by crewmembers or contracted ashore: tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases (incl. AIDS, syphilis, etc.), hepatitis A and B, respiratory infections, etc.”*

#### **4. SCOPE FOR MAINSTREAMING OF HIV/AIDS**

- 4.1 Department of AIDS Control recognizes HIV/AIDS is not merely a health issue. Thus mainstreaming has been identified as one of the key approach to facilitate multi-sectoral response. The mainstreaming strategy of NACP III visualized the vulnerability of people around ports and proposed *“Port authorities/dock labor board to provide comprehensive package of service to shipping and port labor and support NGOs to work with sex workers in the region.”*

The National AIDS Control Programme is implemented through total 38 State AIDS Control Societies/Municipal AIDS Control Societies (SACS/MACS) in all States and Union Territories. Guided by Department of AIDS Control the concerned SACS/MACS have the capacity to plan, roll out and handhold the Ports in taking the objective further. The AIDS Control Societies which would be relevant for this Action plan are of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Goa, Chennai, and Mumbai. The contact list of concerned SACS/MACS in coastal areas is given in Annexure 1.

4.2 Ministry of Shipping: In order to achieve the coveted goal of transforming Indian Ports into world class facilities suited to the requirements of the future economy of India, the Government of India has initiated many path-breaking measures to improve the service. To become globally competitive, utmost importance has been placed on development of physical infrastructure like roads, airports, seaports, railways.

Maritime Agenda: 2010-20 formulated by the Ministry of Shipping, plans to undertake capacity addition projects in the Major Ports for upgrading and modernizing the port infrastructure in India to enable it to benchmark its performance against global standards. These include road connectivity projects with assistance of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Rail Connectivity Projects with Ministry of Railways. The connectivity projects are likely to increase the migration further, which has been identified as major driver of spreading HIV infection. Thus there is need for modernizing health facilities available at ports.

Nearly all the major ports in India are involved in CSR programmes which encompass the sectors like health, education, employment, income and quality of life. The vision document states that “much more could be done under CSR”. There is scope for inclusion of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support measures in the CSR efforts.

The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 (Act No. 54 of 1986) provides for the safety, health and welfare of dock workers. In view of the vulnerability of sea men and dock workers to biological hazard as mentioned by ILO, their prevention from STI/HIV/AIDS can be treated as an important element under “Health and safety”. Thus, the promotion of safe sexual behavior and provision of free counseling, testing & treatment needs to be given due importance.

In view of the rationale and scope mentioned above, the need for partnership between Ministry of Shipping with Department of AIDS Control, is felt.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING RATIONALE AND SCOPE, DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL AND MINISTRY OF SHIPPING MUTUALLY AGREE TO COOPERATE AND COLLABORATE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV/ AIDS.**

#### **5. OBJECTIVES**

- To provide HIV/AIDS/STI preventive, care, support and treatment services to port workers as well as community around major ports including fishermen, seafarers, truckers, single male migrants and other vulnerable population etc.
- To adopt and implement “National policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work” in all major port areas.
- To provide stigma free environment and promote greater involvement of People Living with HIV in all major port areas.

#### **6. KEY DELIVERABLES**

- All health facilities at major ports to provide counseling and testing services for HIV as per National protocols and guidelines.
- All major ports would provide STI services through outreach and health facilities as per National Protocols and guidelines.

#### **7. ROLE OF MINISTRY OF SHIPPING**

- i Make available health infrastructure and human resources for prevention and management of HIV/AIDS/STI.
- ii Designate responsibility to personnel at suitable level to plan, implement and monitor HIV /AIDS/STI services.
- iii Ensure identified health personnel from the facilities are provided capacity building by State AIDS Control Societies.

- iv Promote safe sexual practices among vulnerable population in port setting with necessary support from State AIDS Control Societies.
- v Ensure dissemination/ display of IEC material pertaining to HIV/AIDS/STI at ports/ health facilities and outreach activities.
- vi Ensure ICTC/PPTCT services and ensure availability of rapid HIV diagnostic kits (3 different antigens/ principles) as per NACO guidelines and specifications.
- vii Set up designated STI Clinics at major ports for vulnerable population including truckers and transport workers and ensure availability of STI drug kits as per NACO guidelines and specifications.
- viii Coordinate and strengthen referral linkages with State AIDS Control Societies and implementing partners like targeted interventions(TI)NGOs/ Community Care Centers and networks of HIV Positive persons.
- ix Ensure record keeping and reporting to SACS as per prescribed formats.
- x Commit resources (Manpower, material and money) for HIV/AIDS/STI in budgets/ or CSR component for sustainability of this endeavor.

