

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on
8th day of June, 2015

Between

Department of Commerce

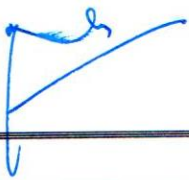
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

&

National AIDS Control Organization

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Government of India



INTRODUCTION

India has one of the largest numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Given the prevalence rate of 0.27 percent, 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country¹. HIV is driven by a number of socio-economic factors; therefore, health interventions alone are not sufficient to address causes and consequences of the epidemic. It requires a multi-sectoral response. Mainstreaming approaches to HIV have increasingly gained ground with the realization that the non-health sector can play an important and meaningful role in reducing vulnerability to HIV and mitigating its impact on those infected and affected.

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Commerce under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry are hereinafter referred to together as “the parties”.

Article 1

1 NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL ORGANISATION

- 1.1 National AIDS Control Organisation is the nodal agency for coordinating response with respect to Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in India. National AIDS Control Organization has initiated several measures towards mainstreaming and partnership with various Ministries.
- 1.2 The National AIDS Control Programme is implemented through 38 State AIDS Control societies/Municipal AIDS Control Societies in states and union territories. NACP places importance on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS by a) enhancing coverage and reach of information on STI/HIV prevention and services through large workforce, especially in informal settings consisting of migrants b) integrating STI/HIV related information and services in existing health infrastructure available in ministries, departments, autonomous bodies and PSUs c) facilitating social entitlements & schemes for social protection of people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

¹ HSS NACO, 2011

Article 2

2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- 2.1** Department of Commerce under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry is responsible for creating an enabling environment and infrastructure for accelerated growth of international trade. The Department formulates implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which provides the basic framework of policy and strategy to be followed for promoting exports and trade. Besides, the Department is also entrusted with responsibilities relating to multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation, and development and regulation of certain export oriented industries and commodities.
- 2.2** The Department of Commerce is functionally organized into the eight Divisions namely Administration and General, Finance, Economic, Trade Policy, Foreign Trade Territorial, State Trading & Infrastructure, Supply and Plantation Division. The various offices/ organizations under the administrative control of the Department are: (A) three Attached Offices, (B) eleven Subordinate Offices, (C) ten Autonomous Bodies, (D) five Public Sector Undertakings, (E) Advisory Bodies, (F) fourteen Export Promotion Councils and (G) other Organizations.
- 2.3** There are five statutory Commodity Boards among 10 autonomous bodies of Department of Commerce. They are (a) Tea board, (b) Coffee board, (c) Rubber board, (d) Spices Board, and (e) Tobacco Board and are responsible for production, development and export of tea, coffee, rubber, spices and tobacco respectively. Others are Marine Products Export Development Authority – Cochin, Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority - New Delhi, Export Inspection Council - New Delhi, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade - New Delhi and Indian Institute of Packaging – Mumbai

- 2.4** State Trading Corporation (STC), Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC), Project and Equipment Corporation of India, Export Credit guarantee Corporation of India Ltd and Indian Trade Promotion Organization are five Public Sector Undertakings under Department of Commerce. There are 14 export promotion councils. Other Organizations working under the department are Federation of Indian Export Organizations, Indian Council of Arbitration-New Delhi, Indian Diamond Institute – Surat, Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), National Centre for Trade Information, Price Stabilization Fund Trust etc

Article 3

3 RATIONALE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

- 3.1** The total number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in India is estimated at 21 lakh in 2011. Despite the reduction in the overall prevalence, there are emerging vulnerabilities which need to be addressed. The epidemic in the country is changing according to emerging vulnerability factors related to poverty, migration, marginalization and gender. As per HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) 2011 report, 86% of those HIV infected are in the age group of 15 to 49 years, which is one of the most productive segment of the society. The halt & reverse of the epidemic, is only possible with active and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders.
- 3.2** Public Sector Undertakings and various commodity boards have both skilled workers and unskilled workers under Department of Commerce. There are large number of formal and informal workers including single male migrants and large number of truck drivers at the production and export level. Women also work mainly as unskilled workers. They are vulnerable to various health risks including STI/HIV. The collaboration of Department of Commerce and National AIDS Control Organization will support the national efforts of HIV prevention and care to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Article 4

4 SCOPE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

Department of Commerce will support the objectives of the National AIDS Control Organization by a) enhancing coverage and reach of information on STI/HIV prevention and services b) integrating STI/HIV related services through existing health infrastructure available at hospitals of commodity plantation and c) facilitating Social protection for people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing rationale and scope, the parties Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have mutually agreed to cooperate and collaborate in the overall goal of halting and reversing of epidemic in the following areas

Article 5

5 OBJECTIVE OF MoU

- 5.1 Reaching out to the large number of employees and workers of Plantation Boards and PSUs with information on STI/ HIV prevention and care services through sensitization program.
- 5.2 Integration of STI/HIV services in the existing health infrastructure of various units of commodity plantation and PSUs under the Department of Commerce.
- 5.3 Adoption of "National Policy on HIV/AIDS and World of Work" in all the units of plantation boards and PSUs of Department of Commerce.

Article 6

6 KEY DELIVERABLES

- 6.1 Issue directives for adoption of “National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work” in all the estates, Plantation units and PSUs of Department of Commerce.
- 6.2 Issue directives from Department of Commerce to all autonomous bodies including Commodity Board and PSUs under Department of Commerce for supporting HIV/AIDS programme.
- 6.3 Integration of STI/HIV related counseling, testing and treatment services in all health facilities in the estates, plantation units and PSUs.
- 6.4 Inclusion of HIV/AIDS topic in the ongoing training program of workers at the estates, plantation under the commodity board and PSUs.
- 6.5 Impart information on STI/ HIV prevention, counseling, care & support and treatment to all its employees including contractual and informal workers in all the estates, plantation under the commodity board and PSUs.
- 6.6 Share Information with National AIDS Control Organisation and State AIDS Control Societies.

