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FROM THE DESK OF PATRON



Dear All,

I welcome all the readers to this edition of NACO Newsletter.

In the previous editions, I had written about the interventions in the prisons and closed settings. Followed by the launch of Prison HIV interventions by Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare in 2016, NACO has been implementing HIV/TB intervention in Prisons and other closed settings in India in a phased manner. Till date, more than 4 lakh prison inmates have been covered with HIV prevention and treatment services across 700 prison sites in the country. Similar intervention is also being implemented for women living in other closed settings such as Swadhar, Ujjawala and other State-run Homes. In order to sensitize law enforcement agencies including prison officials, NACO in collaboration with UNODC and UNAIDS, is currently developing training manual on drug and HIV/AIDS to be incorporated into the ongoing curriculam of police training academies.

I am happy to share that NACO has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER). This partnership aims to strengthen HIV/AIDS response and to reach large number of people in North Eastern Region. This is the 17th MoU which NACO has signed with key minitries/departments for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

As we are in the penultimate year for achieving our fast track targets therefore, I urge all those who are working in AIDS Control Programme to put themselves in top gear to meet the goals.

I hope you have the benefit of going through the newsletter. I took forward to your feedback.

Wish you all best of luck.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanjeeva Kumar', written in a cursive style.

Sanjeeva kumar
Additional Secretary (Health) and
Director General (NACO & RNTCP)
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)

FROM THE DESK OF JOINT SECRETARY



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the New Year, 2019!

It's a great pleasure to interact with readers through NACO newsletter.

I would like to start this note by sharing the magnificent success of first ever Grand Finale of North East Multi Media Campaign titled North East United Against HIV/AIDS which was conducted to promote awareness, compassion, education and support towards HIV and AIDS in the North East region. It is for the first time that an inter-state competition took place in which winning musical bands from all the eight North East States have participated. In the presence of approx. 10,000 spectators, this campaign has earmarked a huge success. I extend my heartfelt wishes to all the winners of the campaign and aspire that all the other States will also plan for similar campaigns which will serve as a source of dispersing awareness at larger scale by leaving a lasting impression upon young minds.

I got an opportunity to attend National Conference of Chandigarh SACS, AIDSCON-8 with the goal of creating 'AIDS Free World'. I must appreciate Chandigarh SACS for organising such National Conference to bring multiple stake holders at one platform.

This issue of the NACO newsletter also captures activities conducted on National Youth Day (NYD), which is celebrated every year on 12th of January to pay our homage to the cogent philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. There are various activities conducted across the country on NYD and glimpses of the few are also covered in the 'Events Section'.

Please feel free to share your valuable thoughts & feedback for the betterment of the edition. I wish all readers Good Luck !

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alok Saxena'.

Shri Alok Saxena
Joint Secretary, NACO
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR



Stronger together through Mainstreaming and Partnerships

Mainstreaming and Partnership is one of the key strategies in National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) to build a multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS through partnership with wide range of stakeholders. Mainstreaming approach gained ground with the realization that the non-health sector can play an important and meaningful role in reducing vulnerability to HIV, enhance the reach and coverage of the programme and mitigate the impact of HIV on those infected and affected. Considering the sustainable partnership in HIV programme is a priority, an inter-ministerial conference was organized in December 2012.

As of now, 17 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed. The recent (17th) MoU was signed between NACO and North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER) in the august presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh Hon'ble Minister, MOS (IC) M/o DoNER. The roll out of activities listed in respective MoUs are undertaken through State AIDS Control Society in consultation with Department concerned in the State/UTs.

There are remarkable achievements made under each signed MoU that includes:

- a) advocacy & partnership with line departments & PSUs in States/UTs;
- b) reaching large number of people with awareness and preventive activities;
- c) expansion of HIV related services in existing health infrastructure of Ministries & PSUs;
- d) reduce social stigma and discrimination &
- e) directive issued on HIV sensitive social protection through inclusion of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) as one of the beneficiaries and access of benefits by key population.

NACO is in process of engaging more Ministries and a few ministries have agreed for signing of MoU. The partnerships with ministries are impacted positively to reach the unreached and have been contributing in getting closer to meet the national target of 90-90-90. Once again I reiterate our commitment to achieve eliminating AIDS by 2030 through collaborative and meaningful partnership.



