



National AIDS Control Organisation
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India

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news

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2015



"Kadam Badhaao-A Step Towards Change"

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Upcoming Events

October 2015

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

November 2015

National Consultation on HIV Counselling & Testing Strategies

November 2015

Participation in IITF Exhibition

November 2015

Training on DAPCU led model in North East

December 2015

Observation of World AIDS Day

December 2015

Training of Trainers on integrated Training Module for ICTC, ART & STI Counsellors

Number of patients on ART (As on September 2015)

Number of ART centres functional

519

Number of link ART centres functional

1093

Number of PLHIV receiving ART

902868

Number of CLHA on ART

49909

From the desk of AS & DG

Dear Reader

India has achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by halting and reversing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The UN General Assembly has adopted the post-2015 development agenda: "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". To achieve the Sustainable Development agenda of ending AIDS by 2030, the world has also adopted the fast track strategy known as 90:90:90 strategy, i.e., 90% of all people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed HIV to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression by 2020. NACO is in agreement with fast track strategy in order to achieve SDG goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

I am happy to share some of the important activities undertaken by National AIDS Control Organization during last quarter.



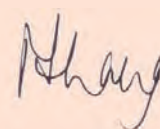
In August 2015, we permitted transfer of blood and blood components between blood banks to improve rational use of blood and blood products and also have taken steps for ensuring self sufficiency in plasma products. Young people play a key role in helping us to combat HIV, their meaningful participation is important and we are committed to see that the youth of this country is protected and therefore are making all efforts to raise their capacity.

NACO in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised a regional workshop to enhance the partnership between the Law Enforcement Agencies and Civil Society on September 2nd & 3rd 2015, at Guwahati. The major emphasis was to ensure access to health facilities of people using drugs while in police custody. We also carried out the capacity building training for ART Medical Officers on HIV TB collaborative activities at National Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases at NITRD (LRS), on September 2nd & 3rd 2015 in New Delhi. The core agenda was to train the ART Medical officers on HIV/TB as per the integrated training module.

On completion of 10 years of free ART initiatives in India, a countrywide assessment of ART centres were conducted. A one day workshop was organised on September 28th 2015 to release the National Report and findings on assessment of ART centres on the basis of in-depth observations on technical service delivery, key findings and results of assessment of ART centres in India.

A first-of-its-kind activity in a public health programme; the National Data Analysis Plan, where secondary data were analysed involving researcher and analysts from medical colleges, research institutions, State AIDS Control Societies and NACO. The reports and research papers were published. In this regard, NACO organised a one day dissemination workshop on September 30th 2015 in New Delhi.

Together we have changed the HIV landscape in the country and I am sure in the coming years, we will work together to meet the goal of ending the HIV epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.



N.S Kang

Additional Secretary & DG, NACO
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India



Adolescents & HIV

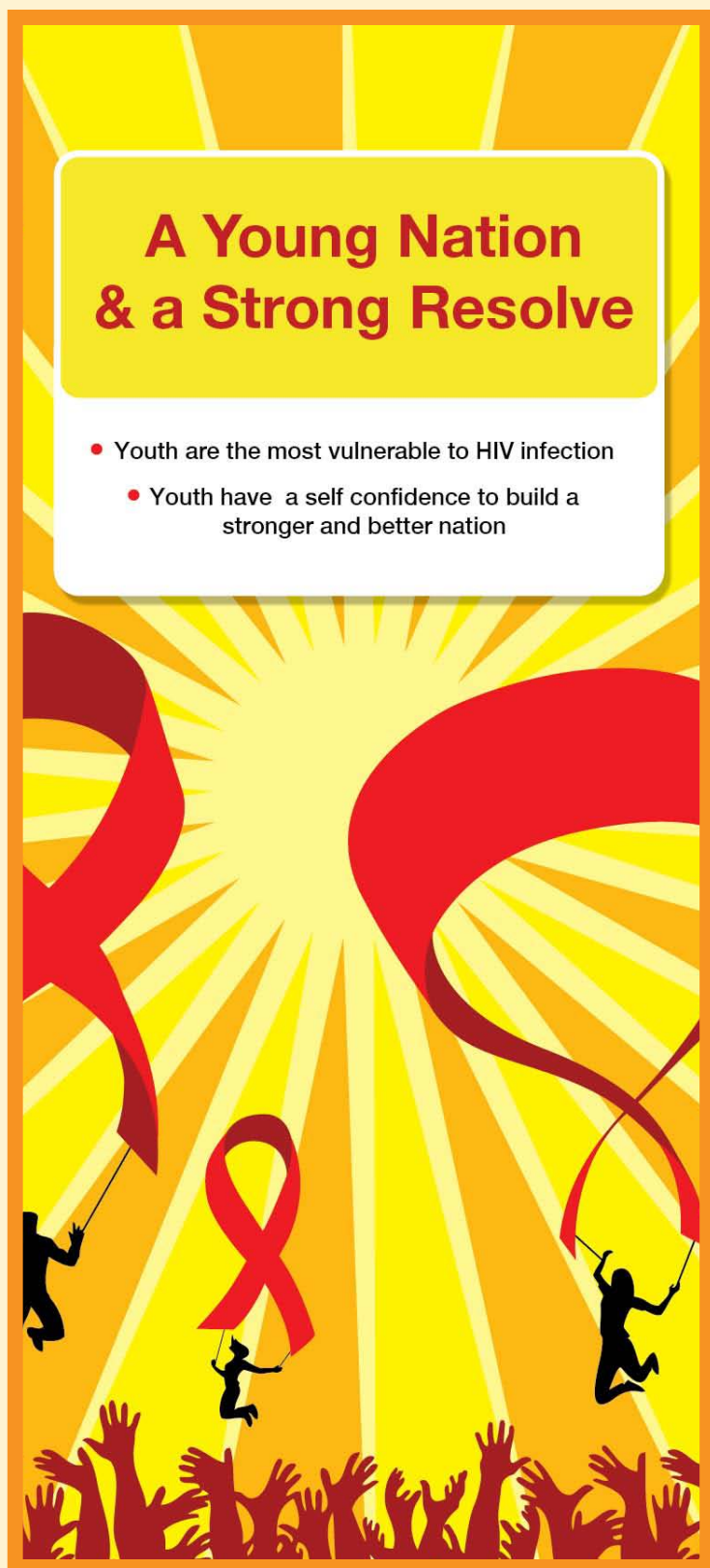
India is being celebrated as a success story in the world in fighting the AIDS epidemic and has emerged out to be a leader in the world in managing an epidemic that once seemed impossible.

