

# NACO NEWS



National AIDS Control Organisation  
India's Voice against AIDS  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India  
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Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



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## From the Desk of Patron



**Dear Readers,**

As the first quarter of New Year is over, I am glad to share some of the milestones achieved during this quarter of the Year. The very first out of them is approval of the National Health Policy, 2017 by the Union Cabinet on 15th March, 2017. The Policy seeks to reach everyone in a comprehensive and integrated way to move towards wellness. It aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.

The second achievement was the passing of the HIV/AIDS Bill by the Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2017.

This financial year, the Government of India has allocated Rs 2000 crore for the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). This is an all time high allocation in the history of AIDS Control Programme. I am sure that with this budgetary provision, our key initiatives like “Test & Treat” will benefit all those who are tested HIV positive for providing free treatment at the initial stage.

NACO is also scaling up Viral Load (VL) testing programme. Earlier, VL testing was done for target monitoring of patients to start second line Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and to identify the first line failure. Now, the Government has revised the policy to routine monitoring of all the patients on ART.

As we are taking this programme to newer heights with the support of State Governments, Development Partners, NGOs, CSO and other stakeholders, it's the need of the hour to strategize our activities in the next financial year for the benefit of HIV infected and affected people.

Enjoy reading and keep sharing your experiences with us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arun K. Panda'.

**Dr. Arun K. Panda**  
**Additional Secretary & DG, NACO**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**  
**Government of India**



## From the Desk of Editor



### Dear Readers,

In the last newsletter, I had mentioned about agenda to be focused in the year 2017. Specifically the four core issues:

1. Reaching the unreached
2. Quality Improvement in service delivery
3. Real time monitoring
4. Protecting rights of all PLHIV

Now we will talk about the following agenda:

**1. Reaching the unreached-** HTC guidelines were approved last year and were released on World AIDS Day, 2016. It has provision for Community Based Testing (CBT), promoting Self Testing and testing by lay providers by training for increasing reach of testing.

In various parts of the country this needs to be conducted at the earliest without losing time so that we are able to reach the remaining 1/3<sup>rd</sup> PLHIV who do not know their status. Not knowing their status is very detrimental as these people may be spreading infection unknowingly and are not following the services of treatment which makes their quality of life better.

**2. Quality Improvement in service delivery-** NACO has set up an example for others to emulate by getting 80 of its SRLs accredited in HIV serology. Quality is required in all other testing and services so that people who avail services are fully satisfied. Already 33 laboratories for CD4 testing and 3 labs for molecular testing are also accredited due to ripple effect of HIV serology accreditation.

Quality in ART centre, quality in Blood Banks, OST centre needs to be focused for better patient care.

**3. Real time monitoring-** Technology is available to provide outputs and outcomes on the real time basis but NACO has not been able to make full use of technology and monitoring systems still need lot of improvement for providing immediate feedback to the personnel in the field.

This real time monitoring will be of great help in addressing issues of supply chain management of commodities and performance and productivity of health care providers.

**4. Protecting rights of all PLHIV-** Stigma and Discrimination faced by PLHIV has always been a matter of concern and various guidelines from time to time have been developed by NACO to deal with the issue. However just these guidelines are not sufficient therefore NACO pursued HIV AIDS bill so that the provisions of the bill help in reducing the stigma and discrimination against PLHIV. The bill also has the penalty provisions for those who spread hatred and violence against PLHIV and has provision of financial penalties for those who discriminate against PLHIV in educational, health care and other institutions.

Friends time has come now for all partners, communities and stakeholders to work with renewed zeal and enthusiasm to make the target of 90:90:90 by 2020 and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 a reality.

Dr. Naresh Goel  
DDG (IEC & LS),

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,  
Government of India

## NACO Achievements during the financial year 2016-2017

### Epidemiological Profile of HIV/AIDS

Prevention Services and Care, Support & Treatment Services form the two key pillars of all the AIDS control efforts in India. Strategic Information Management and institutional strengthening activities provide the required technical, managerial and administrative support for implementing the core activities under NACP at state and district levels. State AIDS Prevention & Control Societies were set up to respond to HIV epidemic in India in accordance with the guidelines of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).

According to HIV estimations 2015, estimated adult HIV prevalence in India was 0.26%. The estimated number of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) was 21.17 lakh. Around 86 thousand annual new HIV infections were estimated in 2015. It was 66% decline in new infections from the year 2000 and 32% decline from 2007, the base year for NACP-IV. Children (<15 years) accounted for 12% of the total new infections. The estimated number of deaths due to AIDS-related causes in the country was 67.6 thousand.

### Achievements (till January 2017)

- As per National Protocol, around 85.61 lakh STI/RTI patients were managed as against the target of 90 lakh for the financial year 2016-17.
- NACO supported Blood Banks had collected 65.01 lakh units blood through 1,126 Blood Banks, whereas 78% units blood collected through Voluntary Blood Donations.
- Around 184.8 lakh General Clients, & 161.2 lakh Pregnant Women were tested for HIV. Around 87.3% mothers initiated on lifelong ART and babies initiated on ARV prophylaxis (MB Pair).
- As against the target 17 lakhs for the financial year 2016-17, around 23.5 lakh HIV-TB cross referrals happened.
- The cumulative number of PLHIV on ART are 10.5 lakh who are managed through 530 ART centres, 1108 Link ART Centres and 350 CSCs across the country. During this financial year, five new ART centres were established against the target of 5 ART centres and around 5.34 lakh opportunistic infections were treated.
- There are in total 1503 High Risk Groups & Bridge populations focused Target Interventions, implemented by Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and Community-based Organisations (CBO) in a defined geographic area.
- Three campaigns have been released on Mass Media (TV/Radio) and 112 new Red Ribbon Clubs formed in colleges.
- Under mainstreaming training programmes, around 3.31 lakh people were trained as against of 3.0 lakh.
- Around 20.58 crore pieces of condoms were distributed as against the target of 36.6 crore pieces under the scheme of free distribution of condoms.