Dr. Naresh Goel
DDG (IEC & LS),
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

COVER STORY

NATIONAL CONSULTATION WITH POLICE TRAINING ACADEMIES IN CONTEXT OF DRUG USE & HIV



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP) along with other dignitaries during inauguration of National Consultation with Police Training Academies in Context of Drug Use & HIV

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), in collaboration with Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel National Police Academy, UNAIDS and UNODC, organized a two day national consultation in the context of Drug Use and HIV under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP) on 10th and 11th of January, 2019 in Delhi in the presence of authorities of police training academies and other key stakeholders associated with Drug use and HIV/AIDS programs and Law Enforcement Agencies.

The overall objective of the National Consultation was to advocate with police training academies to include topics related to drug use and HIV/AIDS into their respective police training curriculum. It also sought to bring together key stakeholders to review and provide recommendations/suggestions/comments on the training manual developed in collaboration with UNODC. The consultation also aimed at focusing on the role of the police as first responders in any situation and need to sensitize and empower them with information regarding drug use and HIV/AIDS. During the consultation, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2014 and the provisions within those that needed greater utilization were also presented.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Finalize the training manual developed for Police Training Academies on drug use and HIV/AIDS.
- 2) Coordinate with Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to develop a roadmap to operationalize the proposed initiative.
- 3) Follow up with UNODC, UNAIDS, Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel National Police Academy, North Eastern Police Academy, and other State Police Training Academies to organize Regional/State-level Training of Trainers (TOT).
- 4) Coordinate with CST Division/NACO and Tihar prison to support in establishing ART centre in Mandoli prison complex.
- 5) Sign MoU with Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) and North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA).
- 6) Collaborate with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to establish drug de-addiction centres in all central jails.



“The unifying theme for this initiative is to create awareness about HIV/AIDS among police personnel. Law enforcement agencies can play a great role in referring drug addicts for HIV/AIDS services by enforcing the provision of Section 64A of NDPS Act to make sure that immunity from prosecution is given to addicts who are volunteering for treatment. NACO officers should fast track signing formal MoUs with key Ministries and Departments to move further on this important initiative”.

SHRI SANJEEVA KUMAR

Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP),
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



“I am thankful to NACO for the cooperation in taking ahead the work in Tihar with respect to HIV/AIDS and those using drugs, for having established an ART centre in Tihar Jail. I also request NACO to build the capacity of prison staff on drug use and HIV/AIDS.

SHRI AJAY KASHYAP

Director General of Police (Tihar Prisons)



“Congratulation to NACO for organizing the consultation. Drug traffickers are criminals and have to be dealt differently. Drug addicts are suffering from health issues and also need to be dealt differently with reference to Section 64A of the NDPS Act (Amendment), 2014.

SHRI ABHAY

Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau
Ministry of Home Affairs



“The representatives present from State AIDS Control Societies should identify champions from police training academies to train them as “Master Trainers”.

SHRI ALOK SAXENA

Joint Secretary, NACO,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



“I welcome the initiative of NACO to bring in synergy between MSJE, NCB and NACO. The MSJE is supporting over 400 organisations for setting up an Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts in any of the government run hospitals, prisons, and remand homes. I encourage prisons to submit proposals to open de-addiction centres within the premises of prison settings.”

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment



“The move to sensitize and include topics on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse in training modules is a welcome step. The police, as first responders, have the opportunity to deal with habitual offenders, drug addicts and those involved in flesh trade in the course of their daily working.”

Ms. D.R. DOLEY BARMAN

Director, Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel National Police Academy



“There should be directory of service providers list along with welfare scheme details to ensure effective referral and linkages by law enforcement officers. The policemen must be taught not to discriminate drug addicts on the basis of their addictive behavior.”

SHRI R.P. SINGH

Director General, Economic Offences Wing, Govt of Uttar Pradesh



“The initiative of developing a specific training module on drug use and HIV/AIDS to incorporate into the ongoing training curriculum of police training academies is a welcome step. BPR&D is willing to provide all requisite support to NACO”.

Ms. SAMPATH MEENA

Director/Inspector General, Research & Correction Administration
Bureau of Police Research & Development
Ministry of Home Affairs



“I assure the commitment of UNAIDS in working with NACO in addressing HIV/TB issues in prisons and other closed settings and sensitizing law enforcement agencies in the context of drug use and HIV.”

DR. BILALI CAMARA

Country Director, UNAIDS



“Law enforcement, criminal justice, public health, and civil society can effectively complement each other’s work”.

SHRI SERGEY KAPINOS

Representative for South Asia, UNODC



“This consultation was an offshoot of a larger national consultation held in 2017, which had pointed to the need to include HIV and Drug Use in training modules in police training academies”.