The reason for worry however is that AIDS is now the leading cause of death among adolescents (aged 10–19) in Africa and the second most common cause of death among adolescents globally. It is a matter of concern that the number of adolescents dying of AIDS is not decreasing when AIDS-related deaths have dropped in every other age group. **As per WHO, increase may reflect the fact that although more children with HIV survive into adolescence, they do not all then get the care and support they need to remain in good health and prevent transmission.**

At Present, health systems do not efficiently track or focus on adolescents & youth and there is little data available on their health and development. **The young generation today, also, does not receive or have prompt and appropriate care generally due to lack of enabling environment and thus, they experience adverse reproductive and other health concerning issues.** With 356 million youth, aged 10-24 yrs. **the largest population of youth in the world, there is still work left with us in the country.**

It has been acknowledged that Age-appropriate life skills education can increase knowledge and contribute to more responsible behaviour in young people. **sAs per UNICEF reports , around 50% of programmes (Sexual-ity Education, Life skills education) evaluated in a 2006 review of 83 evaluations showed decreased sexual risk-taking among participants who have received life skills education.** The need of the hour is not only to educate and make these adolescents & youth aware about the radical scenario and possible solutions to attain balance, the need is also to make **platforms available to them for correct information and safe choices.** We have to focus on inter-sectoral collaboration and strengthen institutional mechanism as a priority and urgency to protect all young people and empower them to protect themselves and their health. **I am sure we will do it and do it fast with concerted efforts of all.**

Dr. Naresh Goel
DDG (LS) & JD (IEC)



A Young Nation & a Strong Resolve

- Youth are the most vulnerable to HIV infection
- Youth have a self confidence to build a stronger and better nation



International Youth Day, 2015



Hon'ble MOS Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Mr. Shripad Naik, inaugurating the International
Youth Day, 19 August, 2015 in Goa

NACO organised a national event on the International Youth Day (IYD) on August 19th 2015 in Goa.

The Theme for **International Youth Day** is '**Youth Civic Engagement**' and seeks to promote young people's effective inclusive civic engagement at all levels. The slogan given by NACO for this day is '**Kadam Badhao – Make a Change**'. **Hon'ble Minister of State Health & Family Welfare, Shri. Shripad Naik** graced the event as chief guest.

On the eve of the daylong event, a press conference was held presided over the Hon'ble Minister, **Dr. Naresh Goel**, Deputy Director General, NACO and **Dr. Vandana Patankar**, PD Goa SACS were also present.

At Taluk level, the Red Ribbon Clubs of Goa SACS organized a poster competition as pre event activities with the educational institutions. The prize winning posters were displayed on the IYD exhibition, which was inaugurated by **Mr. Laxmikant Parsekar**, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, **Mr. Francis D'Souza**, Deputy Chief Minister & Health Minister and **Mr. Ramesh B Tawadkar**, Sports Minister of Goa. The Red Ribbon Clubs and other organizations engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, displayed their information and communication tools and materials in the stalls. **Mr. N.S. Kang**, Additional Secretary of Department of Health attended the inaugural session following the traditional lighting of the lamp, Saraswati Vandana and cultural performances.

The Hon'ble MOS launched a mobile application titled "HIV Education and Link to Prevention (HELP)". He drew attention to Goa being a prime tourist destination and facing a major challenge of keeping HIV at bay. He urged the youth to support the government's endeavor to spread awareness about HIV and make the State HIV free.

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The youth gathering took a pledge led by the Hon'ble Minister-
"I hereby solemnly swear that as the youth of the nation, to understand and do good to the society and self. To think, before I act and always reflect on my actions. I swear to contemplate the deeds around me and judge what is best for me in terms of mental, physical, social and psychological health and well being. I swear to abide by this oath and spread the same spirit within my peers to be safe, secure, and aware and grow as a global citizen of my country."

All the esteemed dignitaries urged the youth to spread the messages of HIV/AIDS prevention and encouraged the youth to be positive role models. Two HIV positive children Manik Prabhu and Babu of a Bangalore based NGO shared their experience of participating in the recently concluded International Children's Games held at Netherlands. They were felicitated by the esteemed guests on dais for their achievement. **Dr. Sanjeev Dalvi, Director General of Directorate of Health Services** presented the mementos to the dignitaries.

Technical sessions were also held under the chairmanship of AS NACO on Social Protection for Youth and Drug, concluding the day long National Event. There was a good representation from all the Educational Institutions, Schools and Colleges, Red Ribbon Club Members, NSS, Dept of Sports and Youth Affairs, Head of Schools and Principals from Directorate of Higher Education, Officers from Directorate of Health Services, Goa Medical collage Staff, officials from various Govt. Departments, NGOs, Goa SACS and NACO officials. More than 7000 students were present for the event.

Richa Pathak, TO-IEC (Youth) & IEC Team NACO



Participants at IYD function



Cultural performance by Red Ribbon Collage team



Lighting of ceremonious lamp by dignitaries

Usage of Programme Data- NACO's Model

NACO organized one day dissemination Workshop on National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) on September 30, 2015 in New Delhi.