## Physical Target & Achievements under National AIDS Control Programme - Phase IV, FY 2016-17

S. No	Indicators	2016-17	
		Target	Achievement
1	STI/RTI patients managed as per national protocol	90 lakh	85.61 lakh
2	Blood collection in NACO supported blood bank	55 lakh	65.01 lakh
3	Proportion of blood units collected by Voluntary blood donation in NACO Supported Blood Banks	80%	78%
4	Clients tested for HIV (General clients)	140 lakh	184.8 lakh
5	Pregnant Women tested for HIV	140 lakh	161.2 lakh
6	Percentage of mothers initiated on lifelong ART and babies initiated on ARV prophylaxis (MB Pair)	90%	87.3%
7	HIV-TB Cross Referrals	17 lakh	23.5 lakh
8	New ART Centers established	5	5
9	PLHIV on ART (Cumulative)	10.5 Lakh	10.5 lakh
10	Opportunistic Infections treated	3 lakh	5.34 lakh
11	Campaigns released on Mass Media - TV/Radio	3	3
12	New Red Ribbon Clubs formed in Colleges	100	112
13	People trained under Mainstreaming training programmes	3 lakh	3.31 lakh
14	Free Distribution of Condoms	36.6 crore Pieces	20.58 crore Pieces

**Mr. Padum Narayan,  
Data Analysis &  
Dissemination Unit, SIMU**

## No. of PLHIV on ART till March, 2017

<b>No. of ART centres</b>	<b>531</b>
<b>No. of Link ART centres</b>	<b>1108</b>
<b>No. of CSC</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>PLHIV on ART (till March, 2017)</b>	<b>10,50,326</b>

## Nutritional support programme by DAPCU Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka

The Nutritional support to hundreds of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) were given by Lions club, 317 F branch of Bangalore on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017 in a programme jointly organized by District AIDS Prevention & Control Unit (DAPCU) Bangalore Urban, Karnataka & Lions club 317 F.

The PLHIVs were selected based on the background of the families with children, HIV/TB co-infected cases and pregnant women. Each PLHIV received a bag containing protein powder, ground nut, toor dal, jaggery, oil rice & green gram.



**Dr. Asha T.H, I/C, DAPCU presented nutrition bag to PLHIV in Karnataka**

DAPCU motivated Lions club to purchase protein powder prepared by the PLHIV network. District Tuberculosis Officer highlighted importance of nutrition and good health. He added that TB is common in PLHIVs and any cough or fever should not be neglected & good nutrition is essential to improve the immunity of PLHIVs. Dr. Asha T.H, I/C, DAPCU addressed issues on ART treatment and adherence, social benefit schemes &

importance of nutritional food & change of life style & positive thinking towards life.

The inaugural was attended by Dr. Asha, T.H I/C DAPCU, Dr. Shrinivas G, ADTO, Dr. Mamatha, M.S, Family Welfare officer, Mr B. Mohan, Lions Governor, Mr Ramakrishnareddy, Mr B. Jayachandra Lion President, Mrs. Yashoda, District supervisor & Mr Hanumantharaya I/C, District supervisor.

**Dr. Govind Bansal, DNRT, NACO**

## India's first ELM (Employer Led Model) project on Truckers HIV/AIDS intervention by Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda, Odisha



**Awareness Programme on HIV & AIDS**

The significance and growing impact of HIV/AIDS in the industrial corridor and adjacent communities has been recognized worldwide. HIV/AIDS has profound human, social, economic and developmental impact. Project JAGRITI, an ELM project of Vedanta limited, Jharsuguda is a unique intervention by any corporate house in private sector in India and is an exemplary case study which can make a difference to the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Vedanta at Jharsuguda location of Odisha has a huge establishment of one of the world's largest Aluminium Power complex spread in about 4000 acres of land. This manufacturing industrial facility draws

hundreds of footfalls includes huge ranges of stakeholders, truckers, migrant labourers & direct and indirect employees on daily basis. With this influx, a sizable population of migrant labourers and truckers being a major part of this, it was equally a concern, challenge and opportunity to work for them on a sustained and workable model to fight against HIV/AIDS.

The ELM model rolled out by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) provided the right platform to Vedanta to drive a sustained, structured and committed project for truckers on HIV/AIDS to prevent incidences and occurrence of HIV/AIDS. Aligning its sustainability policy and with an added commitment towards implementation of HIV/AIDS policy, an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Employer Led Model” for prevention of HIV /AIDS at workplace has been signed between Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda and NACO, the Project Director of Odisha State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 at Bhubaneswar. Thus, Vedanta Limited and OSACS partner to co-operate in the development and implementation of an Employer Led Model (ELM) for reaching informal workers linked with Vedanta on intensive HIV/AIDS prevention program.

Vedanta’s established trucker’s recreational room for driving sustainable awareness sessions is already considered to be railing point for an active Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC). Scheduled periodic health check-up camps, instant test of minor diseases, free diagnosis and medicine Mobile Health Unit of Vedanta for truckers has proven a finest key towards the success of the programme. The key locations of the plant premises such as trucker’s recreational room, parking areas, canteens have every provisions of HIV/AIDS related communication. More than 2000 truckers have been directly reached through these sensitization drives whereas 8000 truckers have been touched through IEC materials and road shows. World AIDS Day celebration was observed as another day of commitment with realigning vision to spread the awareness on HIV/AIDS. These programmes have also been extended to migrant labourers, community and direct and indirect employees, school children, employees families and communities wherever possible.

This joint effort of Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda, NACO and OSACS has flagged success with a comprehensive and committed vision and refined scope lying ahead of HIV/AIDS prevention programme. This ELM model of truckers HIV/AIDS intervention is going to be a unique and successful model going forward.

