



Current Activities under Research and Evaluation

First Meeting of Sub-Group on Research, Evaluation & Knowledge Management

6th May 2011, NIHFW, New Delhi

Research Agenda under NACP-III

To position NACO as the leading national body, promoting and coordinating research on HIV/AIDS nationally through:

- developing guidelines, norms and standards for undertaking HIV/AIDS research;
- partnerships and networking with multiple stakeholders and established national academic and other research institutions;
- supporting capacity building in social, clinical & biomedical, basic and operational research related to HIV/AIDS and allied subjects;
- functioning as the central repository of all relevant resources, research documents and data base on HIV/AIDS in the country; and
- ensuring translation of research outputs into programmatic action and policy formulation.

Key Activities

- 1. Setting Priority Areas for Evaluation & Operational Research (E&OR) in HIV/AIDS & Development of Research Protocols.**
- 2. Encouraging, Processing & approving Research Proposals.**
- 3. Coordinating activities of Technical Resource Group (TRG) on Research & Development and NACO Ethics Committee(EC)**
- 4. Dissemination of HIV/AIDS Research Outcomes.**
- 5. Network of Indian Institution for HIV/AIDS Research (NIIHAR)**
- 6. Capacity Building Initiatives including NACO Research Fellowship Scheme (NRFS) for MD/ M.Phil/ Ph.D students**

Identifying Priority Areas for E&OR

- Discussions with officers managing different programme components at NACO and SACS – identify key information gaps & generate draft list.
- List shared with partner agencies and other external stakeholders.
- Also discussed in various Technical Resource Groups.
- Deliberated in Technical Consultations with experts in the respective fields & major research institutions.
- Under NACP-III the list was first prepared in 2008. Currently being updated.
- **'National Consultation on Operational Research in PPTCT and Pediatric HIV Care and Treatment in India' – Manesar, Gurgaon (22 – 24 April 2010)**
- **'Capacity Building Workshop on Operations Research in HIV/AIDS' – NEIGRIHMS, Shillong (21 – 25 September 2011)**

National Consultation on Operational Research in PPTCT and Pediatric HIV Care and Treatment in India' – Manesar, Gurgaon (22 – 24 April 2010)



Capacity Building Workshop on Operations Research in HIV/AIDS' – NEIGRIHMS, Shillong (21 – 25 September 2010)



Technical Resource Group on Research & Development

- Is an expert group that advises NACO on the broad policy & strategy for promoting HIV/AIDS Research in India.
- Provides Technical inputs and recommendations.
- Monitors progress and reviews interim as well as final outcomes of Research initiatives.
- Also advises NACO in fulfilling its research agenda.
- Comprises of experts in diverse disciplines. Chaired by Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury.
- Meets once in three months or as required.

NACO Ethics Committee

Consists of multidisciplinary experts. In addition, **a legal expert and a representative from the community** are also included.

Basic Responsibility

- ❖ To protect the dignity, rights and well being of the potential research participants.
- ❖ To ensure that universal ethical values and international scientific standards are expressed in terms of local community values and customs.
- ❖ To assist in the development and the education of a research community responsive to local health care requirements

Through a series of reviews & discussions, has developed the '***National Guidelines on Ethics for Research on HIV/AIDS***'.

Dissemination of HIV/AIDS Research Outcomes

National Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (19-21 January 2011,
India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi)

- *“Towards Evidence-Policy linkages in HIV/AIDS Research”*.
- Around 300 abstracts were received:
 - **31 oral presentations;** and
 - **60 poster presentations**
- Four main thematic areas of the conference:
 - *Basic Sciences*
 - *Clinical and Biomedical*
 - *Socio-Behavioural*
 - *Evaluation studies*

Preceded by a **Pre-Conference Continuing Education Workshop**
(18th January 2011, IHC, New Delhi)

- *“HIV/AIDS Research: Challenges & Perspectives”*
- Presentations on 12 key Research Priority Areas by eminent experts.

National Conference on HIV/AIDS Research – New Delhi (19-21 January 2011)



Network of Indian Institutions for HIV/AIDS Research (NIIHAR)

- ❑ Constituted to facilitate and undertake HIV/AIDS research.
- ❑ Main functions :
 - i. Sharing resources and expertise to conduct high quality, collaborative, multi-centric research;*
 - ii. Participation in training and capacity building programs.*
 - iii. Deputation of experts to NACO as short-term consultants based on specific requirements.*
- ❑ Presently 42 institutions are members of the NIIHAR Consortium

Capacity Building Initiatives

NACO Research Fellowship Scheme (NRFS)

- Eligibility Criteria: Students enrolled for MD/M.Phil/PhD in relevant disciplines; Upper Age limit: 35 years.
- Component of Grant: 20 fellowships awarded every year.; Grant Range: ₹ 30,000 – 1.5 lakhs.
- Procedure for Approving Proposals: Academic Record, Quality of Protocol & Academic Achievements of candidate

Capacity Building Workshops – at a glance.....

- **Capacity Building Workshop on Epidemiological Appraisal of the HIV/AIDS Situation** at NACO, New Delhi from 8 – 9 April 2009.
- **Capacity Building Workshop on Operational Research in HIV/AIDS** at National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi from 24-28, November 2009.
- A series of **Capacity Building Workshops on Ethics in HIV/AIDS Research** to be held all over India. First in this series held at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi from 10 – 12 November 2010.

Capacity Building Workshops on Ethics in HIV/AIDS Research

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON ETHICS IN HIV/AIDS RESEARCH

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN HIV/AIDS, MAULANA AZAD MEDICAL COLLEGE, NEW DELHI

10TH-12TH NOVEMBER, 2010



Mid Term Review (MTR) Studies

1. Impact assessment of Targeted Interventions for prevention of HIV
2. Assess the coverage, efficiency and quality of STD/STI services.
3. Assess the access and utilization of PPTCT services as per the National Package
4. Assess how social inclusion & equity issues are addressed in the programme.
5. Review the organisational capacity of NACO and SACS including efficiency, work load and cost
6. Review unit costing of different components of NACP – III.
7. Update and analyse donor financial commitments and identify gaps.
8. Assess quality of IEC Strategy.
9. Conduct of data triangulation exercise in 8 states.
10. Conduct BSS following the procedures of NACO/TN's annual BSS.
11. Innovations in Programme Implementation.
12. Assess uptake of Paediatric ART services & review gender disaggregated data.

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Key Issues for NACP-IV

- Identification of key research gaps
- Strategy, Approach & Mechanisms for promoting Research in HIV/AIDS
- Strategy, Approach & Mechanisms for Evaluation of Programme Interventions and Impact Assessment
- Newer and emerging areas of HIV/AIDS Research
- Coordination and compilation of research undertaken by different agencies; Knowledge Management
- Dissemination and Use of research outcomes at all levels
- System & HR Requirements for Research Activities at NACO/SACS



THANK YOU...