NACO generates a large number of data through HIV surveillance, estimation, programme monitoring and research. The National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) is a first-of-its-kind activity for a public health programme, whereby data has been systematically analysed to address programmatic queries raised during the ending phase of the National AIDS Control Programme Phase III (NACP-III). The ongoing project was initiated in 2013 with the approval of the Secretary, Department of AIDS Control (presently National AIDS Control Organisation). **The approval was progressed with the development of concept notes, orientation and mentoring of analysts, signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and confidentiality of document, formation of NDAP secretariat, reviewing and finalising of protocols and analysis plan and capacity building at each stage through mentorship and workshops, development of articles and their dissemination through scientific journals and finally, a dissemination workshop.**

The entire program activity was a retrospective analysis including programme data Computerized Management Information System (CMIS), HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS), National Family Health Survey (NFHS), HIV Estimation, Integrated Biological and Behavioural Assessment (IBBA), Targeted Intervention data of Form C and E, and the database on People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). Predominantly, all these data were collected during the third phase of NACP, i.e., during 2006 to 2012. Most of the analysis was descriptive due to the cumulative nature of the data, apart from the PLHA dataset, which was used survival analysis.

This initiative has engaged researchers from 28 institutions, covering all four regions across the country by ensuring the availability of research capacities for future region-specific activities. The strength of the project enables to engage senior "Public Health" experts as "mentors", who form the sources of critical thinking and help maximise the benefits of the initiative. The ongoing supports of the mentors to NACO and individual researchers involved in the initiative are immeasurable.

The entire project period was divided into 6 phases, such as, the preparatory phase, data standardisation and analysis plan development phase, conceptualisation, writing phase and dissemination phase. During each phase, the NDAP secretariat consisting of officers from NACO delivered appropriate support to the researchers. To facilitate the project, NACO had conducted capacity-building sessions at regular intervals to ensure the availability of these capacities across all regions. The capacity-building orientation sessions focused on data management, conceptualisation with critical thinking, development of an analysis plan and scientific writing.

The programme achievements were three fold, such as **"Building the capacities of the researchers across the country; Successful collaborative work at the National level and Dissemination of the findings, intended for both programme audiences and scientific audiences.** In this regard NACO had organized a dissemination workshop of **National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) on 30th September, 2015** at New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by Additional Secretary & DG, NACO. During the dissemination workshop, NACO released a report on National Data Analysis Plan. Among the participants, some of the selected experts and officers from ICMR institutions, Medical Colleges, Development Partners, NACO and SACS contributed their suggestions on completed National Data Analysis Plan.

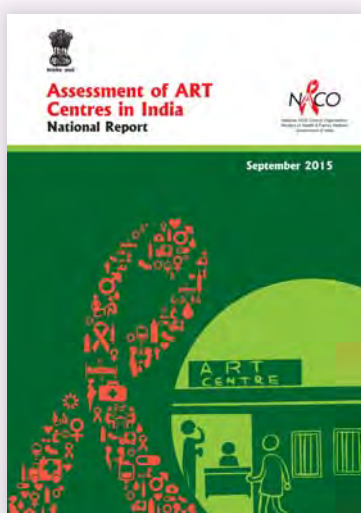
Out of 40 topics which were finalised for the analysis plan, 32 topics could progress to the stage of scientific writing and 16 articles were submitted and accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals.



Group Photo of Participants at NDAP Workshop

National Dissemination Meeting on ART centres Assessment

The free Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services for PLHIV were introduced on 1st April 2004 at 8 centers in six high prevalence States & NCT of Delhi. On completion of ten years of roll out of ART, NACO decided to undertake an assessment of ART service delivery and validation of data at the ART centers across the country to understand the quality of services being provided to PLHIV. Keeping in mind the NACP IV objectives to provide “Universal access to Comprehensive, Equitable, Stigma-free, Quality Care, Support and Treatment services to all PLHIV by using an integrated approach” NACO with support from Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) carried out this massive exercise. The program activities were led by SHARE India & WHO provided the technical assistance.



The country-wide assessments of 357 centers established before 31 March 2012, was spread across all States of India. The assessment activities started in January 2014 and got completed by March 2015. The ongoing assessment activities involved a total of 134 assessors who were led by a Core Team of 11 members. NACO Operational Guidelines for ART Centers, July 2012 were used as the gold standard for comparing the services and program elements. After intensive pilot by the Core team, a standard tool was prepared that included the mixed methods of data collection such as; patient's perspective, interview of key functionaries, record review and direct observations were included in the checklist. The designed checklist captured information to assess of four domains: **Operational, Technical, Monitoring & Evaluation and Logistics**. The findings of the assessment were analyzed, observations were compiled and recommendations under each domain were defined and incorporated in the report of each centre.

Based on these reports, the State level reports and a comprehensive National Report was prepared on the basis of the key results and finding of Assessment of ART Centers in India. The report provided a clear overall prospective of quality ART services, identify gaps with a view to fill up the gaps towards achieving highest standards of care for PLHIV.

To release the national report and present key findings as well as recommendations, NACO in coordination with CDC, Share India & WHO organised a **National Dissemination Meeting on 28th September 2015, in New Delhi**. The representatives of all partner organisations and common stake holders and assessors were invited for this meeting.



Release of the National Report

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Mr. B. P. Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was the Chief Guest for the dissemination workshop and Mr. NS Kang, AS & DG, NACO was the Guest of Honor. Ms. Aradhana Johri, Secretary, Ministry, of Disinvestment was a special invitee. Dr. A. S. Rathore, DDG (CST), NACO, Dr. Pauline Harvey, Director DGHT, Dr. Vijay V Yeldandi, Principal Investigator SHARE India, Dr. Nicole Seguy, WHO India were also present on the occasion.

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Ms. Aradhana Johri, Secretary Disinvestment, Govt. of India, who had initiated this process during her tenure as Additional Secretary at NACO, congratulated the Care Support and Treatment (CST) division of NACO for their commendable hard work. She praised the NACO ART program as one of the best National program. Ms. Johri requested to all, who were involved in this activity to continue with their support towards the way forward on recommendations that emerged from the tremendous task.