DR. SHOBINI RAJAN

Assistant Director General, NACO

SENIOR OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSULTATION:

Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Tihar Prisons and State Prisons departments of select States, Narcotics Control Bureau, Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel National Police Academy and other State police training academies, Prison training schools, and the Economic Offences Wing, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Representatives from NACO, RNTCP, State AIDS Control Societies, CDC, FHI360, EHA, SAATHII, India HIV/AIDS Alliance, Swadhar and Ujjawala Homes and TI-NGOs.

MR. S. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, NACO

PROGRAMME

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE GLOBAL FUND 6TH REPLENISHMENT



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India along with dignitaries during Preparatory Meeting of the Global Fund 6th Replenishment

A high level preparatory meeting for the Sixth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund was hosted by India on 7th & 8th February, 2019 in New Delhi. The preparatory meeting was aimed at setting stage for the Global Fund to launch its investment case for its 6th replenishment conference and its fund mobilization campaign and to mobilize needed resources to scale up life-saving programs over 2020-22.

BACKGROUND

The India Country Coordinating Mechanism (India-CCM) was established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other relevant and interested stakeholders, in order to access Global Fund grant monies, ensure those funds were well-coordinated within the national response, and provide national oversight and ownership of grant implementation. The Global Fund support has been instrumental in attaining targets related to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria reduction and escalating fight against these three diseases. India is in a sustained partnership with the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) since 2002 as recipient as well as donor. India became the first implementing country to host a replenishment milestone and highlighted its role and political leadership in global health, as well as its strong commitment to achieve SDG3 through a dedicated India showcase event.

On 7th February, 2019, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India organized an event on “India Showcase” to showcase India’s global footprint in the field of innovation and technology to end AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and increased ownership of the national response and its growing role in development.



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India during “India Showcase” event



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India during formal preparatory meeting of the Global Fund 6th replenishment

During the Global Fund’s 6th Replenishment, a panel discussion was organized. The panelists were:-

1. Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP)
2. Dr. R. S. Gupta, DDG (CST), NACO
3. Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (IEC), NACO
4. Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS
5. Dr. Nicole Seguy, CD Team Leader, WHO
6. Ms. Mona Balani
7. Dr. Sonal Mehta, Chief Executive, Alliance India
8. Moderator: Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG (TI)

The panel discussion revolved around the journey of National AIDS Control Programme in India. Which had highlighted policy and programmatic advancement in National AIDS Control Programme in the last 5 years, ‘Community Based Screening (CBT)’ for HIV testing and ‘Test & Treat Policy’ in achieving prevention and treatment targets, enactment of HIV/AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act 2017, reduction of social stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and securing human rights in the country, effectiveness of strategy for key populations and high risk group by revamping Targeted Interventions, key features of Strategic Information including HIV surveillance and Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS), key features of surveillance mechanism, challenges in achieving the targets of 90-90-90 by 2020, and elimination of AIDS as public health threat by 2030.



Snapshot of panel discussion during the Global Fund’s 6th Replenishment



Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (H & FW), GoI during formal preparatory meeting of the Global Fund 6th replenishment

The formal preparatory meeting of the Global Fund 6th Replenishment took place on 8th February, 2019 which was inaugurated by Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of India. The meeting was aimed at presenting the Investment Case for period 2020-22 before officials from donor countries and technical partners, followed by a series of discussions on key themes in global health and the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

JYOTIKA, NACO

AIDSCON—"AIDS FREE WORLD"



Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare along with other dignitaries during the inaugural session of AIDSCON-8

The National Conference of Chandigarh SACS, AIDSCON with the goal "AIDS Free World", was held on 15th & 16th February, 2019 in Chandigarh for the 8th year in succession. This Conference was held in association with Indian Medical Association (IMA), Chandigarh. Chandigarh SACS the only SACS in the country to hold this kind of National Conference. The Conference was inaugurated by Senior Administrators of UT Chandigarh, Sh. Manoj Kumar Parida, IAS, Advisor to the Administrator, Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary Health and Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

During this Conference, a total of 10 technical sessions were conducted which included IEC & Mainstreaming, Blood Safety, Clinical CME, Newer Strategies, Revamping and Re-Strategizing Targeted Intervention Programme, Psychosocial Issues Syndemics, Reaching the third 90 of 90-90-90 by 2020, and Second Generation Prevention and Care.

More than 70 experts participated in the panel discussions conducted during the conference. Representatives from Global Partners like UNAIDS, WHO, India HIV/AIDS Alliance, AIDS Society of India (ASI), FHI360, Hamsafar Trust, CHAI, YRGCARE Chennai, ICMR, IAVI India, SAATHII and many other development partners participated in the event shared their experiences. Representatives of the High Risk Groups of TG, Sex Workers, Drug Users and MSM opened their hearts and urged that Mental Health Care be introduced in the program as all were still grappling with stigma (minor but impactful). Medical Fraternity from PGIMER, GMCH-32 and Health Department alongwith the Community of People Living with HIV/AIDS also participated in the Conference.