**Dr. K Madan Gopal**  
**NMU coordinator, TI division**



## National Level Capacity Building Workshop for Greater Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (GIPA)

A National level capacity building workshop for GIPA Coordinators was organized by NACO in collaboration with Bihar State AIDS Control Society (BSACS) and Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Patna, Bihar. The workshop focused on building strong association of GIPA Coordinators at State Level Networks and District Level Networks to strengthen linkages with other government departments and to ensure



availability of social protection schemes, promoting ART adherence, promote positive prevention and sexual/reproductive health of PLHIV. GIPA Coordinators/ AD-GIPA/ In-Charge Officer, Regional Communication Officer (IEC & MS), NCPI+ and Vihaan project implementing partners across the country attended the workshop.

The GIPA in coordination with other divisions provide support for Care Support and Treatment Services to all PLHIVs and actively contributing in programmes and policy decision-making processes – by forums/-committees of SACS and NACO.

Dr. Rajesh Rana, National Consultant (IEC & MS), NACO shared that we should effectively work to achieve 100:100:100, a step ahead of 90:90:90. GIPA should be enrolled in all components of programme and outcome of this workshop should clearly define specific roles and responsibilities of AD (GIPA) and clarity for implementation of GIPA plans in States.

According to Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG(IEC), NACO, SDG targeted to end AIDS epidemic by 2030 and accordingly we have to set 90:90:90 by 2020, 95:95:95 by 2025 & 100:100:100 by 2030. He also added that it is very important to increase the capacity of AD (GIPA) and GIPA involvement of Civil Society Organization which will be very effective in reducing stigma & discrimination. Dr. Goel also emphasized that (i) PLHIVs and PLHIV networks should be included as one of the member in Executive & Governing Committees of SACS; (ii) online system to be developed for reporting & solution of stigma & discrimination issues; (iii) software may be developed for reporting of Social Protection Schemes uptake and; (iv) SACS may plan joint programmes with VIHAAN.

Shri Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Project Director, BSACS said that Bihar SACS is taking issues related to People Living with HIV at highest level and all schemes benefits to PLHIVs will be online transferred to their accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017.

**Mr. Ravi, IEC & MS**

## Capacity Building Workshop on Operational Research, Ethics and Data Analysis

Research & Evaluation is a vital component of Strategic Information Management under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). NACO focuses on ensuring translation of research outputs into programmatic action and policy formulation. One of the agendas under Research & Evaluation Division at NACO is to undertake capacity building of programme managers, researchers and young scientists through the Operational Research & Ethics Workshops. The objective of the workshop is to build the capacity in developing research protocols and in synthesizing research and evaluation into evidence-based programs and policies. The Research & Evaluation Division, NACO organised a **Capacity Building Workshop on Operational Research, Ethics and Data Analysis** in collaboration with CDC and WHO from **30 January – 2 February, 2017** at **Delhi**.



**Dr. Arun K.Panda, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO MOHFW addresses the participants during inaugural session**



**Participants of the Capacity Building Workshop on Operational Research, Ethics and Data Analysis in Delhi**

A total of 40 participants from various reputed research institutes and organisations working on HIV/AIDS research as well as programme managers from the State AIDS Control Societies participated in this workshop. Renowned experts from NARI, Population Council, ICRW, NIMS, FHI, WHO, CDC etc. guided and mentored the participants.

The unique **'learning by doing approach'** was adopted with significant proportion of the training being conducted in group work. The workshop followed the unique approach of conducting interactive technical

sessions in forenoon & **development of research protocols under guidance mentors** in the afternoon session. Six research proposals based on **key priority research areas for evidence generation** under the programme viz, LFU, adherence, newer strategies to increase detection etc were developed through this workshop. All the six protocols emanating from the workshop will be funded under the programme.

**Ms. Vinita Verma, Research & Evaluation**

## Two days National Workshop on “Strengthening the World of Work and Public Private Partnership response in NACP-IV”

Workshop on ‘Strengthening the World of Work and Public & Private Sector Response’ in National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) in India organized by National AIDS Control Organisation in collaboration with International Labour Organisation on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 in New Delhi. Strengthening World of Work response to HIV and mobilizing support from industries of public and private sector is an important segment of NACP. The workshop supplemented NACO’s efforts to ‘Strengthen the World of Work and Public Private Partnership in NACP IV’. ILO provided guidance and technical support to strengthen multisectoral responses. The officers from IEC division SACS’ Regional Communication Officers (IEC & MS), officials from NACO and ILO, representatives from various line Ministries/ Departments had participated in the two days National Workshop.

Ms. Shauna Olney, Chief, GED& ILO, AIDS in her address said that the analyzing HIV / AIDS testing data of workers has been a good experience. An extraordinary amount of work has been done in India. ILO is looking at challenges in

expanding testing and exploring possible areas for Public Private Partnerships (PPP). AIDS is not over. There has been extraordinary progress, but there is still a lot of ground to cover. Now is a crucial time. She also said ILO is committed to working for ensuring Zero discrimination. AIDS response has to be gender responsive. In 2015, 7,500 new women became infected with HIV every week. Women face violence and thus are vulnerable to HIV. She added that 90 - 90 - 90 target is important and we have to focus our efforts to strengthen VCT in India.

Mr. S. M. Afsar, Senior Technical Specialist, ILO Geneva has moderated the discussions on the approaches that does worked in mobilizing industries on HIV/AIDs on and role of communication. He talked about the causative role and a supportive role. He told participants that other important thing is that communication should catch attention. He stressed on point related to key messages that HIV affects the age group of 15-49 years who are at the prime of their life and part of their workforce, HIV can be prevented, call of action, steps in developing a good communication material.

In his inaugural address Dr. Arun K. Panda, AS & DG, NACO said that in India people do not demonstrate health seeking behaviour and this trend is similar for HIV/AIDS where many people do not know their HIV status. He stressed that, we must encourage people to get tested to know their health status. People often do not have information of the schemes and facilities available in the Public Sector.