Mr. B P Sharma, (Secy. Min of Health & Family Welfare) in his keynote address mentioned that NACO has done well and achieved MDG6 on HIV which is a significant achievement. He has asked NACO to develop specific plans to take necessary action on the findings from the reports of assessment at facility, State and national level depending on the type of gap. He suggested NACO to have a review with the States in the next three months to review the follow up actions. He offered all the support from Ministry on components of the assessment which are beyond NACOs control like infrastructure, infection control committee etc. Dr. Ramesh Allam presented an overview providing detailed information on scope; scale and standard of this assessment. Mr. B P Sharma, Secretary and Mr. N S Kang released the National and State reports. Dr. A. S. Rathore (DDG-CST, NACO) extended vote of thanks to all dignitaries for their participation at the meeting.

Post inaugural session, Dr. Reshu Aggarwal presented the details of findings on different domains of assessment. The presentation focused on broad technical and programmatic areas that have an impact on quality of service delivery and may have implication for policy making at the national level. It was also intended to reveal areas of improvement, which may need further actions from policy and program.

Dr. Ramesh Allam presented a detailed overview of results from operational domain. His presentation provided an in-depth assessment about current status of infrastructure attributes like space - accessibility, Adequacy, and Maintenance, Hygiene, Equipment, Facilities and Human Resource etc.



Participants of the workshop

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Dr. B B Rewari, presented results from Technical Domain which was categorised into five attributes. Counseling; referrals and linkages, infections control procedures, attitude towards patients, technical service delivery. The presentation included in-depth observation of technical service delivery and listed out some key findings in terms of challenges and recommendations. Dr. Manish Bamrotiya (PO, ART) presented results from Monitoring Domain. Dr. Christopher Nathan (SHARE India) presented results from Logistics Domain. The last segment of the meeting was panel discussion on QA session. Dr. Rewari presented the key recommendations and the steps taken by NACO for addressing the gaps in the program that have emanated from the assessment. He also presented detailed list of follow-up that are currently being undertaken to address challenges and issues emerged as a result of this assessment. The Question and Answer session from the participants ranged from the various findings of the review and shared to some extent on the way forward which was put to the panel. The entire session triggered many thought provoking questions for the betterment of the programme. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all assessors, partners & all participants for their valuable contribution.

Dr. B B Rewari, NPO & CST team NACO

HIV Education & Link to Prevention

A mobile app to educate you to access your risk and seek counselling nearby

App works on Android and OS smart phones.

NACO in collaboration with AIDS Health Care Foundation and Department of telecommunications developed a HIV mobile app "HELP" (HIV Education & Link to Prevention). This mobile application assists to identify personal risk to HIV ensuring confidentiality is a great innovation that can be used popularly among youth and eventually will lead to increased access to testing of HIV/AIDS. This HIV app HELP is a simple application that can be easily downloaded in the phone. This mobile application provides the following information

- ◆ Basic information of HIV
- ◆ routes of transmission
- ◆ prevention of HIV
- ◆ Myths of HIV transmission

The main aim of this app is to assess one's own risk towards acquiring HIV infection. The app also helps in identifying the nearest testing and counseling centre on entering the pin code.



"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples".....Mother Teresa



Mainstreaming Team NACO

Review of Basic Service component of SACS under NACP

The Basic Services Division (BSD) organised an in depth National Review of the Basic Services component of National AIDS Control Programme with all the State AIDS Control Societies in the country from 24th to 26th August, 2015 at NACO office, New Delhi. More than 60 participants were present during the three days review, including State BSD officers/ In-charges/PPTCT Consultants from the State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) in India and Experts from development partners and NACO officers. The National meeting focused on ICTC, HIV-TB, PPTCT and Counselling/Training components. **The main agenda was to review physical and financial achievements relating to ICTC, HIV-TB, PPTCT and Counselling/Training during the last FY 2014-15 as well as the current FY 2015-16 (1st -Qtr.) for each State/UTs in the country.** Discussions were also held on the SIMS Reporting formats, Supply chain management system and issues in the states, new EID Guidelines and new proposed PPTCT Software (pilot study).



BSD-SACS Review Meeting, organised by BSD, NACO

Capacity building on PPTCT-ART Linkage Software

The Basic Services Division (BSD)/NACO organized a one day ToT (Training of Trainers) for new PPTCT-ART Linkage Software (PALS) on 21st September 2015, for SACS officials in selected 8 States (Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Delhi and Karnataka) to implement the PALS on pilot basis. The meeting was held at NACO office, New Delhi. The main objective of piloting the software in selected states was to get feedback and response from the programme prior to implement of the software across the country.



ToT on PPTCT ART Linkage Software, organised by BSD, NACO

About 60 participants were presented from NACO, SACS and development partners. The whole day ToT programme included both the presentations and hand on training for the SACS participants along with detailed discussion.

BSD Team NACO

Technical Resource Group meeting on PPTCT

A meeting of Technical Resource Group on PPTCT was organised by BSD/ NACO under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Satyavathy, Former Director, Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad; at NACO office, New Delhi on 24th September 2015. The objectives of the meeting were to review the key operational and service delivery issues pertaining to PPTCT of HIV, Syphilis & EID programme in the country and to discuss in detail the current technical issues pertaining to PPTCT programme. A total of 29 members from different organizations participated and made discussions and conclusions on the technical aspects of the PPTCT programme.

Review cum refresher training on ELM -23rd - 24th September 2015.