This year, as a special feature of interest for the Private Practitioners, a Clinical CME on HIV/AIDS was introduced which was coordinated by ASI. This Conference was awarded 8 credit hours by Punjab Medical Council (PMC). The participants for the two days Conference were doctors, researchers, students, interns and also people from various State AIDS Control Societies and Technical Support Units.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BETWEEN NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL (NEC) AND NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL ORGANISATION (NACO)



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and NEC, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER)

The 17th Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NACO and NEC, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER) on 8th March, 2019 at M/o DoNER, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi. The MoU was signed by Shri Ram Muivah, Secretary, on behalf of NEC, (M/o DoNER) and Shri Sanjeeva Kumar Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO & RNTCP, MoH&FW in the august presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister, MOS (IC) M/o DoNER and Dr. Inderjit Singh, Secretary, M/o DoNER, Govt. of India

This partnership aims to strengthen HIV/AIDS response in North Eastern Region (NER) in collaboration of NEC, M/o DoNER and NACO primarily in the area of:

- Reaching out large number of people with HIV/AIDS awareness information through NEC, DoNER,
- Enhancing involvement of SHGs in reaching out to High Risk Group and Youth in accessing prevention and testing services
- Enhancing coordination and advocacy with State Governments in North Eastern Region for garnering support through major meetings
- Reducing social stigma and discrimination against people infected and affected by HIV and
- Enhance access of social protection by PLHIVs.

This partnership is viewed with great importance in order to strengthen HIV/AIDS response in eight states of North Eastern Region. NEC is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region that consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

MR. UTPAL DAS, NACO

GRAND FINALE OF NORTH EAST MULTI MEDIA CAMPAIGN



First Grand Finale of North East Multi Media Campaign was organized in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) & Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS) on 18th Feb, 2019, at Khuochiezie, Local Ground, Kohima, Nagaland, in the presence of approx. 10,000 spectators. Event was graced by the presence of Chief Patron Shri S. Pangnyu Phom, Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland. Special Guests for the event were Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, NACO and Major General Pradeep Nair, VSM, Inspector General, HQ IGAR (N).

OBJECTIVES

- To provide greater visibility to the issue of HIV/AIDS.
- To encourage safe and responsible behaviour among the youth.
- To reduce the level of stigma and discrimination by demystifying HIV/AIDS.
- To promote HIV/AIDS related services, specially HIV testing.
- To increase general awareness about HIV/AIDS.



Glimpse of Parade by Assam Rifles, NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides, 8 North East State AIDS Control Societies and 16 tribes of Nagaland



SHRI S. PANGNYU PHOM, Hon'ble Minister, H & FW, Government of Nagaland

Assured the proper installation of viral load machines and all supporting infrastructure in place.



SHRI I. HIMATO ZHIMOMI, Principal Secretary (H&FW) & Chairman, NSACS, Government of Nagaland

Administered pledge to practice safe behaviour and to avoid all high risk behaviors.



MAJOR GENERAL PRADEEP NAIR, YSM, Inspector General, HQ IGAR (N) Z

Expressed that North East is pretty close to his heart, having served in all the north eastern states except one. He also touched upon the four key issues - Awareness, Education, Compassion and Support.



DR. NARESH GOEL, Deputy Director General, NACO

Highlighted that Orphan & Vulnerable Children Project for children of key population, Project Sunrise for Injecting Drug Users are few specific projects undertaken for key typologies which are implemented in North Eastern States. He also emphasized on regular program activities which address youth for prevention of HIV/AIDS related stigma & discrimination, like Adolescence Education Program in schools and Red Ribbon Clubs in colleges.



DR. VIKEYIE LOSU, Principal Director, H & FW Nagaland

Remarked that Music is a language that everybody understands and that, as much as Nagaland is a land of festivals, it is equally a land of Music.

Positive speaker Mr. Lanu Aier, President, Network of Naga People Living with HIV, urged all the youth to avoid high risk behaviour as adolescent is the age group which maximizes the urge towards experimentation.