He highlighted that stigma is a big factor coming in the way of HIV testing. He also said that Stigma is a big factor coming in the way of HIV testing. We must engage with unions and employer organizations giving a clear message that testing for HIV is in the interest of workers as well as in the companies. He emphasised on necessity of targeted communication in the form of messages on the importance of testing which is also an important area of collaboration with Private Sector. He also expressed his concern on the issue of Gender based violence. He strongly felt that women groups especially SHGs can play an important role in reducing this menace of the society.





**Dr. Arun K. Panda, AS & DG, NACO  
addressing participants**



**Participants during two-day workshop-Fast Track  
VCT@WORK**

### Major Recommendations

- Regional workshops should be organized jointly by ILO, NACO and concerned state labour departments to strengthen the component on world of work. Potential public and private sector enterprises should also be part of this workshop to boost VCT@Work.
- Efforts for targeted communication of the message about the free and confidential testing and treatment should be made focused among large stakeholders.
- Platform for meaningful exchange of good practices and knowledge sharing among organizations working on HIV/AIDS preferably on World of Work Response to HIV.
- More IEC material needed that should focus on why one should get tested.
- Exchange of action plans between Central Board for Worker Education (CBWE) and concerned SACS should be done on priority basis. There should also be exchange of communication between high officials of both the departments.
- ILO and employer organizations should create an engagement at the highest level about how to use their CSR resources in HIV /AIDS.

**Mr. Ashish Verma, IEC & MS**

## Continuing Medical Education Program on Pediatrics HIV/ AIDS

World Health Organization (WHO) through its new Guidelines (2013)\* reinforces the need to reach out to children as early as possible, recommending initiation of ART for all children living with HIV younger than five years. HIV is the top and tuberculosis is the second leading cause of death from infectious disease worldwide, WHO also estimates that HIV prevalence among children with tuberculosis, in countries with moderate to high prevalence, ranges from 10% to 60%.

On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 in collaboration with Paediatric Center of Excellence for HIV Care, LTMMC & LTMGH, Sion, Mumbai organized Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program on Pediatrics HIV/ AIDS by Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) at SION Hospital, Mumbai, MH. Focusing on Pediatric tuberculosis and HIV, and its management, a CME workshop was conducted for Pediatricians to manage Pediatric HIV and TB cases better in their respective settings.

\* WHO: Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection: recommendations for a public health approach. 2013, June.





Participants attending CME Workshop at SION Hospital, Mumbai

**Objectives:** To orient medical practitioners on: Early diagnosis and treatment of cases, managing OI's in children, Identify and manage ART side effects, Provide growth monitoring and immunization services for CLHIV.

**Outcome of the workshop:** Medical practitioners are able to diagnose early, conduct quick referrals and enhance the survival and quality of life of HIV exposed children. In total 60 Medical Doctors participated in the CME.

Mr. Ravi, IEC & MS

## Brown Bag Seminar Series

As a part of the Capacity Building initiatives under the Research & Evaluation Division, a new initiative, **The Brown Bag Seminar Series** was started in 2016-17. The aim of the seminar series is to inform and build capacities & knowledge of programme managers at NACO, community, development partners and key stakeholders. The seminar series serves as a gateway for knowledge sharing, open dialogue, cross learning on new developments and

programme management. Contouring the spirit of cross-institutional collaboration and capacity building, various talks have been organised that have focused on new developments in HIV/AIDS research. The Seminar Series began with a talk, **“Substance Use & Treatment Adherence – Issues & Strategies”** by Dr. Niranjana Saggurti, Population Council in November, 2016.



Dr. Arun K. Panda, AS & DG, NACO, MOHFW attending Brown Bag Seminar

The talk highlighted the initial results of the NIH funded ongoing intervention research on Alcohol use and treatment adherence, implemented in partnership with NACO, MSACS & MDACS. The second talk in the Series held in January 2017 was on **“HIV Cure: Myth or Possibility?”** by Dr. B.B. Rewari, WHO SEARO. The session highlighted the various developments in HIV Cure, latent infected T cells and hidden reservoir of HIV, residual replication, cases of Berlin patient & Mississippi baby and post treatment controllers, progress and road-blocks in finding a cure for HIV.

The next talk in The Brown Bag Seminar Series, organised in February, 2017 focused on **“Newer approaches and methodologies in recruiting Key Populations”** by Dr. Sunil S. Solomon, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine & YRG CARE. The talk highlighted the need for innovative new strategies to capitalise upon the network connections among key population and geospatial data to identify HIV infected individuals, link them to care and ensure their viral suppression. The Speaker also emphasised the need to ensure that the cost of these strategies remain low to enable widespread implementation.

Ms. Vinita Verma, Research & Evaluation

## Meghalaya: Folk performance-Red Ribbon Phawar star

Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, in collaboration with Treilang Welfare Society & Malki Sports Club, Shillong organized Folk Singing

Competition on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at Shillong, East Khasi Hills District. Folk performance is one of the activities of the Mid Media Campaign .



Winners-Red Ribbon Phawar Star 2016-17, Shillong, East Khasi Hills District



Folk performance by group in Red Ribbon Phawar Star 2016-17

## AIDSCON-6: "A CONFERENCE TOWARDS AIDS FREE WORLD"

To consolidate all efforts carried out regarding control of HIV/AIDS and bring together all partners on one platform, Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society (CSACS) organized two day's conference AIDSCON 6 – "Towards AIDS Free World" on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at IMA complex, Sector-35 B, Chandigarh. Since tremendous work has been done in this field hence it was desirable that there should be some kind of coordination between the agencies and exchange of ideas, thoughts and knowledge. AIDSCON provided an appropriate platform for the same. The conference was inaugurated by H.E Shri VP Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab and Administrator, U.T. Chandigarh along with Sh. Parimal Rai, IAS, Advisor to Administrator UT, Chandigarh, Sh. Anurag Aggarwal, IAS, Home Secretary-cum- Secretary Health U.T., Chandigarh, Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Deputy Director General (TI), NACO and Dr. Sushil Gupta, President, IMA. The conference was very well attended by 409 delegates from various walks of life including Doctors, Para-medical staff, Social Scientists, Public Health Experts and Students attended the Conference. The Delegates had arrived from

various parts of the country including Kerala, Odisha, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Delhi etc.