TI Division-NACO organised a two days review cum refresher training workshop on Employer Led Model on September 23rd & 24th 2015 at Delhi with an objective to enhance the understanding on issues pertaining to provisions under Companies act for CSR and the capacities of State AIDS control Societies and Technical Support Units. The workshop was organised with the support of USAID funded PIPPSE project. The workshop was attended by Joint Director (Targeted Interventions) from SACS, **Team Leader and Programme Officers (ELM) from 17 TSUs, TI Division NACO, PIPPSE project Team and representatives from USAD, FICCI, PHDCCI, IICA.**



(L to R) Dr Neeraj Dhingra, DDG (TI) NACO, Dr KK Upadhyay, CSR Head FICCI, Dr Ashok Agrawal, COP PIPPSE, Sarah Rugnetta, Advisor USAID

Apart from in-house session on case studies from different States and discussion on the progress in the implementation of ELM, Dr KK Upadhyay, CSR Head, FICCI, Dr Jatinder Singh, Sr Secretary CSR, Mr Vivek Prakash General Manager- CSR Jubilant Life Sciences Limited and Mrs Swagata Sen Pillai, Sr Executive CSR IICA, deliberated and explained on how the partnership with industries can be more effective and how the interest of the industries can be sustained besides explaining the provisions under companies acts for HIV/AIDS and corporate communication.



Resource pool and participants from the workshop.

TI Team NACO

Newer policy initiatives to improve Blood Transfusion Services

National Blood Transfusion Council, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the policy formulating apex body for all matters pertaining to the organization, operation, standards and training of a sustainable and safe blood transfusion service for the country, set up under directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. National Blood Policy adopted by the country in 2002 reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring safe blood supplies and aims to enhance blood access through a well networked centrally coordinated, efficient and self sufficient blood transfusion service.

Two major initiatives towards better utilisation of blood and blood components, have been taken by National Blood Transfusion Council as part of its commitment to ensure safe blood and enhanced access to blood products. These include permitting for transfer of blood units and blood components between blood banks and allowing for surplus plasma available with blood banks to be sent for fractionation. These will go a long way towards improving optimal utilization and minimizing wastage of this precious gift of life.

Though the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules there of did not debar bulk transfer of blood between blood banks, they also did not have an enabling provision. This led to blood often expiring in one blood bank and not being available in another and patients being asked to move between blood banks trying to source blood they require. **With this decision of National Blood Transfusion Council, which has the full endorsement**

of the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Blood banks can now share blood with other blood banks and maximize its utilization. This will specially step up the utilization and availability of negative and rare blood group units and support disaster management. This progressive move makes all blood banks deemed approved to act as storage centers for blood & blood components and shifts the onus of procurement of blood from patient party to the blood banks, which would now have to facilitate supplies of blood units as per requirement.

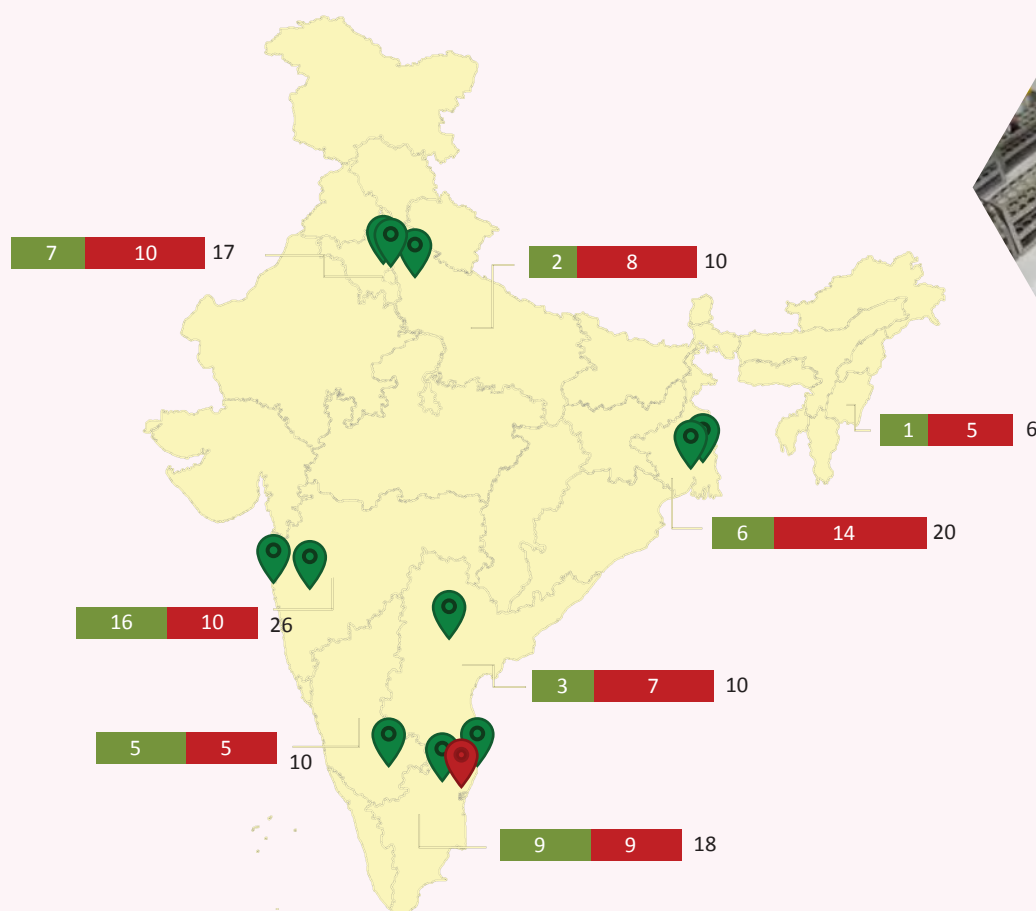
Plasma, an important derivative from blood componentization, is a raw material, which acts as a source of several essential life saving medicines like Human Albumin, Immunoglobulins, clotting factors, etc. These are obtained through a process of fractionation, facilities for which are limited in India. In consonance with the Prime Ministers "Make in India" ideology, by allowing blood banks to move their surplus plasma for fractionation to these existing facilities, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken a giant leap forward to improve the availability of these products in the country, for which it is presently dependent on imports. An exchange value of Rs.1600/- per litre of plasma has been fixed and the blood banks with surplus plasma can exchange it for consumables, equipments etc. or plasma derived products, as per their need. **This exchange, however, cannot be in terms of cash. Patients in intensive care and suffering from immunodeficiency stand to be directly benefitted by this policy.**

Dr Shobini Rajan, ADG & BTS Team



Accreditation Status Of National Reference Laboratories (NRL) And Associated State Reference Laboratories (SRL) Across India

Quality improvement is the mandatory activity of Laboratory Services, NACO. There are total 130 reference labs (13 NRLs, 117 SRLs). Out of these 130 labs, 60 reference labs (11 NRLs, 49 SRLs) are NABL accredited as per ISO 15189:2012 Standards.