Dr. Ngangshimeren, Project Director, NSACS thanked all the participating members of the parade Assam rifles, NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides, 8 North Eastern State AIDS Control Societies & their participating bands, and 16 tribes of Nagaland.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 20 Stalls were placed at the venue ranging from screening & testing of HIV/AIDS, counselling, display of related IEC Material by NSACS, condom promotion & mannequins by AHF, community based screening, OST enrolment and information related to Key population by FHI 360, Information on the HIV & AIDS Act, 2017.
- All the 8 NE states showcased & distributed IEC material (Pamphlets, booklets, leaflets, posters, red-ribbon badges). One lakh condoms and one thousand t-shirts were distributed among the visitors.
- 53 people were pre-counseled and tested for HIV.

WINNERS

Band performances were judged on the basis of their (band) cohesive stage presence, interface with the audience and uniqueness of the song (originality), relevance of the lyrics in spreading message of HIV & AIDS



The renowned singer Albo Naga, Guru Rewben Mashangva & Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG, NACO judging the performances during the event

The winners of the mega event of North East Multimedia Campaign were: 1st 'The Wishes' from Manipur, 2nd 'Iuli Yeptho & the Band' from Nagaland and 3rd 'Roll Heads' from Sikkim. The winners received the prize money of Rs. 1,00,000, Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively. All the other participating teams were also awarded with a consolation prize-money of Rs. 30,000 each. The prize-money given to all the winners of NEMMC was supported by AHF-India.



Winner of 1st North East Multi Media Event - The Wishes from Manipur



1st runner up of North East Multi Media Event - 'Iuli Yeptho & the Band' from Nagaland



2nd Runner up of North East Multi Media Event - 'Roll Heads' from Sikkim

MS. SONAL WALIA, NACO

NATIONAL REVIEW OF CARE, SUPPORT & TREATMENT PROGRAMME



Participants during the National Review Meeting of Care, Support & Treatment (CST) division of NACO at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The National Review Meeting of the Care, Support & Treatment (CST) division of NACO was held from 15th to 17th January, 2019 at Bhubaneswar, Odhisha. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress made in CST programme with focus on new strategies and to address the issues at state level. Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint secretary, NACO, Dr. Pramod Kumar Meheda, Commissioner cum Secretary to Odisha State Health department, Dr. R.S Gupta, DDG-CST, NACO, Dr. Nicole Seguy, CD-Team Leader, WHO, Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS and representatives from SACS, Alliance India, Plan India, SAATHII, TISS, SR & SSRs and NACO officials graced the meeting. Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO appreciated the efforts taken by CST programme.

FELICITATION



The best performing States (Karnataka, Kerala & Chandigarh), ART Centers (Bihar: SH Sitamarhi, Gujarat: Reliance HIV & TB Centre, Surat, Maharashtra : CH Bhandara) and CSCs (Balasa, Orissa and Network, Orissa) and Outreach Workers from Care & Support Centres (CSC), Odisha State:

Mr. Balaram, Mr. Sanathan & Ms. Parenita were felicitated with award of appreciation during the review meeting. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to well performing states namely, Gujarat, Mumbai, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram and 15 ART Centres.

BEST PRACTICES

- Best practices adopted by Chhattisgarh, Mumbai, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states were presented during the review meeting.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

- Participants were oriented on National Technical Guidelines of Antiretroviral Therapy, The HIV/AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, Viral Load Monitoring Mechanism, SoP on Differentiated ART service Delivery, Supply Chain Management and Blended Training.

PROGRAMME REVIEW

- SACS presented best practices, gaps/challenges, actions point to overcome challenges and support they require from NACO.

MR. MATHEW SEBASTIAN, NACO

DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT GENERATION IEC MATERIAL FOR TI PROGRAMME



Participants during co-creation workshop at Jaipur

In order to fulfill the new age communication needs, IEC Division of NACO in collaboration with FHI360 is developing 'Next-Generation' Behaviour Change Communication material for the Targeted Interventions (TI) programme. The vision behind this stride is to reach out to the High Risk Groups with the help of new age communication platforms, tools and strategies by designing & developing a range of BCC packages for key & bridge populations. The material will help enhancing the uptake of services, generate demand, promote condom usage and observe safe practices among these groups. The material will also provide an opportunity to enhance the skills of service providers with help of intriguing content developed for them. It will help these healthcare providers to conduct improved interpersonal communication sessions with at risk population.

To understand the idea of the content-need, a four-day long workshop under the title 'Co-creation' was organized at Jaipur, Rajasthan from 16th to 19th January, 2019. Participants in the workshop were officials from NACO and SACS, community members, creative experts from select communication agencies and development partners.