H.E Sh. V P Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab & Administrator, UT Chandigarh in his address shared that the response to this conference has increased every year which is evident from the large presence of global organizations. He appreciated the efforts made by the Chandigarh SACS for organizing this kind of conference and this is the sixth conference in a row. He stressed that the discrimination against People Living with HIV (PLHIV) should be removed. Chandigarh with its effective health infrastructure could be the first union territory to achieve the target of eliminating AIDS as a public health problem by 2030.

Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Deputy Director General (TI), NACO presented the Global and National scenario of the National AIDS Control Program & he indicated that the estimated 86000 new infections every year would be reduced markedly once the hidden patients are started on treatment. Although India has done very well in controlling the epidemic, elimination would only be possible if some extra innovative efforts are put in.



**H.E. Sh. V P Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab & Administrator, UT Chandigarh addressing the participants**

In the session Innovative Communication & Next Generation IEC, it was shared that how new media is being used for creating HIV/AIDS awareness through various innovative campaigns. The participants and panel discussions in the Conference deliberated upon response to meet the unmet needs of the Community. The panel under the Chairmanship of Sh. Kaustab Sharma, IPS, Zonal Director, Narcotic control Bureau, Chandigarh explored ways to reduce supply, demand, harm of intoxicating Drugs. There is a need to revamp the present style of providing services to the Intra Venous Drug Users in prisons and in the rural areas.

The sessions were focused on Common Management issues in Sexually Transmitted Infection, Update in National AIDS Control Programme, Diagnostics and Disease

Monitoring, Implementation Strategy for Targeted Interventions, Innovative Communication & next Generation IEC, HIV prevention intervention among Most at Risk Population: Good Practices, Harm Reduction Services among IDUs – Challenges and Opportunities, Dual Elimination of Congenital Syphilis & HIV – Ways & Means of Expediting to Reach Stated Goals, Voluntary Blood Donation – Foundation of Safe Blood Supply, Youth & HIV/AIDS and Mainstreaming – Best Practices. Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society is the only one in the country to have taken this initiative to bring together on one platform the service providers, policy makers, researchers, students and beneficiaries. The concluding session on Youth and Advocacy reinforced the requirement for each member of the public to take up ownership of the programme. Awards were presented to the Best Posters Presentator. The best performing service centres providing testing and treatment services were also awarded.



**National and State IEC Team during session on "Innovative Communication & next Generation IEC"**

**Ms. Teenu, Chandigarh SACS**

## State Level Training on Social and Behaviour Change Communication

Social and Behavior Change play a very important role in HIV/AIDS Control Program. The Field worker needs to be well versed with the need for social behavior change. To update and to enhance the skills of Master Trainers of Targeted Intervention projects & Program Officers of technical Support Unit, a Two-Day Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Workshop has been organized by Madhya Pradesh State AIDS

Control Society (MPSACS) in Bhopal on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017. Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India was present in the Inaugural session as a Chief Guest and Dr. K. K. Thassu, Additional Project Director, MPSACS & Director Health Services, Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh also shared the dais.





**Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG, NACO and Dr. K. K. Thassu, APD, MPSACS & DHS, Dept. of Public Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh addresses the participants during SBCC workshop in Bhopal**



**Mock session on IPC during SBCC workshop in Rajasthan**



**SBCC workshop on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 in Meghalaya**

Apart from Madhya Pradesh, SBCC workshop has also been conducted in Rajasthan on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 in Jaipur in which identified trainers from the state resource pool, TI, TSU, CST and DAPCU program officers participated. The sessions undertaken by Mr. Nahid Mohammad,

Regional Coordinator and session co-facilitated by Mr. Sitaram Yadav, Dy Director Mainstreaming, RSACS. The states like Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland and Gujarat have also conducted state level SBCC workshops.

**Ms. Savita Thakur, Joint Director, IEC, MPSACS,  
Mr. Nahid Mohammad & Ms. Lalnunmawwii  
Pachau, Regional Coordinator**

## **State level meeting with Department of Labour Employment Training and Factories**

The state level meeting with the Department of Labour Employment Training and Factories, Central Board of Workers Education (CBWE), CII, Telangana State Welfare Board, Director of Factories and TI migrant NGOs conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 under the chairmanship of the Project Director, TSACS to finalize the nomination of nodal

persons on HIV/AIDS in the departments, integrate HIV/AIDS in existing HR/Welfare/CSR activities, set up a committee to develop a ELM workplan on HIV/AIDS, get a cadre of master trainers/ peer educators on HIV/AIDS and build partnerships and seek technical support for strengthening ELM Model.



## Action points :

■ List of industries in the state will be provided by Director of factories.
■ Sensitization to field officers shall be provided and sensitized field officers shall act as nodal persons for the districts wherein TI migrant NGOs shall be linked for strengthening ELM.
■ 100 industries shall be prioritized.
■ Sensitization on ELM to atleast 2 staff from industries from personal, Administration/HR/welfare department and shall be facilitated by the TSU & TI Migrant NGO and TSACS. Mobilization of industrial staff shall be done by Director of Factories.
■ ESI shall play active role on HIV/AIDS in coordination with factories department.
■ List of social protection schemes available for the workers shall be provided by state labour welfare board which in turn shall be disseminated to workers under TI Migrant NGOs.
■ District level committees shall be set up under the chairmanship of the District Collector wherein Director of Factories and ESI shall also be members.