Two rounds each of nation-wide independent assessment of NRLs & SRLs was performed with the objective of having an unbiased baseline assessment of the quality systems in the HIV testing Laboratories under NACO umbrella. An action plan was developed to improve the quality of laboratory services by providing technical assistance, hand holding, on-site mentoring and monitoring visits, organizing training programs on relevant topics identified from the laboratory assessments. The goal was to work towards accreditation, which is a mark of competence and quality operations.



Total NRLs:	13
Total Accredited NRLs:	11
Total SRLs:	117
Total Accredited SRLs:	49

Lab Services Team NACO

The New Horizons in Blood Transfusion - E Initiatives

Revised - Globally amongst 193 countries, India ranks 118 on the e- government Development Index as per the United Nations e government Survey 2014. Despite this dismal position, in past decade India has witnessed an increasing dependence on digital technology for day to day activities and our global position simply reflects the untapped areas for use of digital technology. Government of India's flagship Digital India programme is an opportunity to use technology in a manner that the benefits trickle down to the public at large. Smart phones have permeated heavily across all socioeconomic segments in our country and keeping this in view a mobile app to locate the nearest blood bank was launched on 14th June 2015 by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) in collaboration with National Health Portal (NHP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

2290 out of 2760 (82.97%) Blood Banks across the country enrolled on Digital Platform -The NHP site provides location and contact details along with GPS coordinates of these blood banks. This serves to locate the nearest blood bank across the entire country on the NBTC microsite at NHP portal as well as a mobile app on Android platform.

A successful pilot study was conducted from August 16th to September 15th 2015 to assess the feasibility of display of stock availability on the same App in the States of Delhi and Mizoram. **State of Mizoram was chosen to assess the challenges in uploading data from resource poor and far flung North Eastern State with hilly terrain.**

A Total no. of 78 Blood Banks -68 Blood Banks of Delhi & 10 blood Banks of Mizoram were enrolled in the study. 62/68 (91.2%) blood banks from Delhi and 10/10 (100%) from Mizoram reported the whole Blood availability on NBTC microsite on NHP, proving the operational feasibility of the application.

Observations of the PILOT Study

Doable within existing resources at facility level without additional human resource and financial implications, even in far flung difficult terrains. This is despite the fact that internet facilities not always available within the blood bank premises

Ready access to online information regarding blood bank locations and availability of blood stock shifts the onus of procuring safe blood from individual to Blood Banks.

This online networking of blood banks, in conjunction to the recent approval of the policy for Bulk Transfer of blood between blood banks shall lead to even distribution of blood and avoid wastage. IOS and, Blackberry platforms, as well as an offline mode for the app remain to be explored

Conclusion

This endeavor is scalable across all the licensed blood banks of the country and would enable the end user that is community at large to have authentic data pertaining to closest blood bank and blood units available from a single website and a single mobile app.

Dr. Aarti Garg, Deputy Director & BTS Team NACO

“Lets Talk”

The Amravati District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit, Maharashtra, successfully networked with Shaan Honda (a pvt enterprise and a unit of Jadhav group of companies) and Faith NGO to raise an amount of 1.8 Lakhs to conduct awareness on HIV and STI/RTI among Senior Collage Students as well as Paramedical students.

Subsequent to assured financial assistance from the above said stakeholders, a team to over see planning and implementation of IEC activities was constituted comprising of officials of ICTC, Shaan Honda, Faith NGO and DAPCU. The IEC activities were carried out with the help of IEC van named “ Yuva Chetna Rath” and with the use of activities such as street plays, video shows etc.

The campaign was planned to reach out to close 25000 college students in two phases. First phase was planned with medical, paramedical and Senior Collage students such as nurses etc and the second phase were intended to cover students not related to medical field.

The first phase of the sensitization activity covered 26 Collages out of that 4 Nursing collages (2govt and 2 pvt) in 5 blocks (Amravati, Daryapur, Chandur Bazar, Morshi and Warud) of the of the District covering more than 600 students of paramedical. Sensitization to para-medical students also included topics on Stigma and Discrimination, Universal Work Precautions, PPTCT MDR Program, HIV-TB Program and single prick testing.



IEC van activities at the venue



Collage students watching the street play in the venue

The five day sensitization activity was inaugurated on 7th Sept 15 by Hon'ble Mr. Praveenji Pote Patil (Parent Minister of Amravati) in the presence of Deputy Director of Health Services, Akola Circles in the presence of officials from MSACS, district health system, Faith NGO and Director, GM of Shaan Honda.

A total of 10500 students in 5 blocks covering 26 colleges were reached out during the activity. Addition to that we cover the 16 villages on the route where we display the Video Movies of HIV in the evening time.



The AIDS symbol, a simple loop of red ribbon, is one of the most recognised symbols across the world. Created by a group of artists in New York, USA, in 1991, it symbolises solidarity with people living with HIV and their care givers.