DR. SANJAY RAUT, NACO

CONSULTATION ON 'FAST TRACK VCT@WORK'



NACO in collaboration with ILO and Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (GSACS) organized consultations on 'Fast Track VCT@Work'

World of work response to HIV is one of the strategic priorities of National AIDS Control Programme in India. NACO through State AIDS Control Societies in collaboration with ILO has made several efforts to strengthen engagement of industries of public and private sector, employer organizations and other key stakeholder and also to reinforce national response to HIV and AIDS in the world of work and to promote voluntary testing among workers through campaign 'VCT@Work'. To move ahead with an agenda to strengthen 'VCT@Work' campaign, NACO in collaboration with ILO and Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (GSACS) has successfully organized consultations on 'Fast Track VCT@Work' in the three priority districts of Gujarat namely Ahmedabad, Surat and Jamnagar on 11th, 13th and 18th March, 2019 respectively.

The first consultation 'Fast Track VCT@WORK' in Ahmedabad held on 11th March, 2019 was attended by leading industries namely industries of public and private sector primarily Larson & Turbo (L&T), Reliance textile, Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC), Diamond Association Ahmedabad, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), Metro Rail - Ahmedabad, Central Board for Worker Education (CBWE), Gujarat State Network of Positive People (GSNP+), Ahmedabad Network of Positive People (ANP+), Civil Societies DAPCU - Ahmedabad etc. Similarly, second consultation was held in Surat and attended by DAPCU Surat, representative of various industries like ONGC, Larson & Turbo (L&T), Textile Industries - Himalaya Cotton Yarn, Garden Silk Mill Ltd, Shree Jagdamba Mill, Pooja Mill, Kadma Mill, Surat Diamond Association, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), Gujarat State Network of Positive People (GSNP+) and NGOs. The third consultation was attended by various industries included Jamnagar Industry Owner's Association, Senor Metals, GSFC, Sikka, Balark Metals, Shri Dig Vijay Cement Company Ltd., Sikka, Jaydeep Industry and many others.

THE KEY OUTCOMES OF THE FAST TRACK VCT@WORK' ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

- Constitution of Joint Action Forum (JAF) in all the three districts for framing up action plan and implementing strategy for promotion of VCT@Work.
- Share responsibilities to bring awareness through sensitization, training and IEC activities. Industries agreed to start set-up for counselling & testing service in collaboration with DAPCU and SACS.
- Action plan developed for the industries participated in three consultations for awareness generation, establishment of services and promotion of voluntary HIV testing for the workers.
- Garnered support from industries for IEC activities for spreading awareness through banners/hoardings at strategic locations, posters and promotion of National Toll-free Helpline 1097.
- Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation will support SACS for awareness generation activities at bus depots, establish FICTC in all centres and promote awareness activities for workers and general population.

MR. ASHISH VERMA, NACO

NATIONAL AIDS TOLL-FREE HELPLINE 1097

Over the years of its successful operation, National AIDS Toll-Free Helpline 1097 continues to record good number of calls from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan in the country. State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) through IEC efforts have been effectively promoting the helpline service.



The Online Grievance Redressal (GR) Management System was made live in January, 2019 for addressing grievances received through the helpline. After GR system was made live, 26% of the total complaints received regarding HIV service delivery were redressed and closed within next 10 days'. State nodal officers were proactively accessing the online GR system for redressal of the complaints within stipulated timelines.

SUCCESS STORY

Name of the Caller : Anonymous
Age : 20 years
State : Delhi

Call Summary:

The caller dialed 1097 with a lot of distress and disappointment! He started his conversation stating that he had sexual intercourse with a female sex worker though he used a condom. He doubts that the condom used might have burst during the act. After few days, he searched about HIV & its symptoms on the internet and was confused about the results he found. These baffling results increased the level of anxiety in him to such an extent that he developed suicidal tendency, as informed to the counselor.

In response to his queries, first of all the counselor asked him to calm down. He tried pacifying the caller by asking examples of some of his responsible behaviors in his day-to-day life. Once the counselor realized that the caller was at peace and ready to talk comfortably, he suggested that it is not an issue to worry as a protection was used during his sexual intercourse. The counselor requested the caller to visit nearest ICTC in government hospital for a proper counseling and HIV testing. The caller was also informed about the facility of free testing available in government hospitals. The address of the nearest ICTC was also shared with the caller. The counselor also informed him that since you have got involved in risky activity in recent past so it's quite possible that the test may not give a clear picture before 3 months. He then explained about the concept of window period.

The caller first sounded disagreeable to wait for the duration of 3 months but later understood the importance of waiting till the completion of this period as he was informed that results received before it may not produce correct answers about his health. The counselor also advised him to focus on his daily work & to divert his mind towards things that keep his mind productively occupied. The caller was also guided about the importance of safe sex and that a protection must be used during each intercourse.