**S. Srikar, Consultant Mainstreaming, TSACS**

## HIV awareness project for jail inmates launched

For the first time in Assam, a Prison Intervention Project (PIP) aimed at scaling up AIDS awareness and counselling among inmates categorised as high risk groups (HRG) was launched as a pilot project at the Guwahati Central Jail on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017. The PIP is part of a collaboration between the state prison department, Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS), National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and Emmanuel Hospital Association, which is acting as an implementing body for PIP along with the state prison department. The PIP aims to bring various established HIV/AIDS intervention programmes at the state level closer to those lodged in central and district jails. "We don't know how many HIV- positive inmates are lodged in Assam's jails. We have just started the project. We will counsel them and integrate them with intervention programmes," said Rebecca of EHA. It will help HIV-positive inmates get access to free counselling and medicines. Once rolled out, the PIP will be replicated in all the jails of Assam. The PIP aims to provide oral/opioid substitution therapy (OST) to

drug addicts lodged in prisons. Assam is the last state in the northeast where PIP has been launched. Last year, it was launched at jails of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya. The PIP project is a part of Project Sunshine - a five-year initiative to raise awareness and start intervention programmes for AIDS-affected people in the northeast.

"We cannot take HIV-positive inmates to hospitals outside the jail. Through PIP, we will bring mobile integrated counselling and testing centre (ICTC) to the prisons. In prisons, it is seen that there are HRG people like female sex workers, intravenous drug users and others. The PIP will aim at fostering communication and bring the vulnerable people closer to intervention programmes and correct the HRG inmates' behavioural pattern," said Kailash Ditya, deputy team leader, Project Sunrise. Project Sunshine is supported by the USA-based federal agency centres for disease control and prevention and implemented by Family Health International 360, a global non-profit development organisation. (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>)

## NABL Accreditation to all State Reference Laboratories in Kerala

Under National AIDS Control Program-Phase IV, QUALITY is the central theme of the program with the intention of providing highest quality of services applicable to international standards and made available to end users of these laboratories. Accreditation is a process by which an authoritative independent body like National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) gives formal recognition that a laboratory and its personnel are competent to carry out specific tasks and have implemented Quality Management System according to ISO: 15189:2012 standards.

The Five State Reference Laboratories in Kerala for HIV Testing are now NABL Accredited with ISO : 15189:2012 standards. Smt. K. K. Shylaja, Teacher, Hon'ble Minister for

Health & Social Justice felicitated appreciation awards to the Reference Laboratories. She has expressed that accreditation is one of the great achievement for the Kerala's health system which ensures international standards in HIV and CD4 testing reports issued through these centers.

The Nationwide three-tiered structure of laboratories, Kerala has 5 State Reference Laboratories (SRL) located in Government Medical colleges - Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Alleppey, Thrissur and Kozhikode. According to ISO: 15189:2012 standards began in 2012-13, development and implementation of Quality Management System and also accreditation of all the activities of 5 SRL's along with the attached CD4 enumeration laboratories and Integrated Testing and Counseling Centers.



Team members who has contributed and supported in achieving NABL Accreditation with ISO : 15189:2012 standards

With support of NACO, Kerala State AIDS Control Society and the mentorship of Dr Rajesh Kannangai, Head of National Reference Laboratory, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Project Concern International

and SHARE India, the two non-profit executing partners of Centers for Disease Control-India through Project PRATIBHA and Project LaQSH and with the strong commitment of medical officers and technical officers of individual SRL's has made it a success.

**Sinu Kadakampally, AD (Lab Services), Kerala SACS**

# Events

## National Youth Day

National Youth Day is observed annually on 12<sup>th</sup> January on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984, the Government of India declared 12<sup>th</sup> January as the National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

### Mumbai

Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society organized Street Play competitions on the theme of HIV/AIDS in association with NSS Cell, Mumbai University in 3 zones. National Youth Day (Yuva Jagar) – 2017 organized at G. N. Khalsa college,

Matunga where in 250 NSS & RRC members participated in the event YUVA JAGAR 2017. The Principal of G.N. Khalsa College along with Vice principal of Khalsa College & Dr. Shrikala Acharya, Hon'ble Additional Project Director (MDACS) graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



Street Play competition at Zonal level on the Occasion of National Youth Day in Mumbai



Felicitation of NSS DC's & NSS Po's



Special Pledge taken along with over 250 RRC's members

### Nagaland

Nagaland State AIDS Control Society celebrated the National Youth Day with the theme **“LIFE NOW: Yes Life, No HIV”** observed by 450 NCC cadets from 29 Indian States and 7 Union Territories, at the ongoing special National Integration camp from 4<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, Patkai Christian College, Dimapur.

The dignitaries present on the occasion were Brigadier Nikam, National Cadet Corps, Group Headquarter, Kohima, Ms. Metevinuo Sakhrie, Joint Director (IEC), NSACS, Mr. Ainato Yetho, Asst. Director (Youth Affairs), Mr. Alipoker, Asst. Director (VBD) and Mrs. Thejangunuo Theunuo, Deputy Director (IEC), NSACS.



The program concluded with signing of Pledge -“I pledge to create awareness in my own capacity & influence to spread the message that prevention is the only cure for HIV and AIDS and work to eliminate stigma and discrimination”.



Formation of Red Ribbon Human chain in Nagaland



Signing of pledge by cadets

### Meghalaya

Meghalaya AIDS Control Society in collaboration with SHAMAKAMI, Lamjingshai Project, Shillong organized the State Level Observation under the theme **‘Arise, Awake, Stop Not till the Goal is Reached’** at Don Bosco Youth Center, Laitumkhrah Shillong. The event was attended by Dr. (Mrs) B. Mawthoh, Project Director, Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, Shillong, Barry Leeslei Kharmalki, MSNP+, Lalnunmawwi Pachau, Regional Coordinator, IEC Mainstreaming & Youth. The Chief Guest was Dr. Jemino Mawthoh, MLA, Nongthymmai Constituency.