Article 7

7.1 ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: -

- 7.1.1 Issue advisory/directive to all autonomous bodies including estates and plantations under commodity boards and PSUs for HIV prevention and risk reduction for workers at work sites through IEC activities.
- 7.1.2 Issue advisory/directive to all autonomous bodies including estates and plantations under commodity boards and PSUs to integrate STI/HIV/AIDS in the Human Resource trainings.

- 7.1.3 Issue advisory/directive to all autonomous bodies including estates and plantations under commodity boards and PSUs to integrate HIV/AIDS in the existing health and medical services.
- 7.1.4 Issue advisory/directive to all autonomous bodies including estates and plantations under commodity boards and PSUs for adopting and implementing “National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work”.
- 7.1.5 Issue advisory/directive to all autonomous bodies including estates and plantations under commodity boards and PSUs for STI/HIV specific initiatives or project under its health/medical care through the welfare fund/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- 7.1.6 Issue advisory/directive to all autonomous bodies including estates and plantations under commodity boards and PSUs to include support to PLHIV through the welfare fund/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- 7.1.7 Deputation of a nodal officer from Department of Commerce for HIV activities and coordinating with National AIDS Control Organization.

7.2 ROLE OF AUTONOMOUS BODIES INCLUDING ESTATES AND PLANTATIONS UNDER COMMODITY BOARDS AND PSUs UNDER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: -

7.2.1 Information Education and Communication

- Inclusion of information on STI/HIV prevention & services in all printed materials for dissemination.
- Awareness generation through display of IEC materials like panels, hoardings etc. at strategic location in the PSU offices as well as estates, plantation units under commodity boards and availability of IEC material on STI/HIV prevention and treatment.

- Payment days in plantation areas can be used as a platform to create awareness among workers on HIV related services, condom availability and STI treatment in nearest health centers.
- Observation of World AIDS Day, Voluntary Blood Donation Day, Voluntary Blood Donor Day to strengthen national response against HIV/AIDS.

7.2.2 Trainings

- Capacity building of employees of estates, plantations and PSUs who are identified as master trainers & peer educators to strengthen HIV/AIDS intervention. Master trainers and peer educators will be identified from all estates and plantation units and PSUs.
- Inclusion of HIV/AIDS topic in the ongoing training curriculum of workers at estates, Plantation units and employees of PSUs.
- Training of medical officers and paramedical staff of hospitals of estates, Plantation units and PSUs on STI/HIV related counseling, testing and treatment.
- Inclusion of HIV/AIDS topic in the first aid/ supervisory training sessions for supervisory workers at estates, Plantation units and employees of PSUs.

7.2.3. Integration of Services

- Integration of HIV counseling & testing services and STI treatment services in all hospitals of estates/plantation units and PSUs.
- Providing mobile services of HIV counseling and treatment in hard to reach areas and organizing periodic health checkup with STI services at the plantation area.
- Provision for ART Services at all hospitals of estates/plantation units and PSUs
- Referral linkages for HIV counseling & testing, STI treatment and ART services.

7.2.4 Social Protection

- Directives issued to include support to PLHIV through the welfare fund/CSR of estates, plantation under commodity board and PSUs.

7.2.5 Sharing of Information

- Sharing of information on HIV/AIDS activities with NACO biannually.
- Reflection of activities on HIV/AIDS carried out by Department of Commerce in annual report and department website.
- Provision of sharing of web links of National AIDS Control Organization on web portal of Department of Commerce and vice-versa.

7.3 ROLE OF NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL ORGANISATION

7.3.1 Representation of NACO/SACS officials in the meeting of Department of Commerce, autonomous bodies and PSUs as or when required.

7.3.2 Provide technical support and necessary assistance to Department of Commerce as well as other autonomous bodies PSUs through State AIDS Control Societies for capacity building, action plan and other key activities on HIV/AIDS prevention.

7.3.3 Provide technical support for implementation of IEC activities for awareness generation.

7.3.4 Sharing of prototype and content of messages of IEC materials which can be replicated by Plantation units and PSUs under Department of Commerce

7.3.5 Share nationally approved treatment protocols, guidelines and standards pertaining to STI/HIV/AIDS /ART.

7.3.6 Technical support and assistance to build capacity of health personnel to facilitate integration of HIV/AIDS in the Health Service.

Article 8

8 EXECUTION OF MoU

- 8.1 Parties will set up a joint working group for drawing up an action plan for Department of Commerce.
- 8.2 Parties will decide the modalities for execution of the proposal contained in the MoU based on the recommendations of the Joint Working group.
- 8.3 Parties agree to collaborate and work closely for fulfillment of objectives set in the MoU.
- 8.4 Both the parties would consult each other and review the progress for implementing objectives of this MoU bi-annually.
- 8.5 This MoU will be operative with effect from the 8th day of June 2015 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
NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL ORGANISATION,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE


SHRI B.P. SHARMA
SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY


SHRI RAJEEV KHER
SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti Retroviral Therapy
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
FDDI	Footwear Design & Development Institute
FTP	Foreign Trade Policy
FIEO	Federation of Indian Export Organizations
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRG	High Risk Group
IDI	Indian Diamond Institute
ICA	Indian Council of Arbitration
ICTCs	Integrated Counselling & Testing Centres
IDUs	Injecting Drug Users
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
MARPs	Most At-Risk Populations
MMTC	Minerals & Metal Trading Corporation
MOHFW	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
NCTI	National Centre for Trade Information
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation
PSFT	Price Stabilization Fund Trust
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PPTCT	Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking
SACS	State AIDS Control Societies
STC	State Trading Corporation
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
ToT	Training of Trainers