Callers Feedback:

In the end, caller informed the counselor that he felt much relieved and that he has gained strength to face the situation after talking to the counselor.

MR. BENJAMIN, NACO

STATES

JAMMU & KASHMIR

LAUNCH OF WALL CALENDAR



Shri Atal Dullo, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government Health and Medical Education Department, J & K, inaugurated wall calendar in the presence of Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Director Medical College, Dr. Traik Azad, Principal, GMC, Doda, Mr. Sajad Amin, Additional Secretary (Law), H & ME and Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather, Project Director, J & K SACS.

TRAINING OF DRUG INSPECTORS FOR BLOOD BANKING



The FDCA-GSCBT workshop for the personnel of FDCA, Gujarat on Blood Banking was conducted at Ahmedabad on 16th February, 2019 with the objective to provide training to Drug Inspectors for Blood Bank. The workshop was inaugurated by Commissioner, FDCA, Government of Gujarat; Director, GSCBT and Senior officials of FDCA, Gujarat.

J&K SACS

GUJARAT

CONSULTATION ON “STRENGTHENING LINKAGES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR HIV/STI, TB AND HEPATITIS IN PRISONS”



Participants during Consultation on “Strengthening Linkages for Comprehensive Services for HIV/STI, TB and Hepatitis in Prisons”

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized special Stakeholders Consultation on “Strengthening Linkages for Comprehensive Services for HIV/STI, TB and Hepatitis in Prisons” on 22nd February, 2019 at Ahmedabad. Superintendent and Medical Officer of all Central Jails of Gujarat were the prime stakeholders. Mr. Mohan Jha, Director General of Police, Gujarat as the chief guest, shared his thoughts on situation of prisons. Ms. Nikol Seguy, Team Leader, Communicable Diseases, WHO also shared her views on CBS in prisons. Ms. Madhu Sharma from UNODC talked about HIV in Prisons. Dr. Sanjay A Lakre, Medical officer, Tihar Jail and Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Additional Project Director, GSACS were also part of the consultation.

TRAININGS CONDUCTED FOR SRH SERVICES INTEGRATION



Participants during the training session for the paramedical staff

Under the UBRAF project for Sexual & Reproductive Health services integration, the trainings were conducted in the month of January, 2019 with the support of UNFPA for the Paramedical staff working at Government Hospitals who provides SRH services and for the staff working at NACP facilities like ICTC & STI. This training was conducted in three high prevalence districts which are Ahmedabad, Sabarkantha and Surat. From Gujarat SACS technical guidance was provided by Dr. Sudhir Chawla, JD (CST), I/C JD(IEC) and Mr. Pratik Raval, AD (GIPA).

GUJARAT SACS

DELHI

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS AWARENESS FOR THE YOUTH TAKING VOCATIONAL TRAININGS



Participants during Training programme on HIV/AIDS awareness

Delhi State AIDS Control Society organised training programme on HIV/AIDS awareness for the youth taking vocational trainings in different centres of *Jan Shikshan Sansthan* in Delhi from 17th - 23rd January, 2019. A total of 150 participants were sensitized about HIV/AIDS related issues, services and on HIV and AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017.

CULMINATION CEREMONY OF SWASTHA BHARAT YATRA



Participants during Culmination Ceremony of Swastha Bharat Yatra

DSACS participated in Culmination Ceremony of *Swastha Bharat Yatra* on 29th January, 2019 in collaboration with Dept. of Food safety, GNCTD and Food Safety Standard Authority of India. HIV/AIDS awareness and VBD motivational talks were organised and IEC material were also distributed during Culmination Ceremony of *Swastha Bharat Yatra*.

SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN POLICE CONSTABLE ON HIV/AIDS AWARENESS



Participants during Sensitization programme for Women Police Constable on HIV/AIDS awareness

One day sensitization programme for Women Police Constable on HIV/AIDS awareness was conducted on 23rd January, 2019 at police training College Dwarka, New Delhi. 650 women police constable were sensitized during the programme and were made aware about HIV/AIDS related issues, services and on HIV and AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017.

DELHI SACS

ASSAM

WESTERN ROCK BAND COMPETITION



Participants during State level Western Rock Band Competition

The State level Western Rock Band Competition on HIV awareness was conducted in Guwahati on 20th January, 2019. A total of four rock bands had participated namely Bottle Rockets, Battle of Symphony, Existence after Trestle, Tyrenian. The Tyrenian was the winner of the competition. There was one inspiring performance by the band –“Judges”. The Guest of Honour, Commissioner Secretary Health cum Project Director, Assam SACS had also appreciated the Western Rock Band Competition.