## 8. ROLE OF NACO


- i Share nationally approved treatment protocols, guidelines and standards pertaining to STI/HIV/AIDS.
- ii Provide technical support and build capacity of ports health personnel to facilitate integration of HIV/AIDS in the Health Services of ports hospitals.
- iii Providing training to major port health personnel (Doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians on syndromic case management of STI, which could be direct training or training of trainers as per the number of personnel.
- iv Provide technical support for implementation of IEC and awareness activities around major ports with support of ports authorities.
- v Sharing reporting formats and monitoring mechanisms.
- vi NACO/ SACS will coordinate and provide necessary technical support to Ministry of Shipping /major ports to integrate STI/HIV/AIDS services.

## 9. EXECUTION OF MOU

- Parties will set up a joint working group for drawing up a PORTS ACTION PLAN for Major ports to meet the objectives of MOU.
- Parties will decide the modalities for execution of the proposal contained in the MOU based on the recommendations of the Joint Working group.
- Parties agree to collaborate and work closely for fulfillment of objectives set in the MOU.
- Both the parties would consult each other and review the progress for implementing objectives of this MOU on quarterly basis.
- This MOU will be operative with effect from the 14<sup>th</sup>, February, 2013 and any alteration / modifications can be carried out with the consent of both parties.


The parties herein have appended their respective signatures the day and the year above stated.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL, MINISTRY  
OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

  
SHRI LOV VERMA  
SECRETARY,  
DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL,  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DATED: 14<sup>th</sup> DAY of FEBRUARY, 2013

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

  
SHRI PRADEEP K SINHA  
SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DATED: 14<sup>th</sup> DAY of FEBRUARY, 2013



**Annexure 1**

S n	Name of State	Address of SACS/ MACS	Office No.	Fax no.	Email id
1	Andhra Pradesh	State AIDS Control Society, Directorate of Medical and Health Services, Sultan Bazar Hyderabad – 500059	040-24657221 24650776	24650776 24652267	sacsandhra@gmail.com
2	Tamilnadu	Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600008	044- 28194917, 28190467	28190261	tnsacs@gmail.com
3	Chennai MACS	Chennai Municipal Corpn. AIDS Control Society, 82 Thiru Vi-Ka-Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600003	044- 24980081 24986514	25369444	chennaiMACS@gmail.com
4	Maharashtra	Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, Ackworth Leprosy Hospital Campus, Behind SIWS Collete, R.A. Kidwai Marg, Wadala(West), Mumbai – 400031	022- 24113097, 24115791	24113123, 24115825	maharashtrasacs@gmail.com
5	Mumbai MACS	Mumbai District AIDS Control Society, Acworth Complex, Behind SIWS College, R.A.Kidwai Marg, Wadala (West), Mumbai – 31	022- 24100245-49, 24100250	24100245, 24100250	mumbaimacs@gmail.com
6	Gujarat	Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, 0/1 Block, New Mental Hospital, Complex, Menghani Nagar, Ahmadabad – 380016	079-2680211- 13 2685210	2680214	cohealth@gujarat.gov.in
7	Karnataka	Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, No.4/13-1, Crescent Road, High Grounds, Bangalore -560001	080- 22201438 22201436/7/9	22201435	ksapsdpd@gmail.com
8	Odisha	Odisha State AIDS Control Society, 2nd Floor, Oil Orissa Building, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-12	0674-2395134, 2393235	2407560, 2405105 2394560	orissasacs@gmail.com
9	West Bengal	West Bengal State AIDS Control Society, Swasthya Bhavan, GN-29, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkatta—700091	033-23330178, 23330526	23570122	wbsacs@gmail.com,
10	Kerala	Kerala State AIDS Control Society,, IPP Building, Red Cross Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala – 695037	0471-2304882, 305183	2305183 0949602080 0	keralasacs@gmail.com
11	Goa	Goa State AIDS Control Society 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Dayanand Smruti Building, Swami Vivekanand Road, Panaji, Goa – 403 001	08322- 427286/2 421381/24 22519	2422518	goaids@dataone.in, goaids@gmail.com