Dr. Jemino Mawthoh, MLA, Chief Guest of NYD event



Experience Sharing by a PLHIV- Mr. Barry Lesley Kharmalki of MSNP+



Fashion Show by Transgenders Community



Performance by the Beats Dance group



## Uttar Pradesh

The National Youth Day was observed at B.S.N.V P.G College Lucknow where in students from different departments participated in the seminar. There were around 500 participants. The Seminar was chaired by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Additional Project Director, UPSACS, Dr Ashok Shukla, Joint Director UPSACS, Dr. Neena Shukla ,Incharge IEC UPSACS and Dr. D.K Gupta, Principal B.S.N.V P.G College and Programme officer. Various competition were also organised namely Quiz Competition, Extempore, Poster Competition, Slogan Competition, Rangoli Competition etc.



Dignitaries on the Dais on the event of NYD in UP



Students participated in the Rangoli Competition



Rally Organized at various district level in Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Chitrakoot, UP

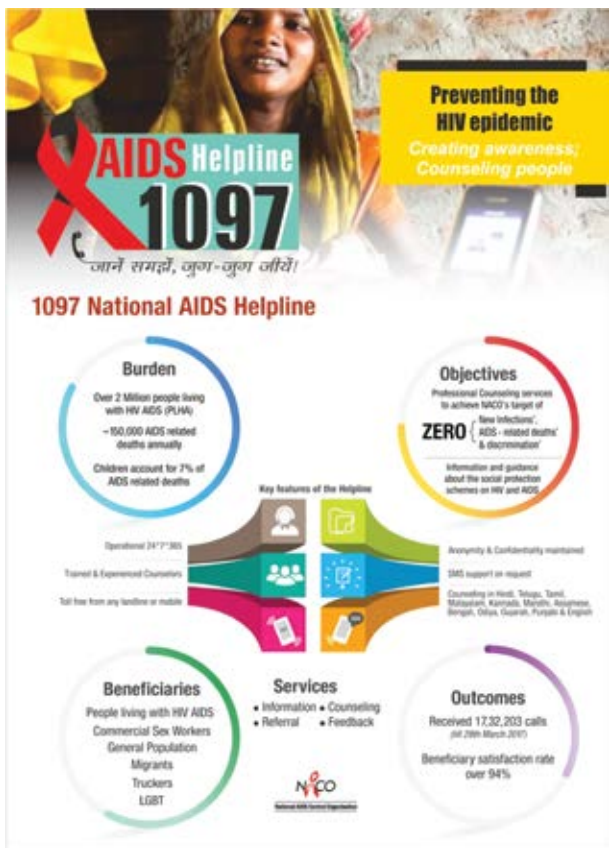
## Delhi

DSACS has also organized various activities in different Delhi colleges. The painting competition, street play competition, slogan writing competition, debate competition and voluntary blood donation based upon HIV/AIDS in association with Red Ribbon Clubs of colleges were organized. Students had actively participated.



Snapshot of painting competition, voluntarily blood donation and group picture of winners in Delhi.

# National Toll-free AIDS Helpline 1097



1097 National AIDS Helpline has completed 2 years of its journey in last December and is continuing to create a platform to create awareness about HIV/AIDS and to provide counseling service.

Apart from educating and counselling people who call up to the helpline, It is also a platform for registering grievances to ensure no one is barred from the services they are supposed to get.

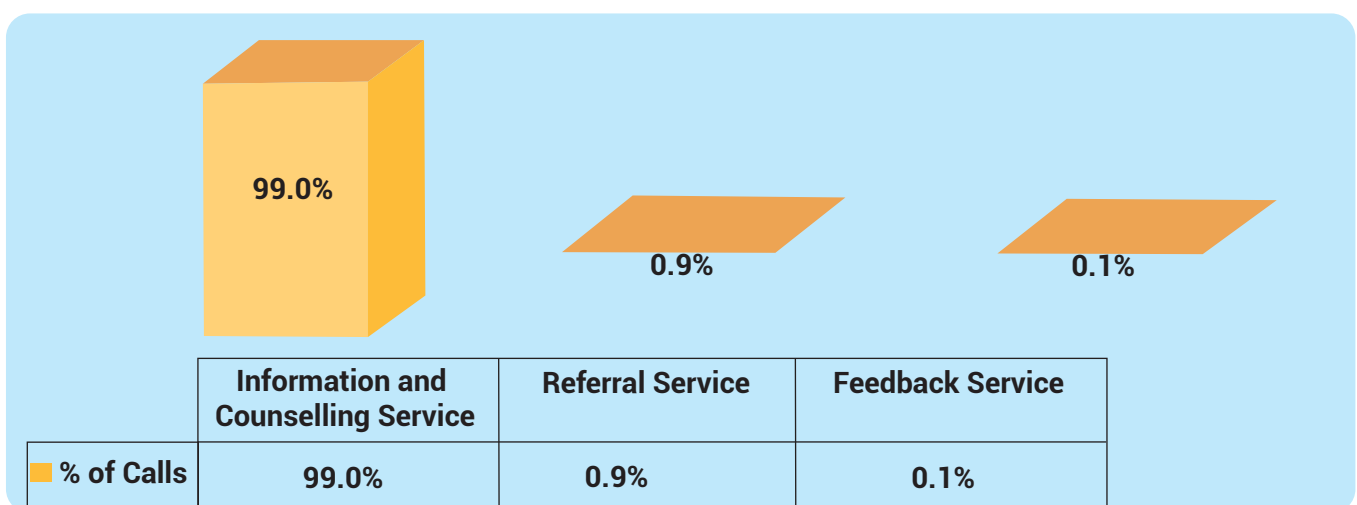
Directory information also enable people to just reach the helpline and take information on ICTC and ART locations.

The Helpline which started (1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014) with Hindi, English and six regional languages (Bengali, Assamese, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi and Kannada) was observed to have demands for addition of languages as well as more number of counselors.