ASSAM SACS

CHHATTISGARH

SOCIAL PROTECTION SINGLE WINDOW MODEL MEETING



Felicitation of Commissioner, FDCA, Government of Gujarat during inaugural session

The Social Protection Single Window model meeting was held at Korb District under Chairmanship of Mr. Mohammad Kaishar Hqu (IAS) Collector & Chairman of District AIDS Control Society, Korba. The meeting will further help in framing strategy for social protection uptake in non-DAPCU District.

CHHATTISGARH SACS

PUDUCHERRY

MAHA HEALTH MELA



Dignitaries during Maha Health Mela in Puducherry

The two-day Maha Health Mela was organized by Health Department, Puducherry on 28th January, 2019. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Health Minister and Hon'ble Welfare Minister inaugurated the mela. Puducherry AIDS Control Society installed an exhibition stall at the Mela where awareness messages were displayed and pamphlets distributed among visitors and outpatient attendees.

PUDUCHERRY SACS

TAMIL NADU

MEME - A DAY CONTEST



Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG, NACO along with other dignitaries announcing the list of winners of Meme-A Day Contest

These days, youth are more in to social media which serve as an effective source of awareness and provides a platform to share messages among the peer groups. Tamil Nadu State AIDS control society (TANSACS) initiated a campaign where in approximately 1200 memes were received through the contest. During the 100 days campaign, nearly 100 creative Memes were selected and the list of winners was released by Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO & Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG, NACO at Chennai on 17th January, 2019. The winners were awarded with an appreciation certificate and a t-shirt.

TAMIL NADU SACS

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Voluntary Blood Donation Camps were organized at Indian Reserve Battalion, Port Blair, Islands Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIIMS), Port Blair; Ananda Marga School, Central Industrial Security Force, Port Blair, Neil Island; Brichgunj Military Station, Brichgunj, Port Blair etc. A total of 287 units of blood were collected from the volunteers.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR SACS

SURAJKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFT MELA



Surajkund International Crafts Mela

Every year, in the month of February, Surajkund International Craft *Mela* is held at Surajkund, District Faridabad, Haryana. The *Mela* was organised by the Surajkund *Mela* Authority which is headed by the Secretary Tourism, Government of India. This *Mela* provides an ideal platform for providing counselling & testing facilities to a large number of crowd at the venue. Haryana State AIDS Control Society placed an exhibition at the *Mela* for counselling & testing facilities at the site. *Nukkad Natak* was also performed by the students of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sarai Khwaja, Faridabad.

HARYANA SACS

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN ASSOCIATION WITH FEDERATION OF JHARKHAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES (FJCCI) AND MEDIA PARTNER 92.7 BIG FM



On the eve of International Women's Day, Jharkhand State AIDS Control Society (JSACS) in association with Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FJCCI) and media partner 92.7 BIG FM organized an event in Ranchi. The event was conducted to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and creating an enabling environment to reduce stigma and discrimination against People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) for treating them equally, just like any other human-being living without HIV. About 200 people participated in this event which included 50 PLHIVs from different networks, Pink Auto-rickshaw drivers (lady drivers), female students from Gossner College, Ranchi and officials from JSACS and different organizations. Ms. Arti Kujur-President, Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (JSCPCR) was the Chief Guest of this ceremony. Other Guests of Honour were: Mr. Deepak Maroo, President – FJCCI, Ms. Poonam Anand - Chairperson, Women's Entrepreneur Wing - FJCCI, Radio Jockey (R.J.) Mr. Bhupesh from 92.7 BIG FM, Ms. Amruta Soni, Regional Program Manager, NCPI, Professors from Gossner College: Prof. Mridula and Prof. Asha Rani and Dr. B.N. Poddar – Additional Project Director, JSACS.

JHARKHAND SACS

EVENTS

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

National Youth Day is celebrated in India on 12th January on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. The day remembers the philosophy of Swami ji and the ideals for which he lived and worked that is a great source of inspiration for Indian Youth.

RAJASTHAN



ARUNACHAL PRADESH



GOA



CHHATTISGARH



KERALA



MEGHALAYA



UTTARAKHAND



“
Reminding all the pregnant women to get tested for HIV & enjoy a safe motherhood. Ensure a healthy life for your baby...
”



To know more about HIV-testing during pregnancy, call national tollfree Helpline 1097



Patron: Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Joint Secretary, NACO: Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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