DAPCU Team NACO

Enhancing Partnership Between Law Enforcement, Health And Civil Society Organisations For HIV Prevention And Control In India

Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are often criticized for interfering with people who use drugs through arbitrary arrests and detention and unfair targeting of people who use drugs. In this context, a regional workshop was conducted jointly by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and National AIDS Control Organization on 2-3 September, 2015 at Guwahati under the chairmanship of Mr. Navreet Singh Kang, Addl. Secretary and Director General, MOHFW, NACO, Govt. of India.

Mr. Navreet Singh Kang emphasized that the immediate need before us is to work in partnerships with relevant agencies and appealed to Law Enforcement officials to understand that a person who uses drugs is a victim of his/her circumstances and requested to refer them for appropriate HIV prevention and treatment services as per the provision exists in NDPS Act.

Mr. NS Kang highlighted that drug users come into the custody of the State (Police or Judicial) should not be denied the access to the health facilities including HIV prevention and treatment services.

Mr. Abou Mere, President, Indian Drug Users Forum, appreciated the efforts taken by NACO for ensuring meaningful involvement of IDU representations in such important

events in the region. Ms. Cristina Albertin said enhancing partnerships between LEAs, health and CSOs is key part of the UNODC's response towards addressing drug use and HIV in India. Operationalizing the formation of State Level working committee on prison HIV and Law Enforcement; institutionalizing mechanism to work in a more collaborated manner with MSJE, NCB & MHA; sharing information with Law Enforcement Agencies to refer IDUs for OST, NSP and other prevention and treatment services; and advocacy with Police training academies to include HIV/AIDS subjects in the training curricula were some of the key recommendations made in the workshop.

Mr. M. Patton, Commissioner and Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Nagaland, Mr. Mukesh Sahay, DG-CID, Civil Defence and Home Guards, Ms. Zoram Thangi Hauhnar, Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Mizoram, Mr. Rajveer Singh Chauhan, Superintendent of Police (Crime), Govt. of Tripura, Mr. Ranjan Dhiwedi, Director General of Police, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. H. Nongplun, Inspector General of Police, Govt. of Meghalaya, Mr. K. Mero, Inspector General of Police, Govt. of Nagaland, and Mr. Dilip Kumar Srivastava, Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, Patna, representative from NGOs, senior officials from UNODC and NACO have also attended the workshop.







TI – IDU Team NACO



'Law Enforcement Agencies in HIV Prevention' (OR) 'Law Enforcement Agencies joining hands with NGOs in HIV prevention'

Let Children live like Children

Every child has the right to live like a child. However, few of them are left behind in the society. Among them are the children infected and affected by AIDS. However by the efforts of NACO and SACS officials by relentless advocacy, states have formulated differing schemes to ensure children infected and affected by AIDS have access to social protection for better quality of life. For example, Children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS require adequate nutrition to improve the efficacy of their treatment and medication as well as build immunity against AIDS. Children, up to 14 years, are entitled to the mid-day meal at school under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme. However, HIV-positive children suffer opportunistic infections and often have to miss school, also for their ART treatment and medication. In light of this, children tend to miss their mid-day meals and are prone to malnutrition. At present, double ration is provided to children suffering from severe and acute malnutrition and not to children with mild to moderate malnutrition. The list of current schemes of state government for children infected and affected by AIDS are as given below.

Social Protection Schemes	About the scheme	Name of the state offered social protection
 Nutrition (Double Ration)	Double ration is provided to children in Mid-day meal, AWC	Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Manipur, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh
 Travel Concession	Free travel provided to children with escort to collect ART	Most of the states
 Financial assistance to care takers	Financial assistance to the guardian of Children Affected by AIDS	Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Tamilnadu, Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra
 Special Leave for ART/ OI	Provision of leave from school for ART and OI treatment	Kerala, Gujarat
 Education	No Children affected by HIV/AIDS is denied admission if otherwise eligible for admission to any class in the school	Most of the states
 Special Care Home for CABA	Provision of Special care home for Children Affected by AIDS	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur

Addressing the issue of children and HIV/AIDS is multi-sectoral in nature and involves simultaneous efforts by Ministries, Departments, organizations and institutions working at different levels of governance. The role of the State becomes integral in coordinating such efforts both at national as well as State level. NACO with the support of SACS, Civil Society Organisations, and Development partners looks forward to realising the dreams of children infected and affected by AIDS.

Mainstreaming Team NACO

CSR fund for educational support for HIV affected children

Kerala

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) has come forward to support HIV affected children using their Corporate Social Responsibility funds. In association with Kerala State AIDS Control Society, KSIDC has provided study kits to 600 HIV infected and affected children of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Alappuzha districts. The study kit contains School bag, Tiffin box, Umbrella, and Note books. On August 8th, 2015 the study kit distribution program was formally inaugurated by **Mr. T.K.A Nair**, Chairman, of Government Nursing School, Thiruvananthapuram. He pointed out the significance of encouraging education among children and also emphasised to extend the program in other districts. The function was presided by **Dr. M. Beena**, Project Director, Kerala State AIDS Control Society. **Dr. T. V. Velayudhan**, Joint Director, KSACS; **Mr. Suresh Kumar**, Company Secretary, KSIDC; **Mr. L. Roopan**, Deputy Director, KSACS; and **Ms. Anjana G**, Assistant Director, KSACS attended the program.



Distribution of prizes to the children during the function

JD IEC , KSAPS

Pondicherry

The International Youth Day (IYD) was celebrated by Pondicherry AIDS Control Society for three days from 10th to 12th August 2015 with the theme “**Kadam Badhaao-a step towards change**” focusing on the youths, as the theme denotes the engagement of youth in bringing about a positive change.

Pondicherry

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puducherry, **Mr. N. Rangasamy** honoured the winners during the function

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurating the Human Chain event on IYD at Beach Road, Puducherry.