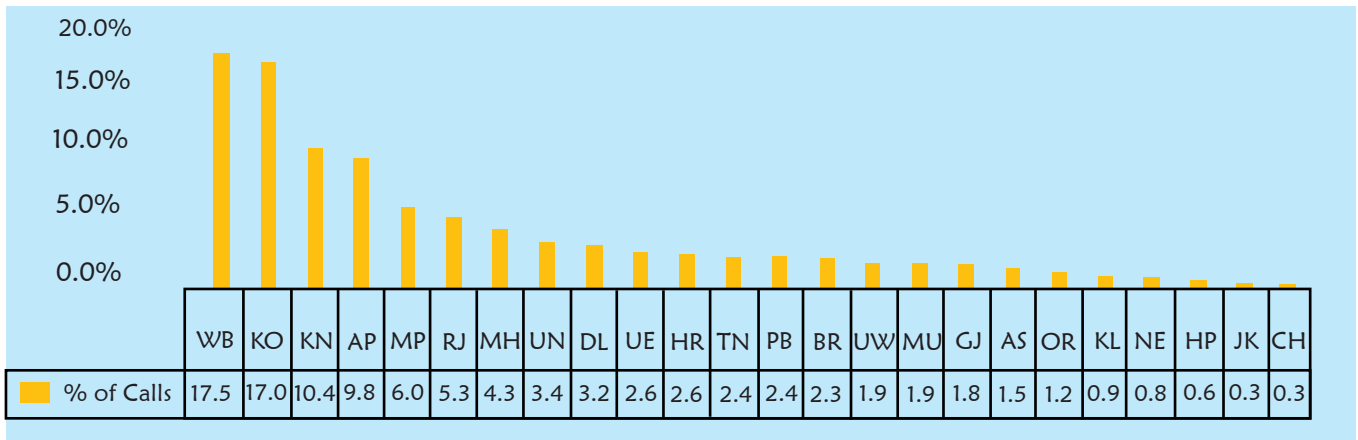
In October 2016, four more languages (Malayalam, Odia, Gujarati and Punjabi) had been added to the helpline with added capacity in existing languages and now it is getting operated in 12 languages.

Since December 2014, Helpline has received more than 17 lakhs calls.

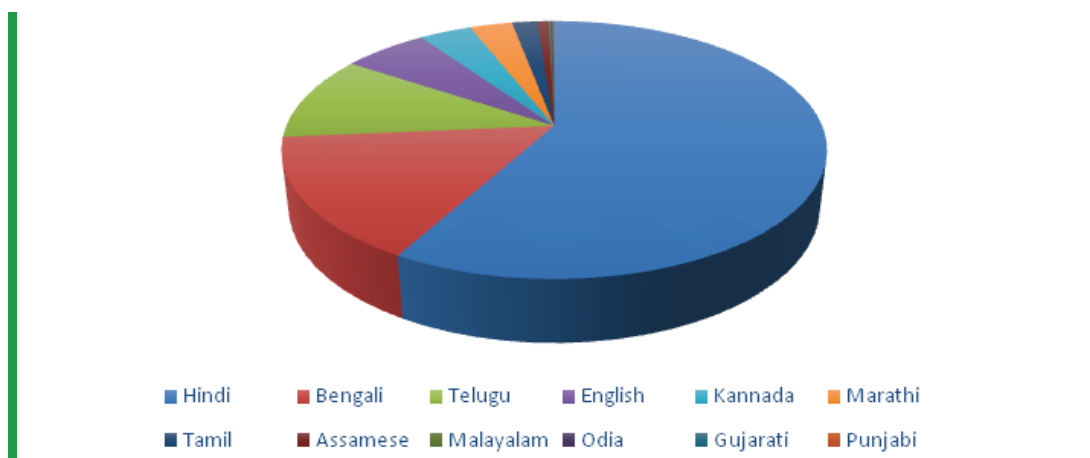
Service Wise Call Distribution



### Circle Wise Call Distribution



### Language Wise Call Distribution



#### Story that matters:

Name: Mr. Kiran (name changed)  
 Age: 35 Years  
 State: Karnataka  
 District: Bangalore

#### Summary:

35 year-old Mr. Kiran, a resident of Karnataka called up 1097 seeking assistance on an incident happened with him. Kiran narrated the story and mentioned that he had protected sex with a Female Sex Worker and is extremely worried about his family and future. He didn't know whom to approach. Mr. Kiran got to know about the helpline in a theatre advertisement and was very happy that there is someone who can assist him.

Counselor listened to him patiently and understood the level of stress Mr. Kiran is going through, he built his confidence and explained him clearly the risk factors and how HIV is transmitted. Counselor made Kiran aware of how HIV is transmitted, which has helped Mr. Kiran in reducing his anxiety. At the end, Mr. Kiran was happy & promised to not to repeat such mistakes in his life.

**Feedback: "Thank you very much, appreciate the wonderful job done by your 1097 Help Line."**

**Intekhab Alam  
 Project Head, 1097 Helpline**



# रोज़ जागती थी अपने लिए आज जागी हूँ अपने बच्चे के लिए

## आप भी जागें

गर्भवती माँयें सरकारी अस्पताल के आई.सी.टी.सी. पर एच.आई.वी. की जाँच करायें एच.आई.वी. पॉज़िटिव माँ मुफ्त सलाह और दवाई से अपने बच्चे को एच.आई.वी. होने से बचा सकती हैं

एक कदम ज़िंदगी की ओर



आई.सी.टी.सी. की ओर कदम बढ़ायें, एच.आई.वी. की जाँच करायें

आई.सी.टी.सी. - एकीकृत सलाह और जाँच केन्द्र



NACO

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India's Voice against AIDS  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India  
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Visit Integrated Counselling & Testing Centre (ICTC) at the nearest Government Hospital for free & confidential HIV Counselling & Testing

Free Treatment for HIV is available at Antiretroviral Therapy Centre at Government Hospital