DD IEC, PACS

The Employer Led Model (ELM) -India's Voice Against AIDS

Employer Led Model envisages integration of HIV / AIDS prevention to care program within the system and structure of the Industry for the benefit of the informal workers, linked workers in supply chain and communities. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) has developed the Employer Led Model (ELM) to Partner with various industries across the country for HIV / AIDS services. With intensive coordinated efforts, NACO through the State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) have successfully partnered with **217 Industries across 24 States covering a number of 23 sectors** to implement the HIV/ AIDS prevention activities **till September 2015**. Most of the industries have started with the activities agreed under the MoUs, which include Health Camps, Street plays, Awareness on HIV prevention, and Demonstrations on condom usages.

Rajasthan



Peer Educator facilitating the discussion on mode of transmission followed a video clipping in interval of film show at Labour colony (L & T industry) - Marwar Junction (Pali) Rajasthan- 5th September 2015.

Uttarakhand



4th August 2015, sensitization workshop at Perfetti Van Melle India Pvt Ltd, US Nagar, Uttarakhand.

Goa



9th September 2015- MPT,Vasco, Goa- Outreach Session HIV/AIDS to the Truckers.

Karnataka



11th September 2015 Awareness session for L&T, Bengaluru

Cont...page 21

ELM Activities

Madhya Pradesh



HIV awareness camp was held at Anant Spinning Mills, Mandideep, Madhya Pradesh for Female workers dated 12th September 2015 with participation of 106 workers.

Uttar Pradesh



Exposure visit of delegation from Tanzania AIDS Control Dept. on ELM to Jubilant Industries, Noida UP 17th of July 2015

Tamil Nadu



TOT for HIV AIDS . 22 Master trainers were trained at Christy Foods, Namakal District TN, on 13.07.2015 & 14.7.2015

Chhattisgarh



HIV testing camp held at Century Cement, Baikunth, Chhattisgarh 12.9.2015 where 106 people get HIV tested, the camp was organized for sensitization of management in Century Cement

Maharashtra



Inauguration of ELM activities at Desh bhakta Ratnappanna Kumbhar Shirol Magaswargiya Sahakari Soot Girani Ltd, Jaysinghpur Kolhapur district ,Maharashtra.

TI Team NACO

National Short Film Competition on Voluntary Blood Donation



National Blood Transfusion Council is the apex body for all policy matters pertaining to blood transfusion services and is a part of National AIDS Control Organisation. www.friends2support.org in collaboration with NBTC organised a National Short Film Competition based on the theme of Voluntary Blood donation, which was declared open on the occasion of World Blood donor day on June 14th 2015. On August 31st 2015 was the last date for submission of entries. More than 800 entries were received from all corners of the country as well as from eight countries world over in 20 languages (with English sub-titles). The jury comprised eminent film personalities from South India, including actor and choreographer Prabhu Deva.



Award announcement by Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG NACO

A total of 100 films were shortlisted, of which further 20 films were selected for final viewing. The same was announced on 15th September 2015 on the website of www.friends2support.org. A galaxy of film personalities from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh attended the screening of 20 Short Films and awards presentation function. In addition to the top fifteen, five special prizes were given to short films that could not make it to the final, but were recommended for a special mention by the jury members. NBTC will promote the best 20 documentaries screened in the competition to inspire the youth all over the country.

NBTC lauded the efforts by the Short Film makers, who had researched so much on the topic of Voluntary Blood Donation and in the process made many more people aware of the issue and its importance. The organisation founder Sk Shareef told the audience that the website had completed 10 years of existence and has registered over one lakh blood donors among the youth, inspiring them to spread the message of voluntary blood donation in every possible way. This event received tremendous response and the database of short films would come in handy in future for promoting voluntary blood donation awareness campaigns. First, second and third Cash prizes were given away by Padma Bhushan K. Varaprasad Reddy, Dr. Ishari K Ganesh and Dr. Shobini Rajan, Additional Director General, NACO.

A gala event was organized on 1st October 2015 on the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day at Hyderabad during which the 20 films were viewed for final selection of top three. “God’s Ink, a Malayalam 3-minute film shot by Ragesh Vijay won the first prize of Rs.1 lakh cash”. The first runner up was “Red Balloons” produced by Bernadine Bernardino, a post-graduate student from Manila in Philippines. The third prize was shared by “Who Is God” produced by R. Manigandan of Tamil Nadu and ‘The Painter’ produced by Sanjeevi Mohapatra of Mumbai.



Group photo of jury with 20 winners

Welcome to NACO Family

July – September 2015

July
1st
Mr. Gautam Chatterjee
TO, Finance

August
17st
Smt. Meena Khanna
Pay & Accounts Officer

September
4nd
Mr. Ashish Jain
Technical Expert, Finance

September
14nd
Mr. Ravi Kumar
MTS, Admin

September
22nd
Mr. Jolly J. Lazarus
PO (VBD), BTS

National Toll Free AIDS Helpline

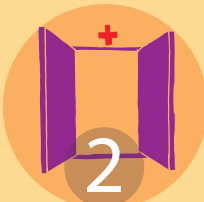
- ✓ National Toll Free Helpline - 24x7
- ✓ Launched - December 1, 2014
- ✓ Calls received from 35 States
- ✓ Total Calls received - 105'114 (July-August-September-2015)
- ✓ Operational Hubs - 3 North east, South & West
- ✓ Trained Counsellors answer the calls - Hindi & English
and 6 Regional Languages



We, the People of India, promise to...



1 Build sustainable partnerships to halt and reverse the epidemic.



2 Ensure improved access to services through integration with existing health infrastructure.



3 Reduce vulnerability and mitigate impact of HIV through social and legal protection.



4 Strive towards a stigma-free nation by ensuring dignity of those infected and affected by HIV.



5 Address the special needs of women, adolescents & children infected and affected with HIV.

Editor-in-Chief Mr. N.S Kang, Additional Secretary & DG, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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Mr. Ugra Mohan Jha, Programme Officer (Statistics) and Ms. Sanchali Roy, Consultant (IEC)

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