



National AIDS Control Organisation
India's response to HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections
 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
 www.naco.gov.in



सत्यमेव जयते
 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
 Government of India



**NORTH EAST
 MULTI-MEDIA
 CAMPAIGN**
 North East United Against HIV/AIDS
 05th March 2023
 SILKHEW 2023

NACO NEWS

January - March 2023

Table of Content

➤ Message From The Desk of Director General	03
➤ Message From The Desk of Director	04
➤ Message From The Desk of Editor	05
➤ Annual Action Plan (AAP) Review Meeting	06
➤ 4 th North East Multimedia Campaign	07
➤ Team Assam Wins The Grand Finale of Red Ribbon Quiz Competition	08
➤ Follow Up Meeting With Project Directors For AAP FY 2022-23	09
➤ Dialogue For Newer Insights: Interaction of Community Members With NACO Leadership	10
➤ National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) III Launch Workshop	11
➤ National Youth Consultation	12
➤ Training On Programme Management For SACS, Disha & DAPCU Officials	13
➤ One Day Sensitization Programme For District Aids Control Officers at NITRD	14
➤ 1 st Technical Resources Group (TRG) Meeting For Bridge And Other Vulnerable Population Under NACP	14
➤ Gender Affirmation Care For Transgender Persons	15
➤ Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy Phase II	16
➤ Training Visit of Post Graduate Medical Officers of Armed Officers Medical College, Pune To NACO	16
➤ One Stop Centres: A Key Initiative For Key And Bridge Populations	17
➤ Capacity Building-cum-consultation Workshop on HIV & STI Burden Estimations	18
➤ Jammu Half Marathon – 2023	19
➤ Chhattisgarh	19
➤ 2 nd Nagaland Harm Reduction Conference – Nagaland SACS	20
➤ Aidscon 12 – The National Conference ‘Towards Aids-free World’	21
➤ Best Practice	22
➤ Finding The Missing Link – Meghalaya SACS	22

Message from the Desk of Director General



Dear Readers!

Welcome to the NACO's newsletter.

The year 2023 marks the beginning of yet another year in the implementation of Phase-V of the National AIDS & STD Control Programme (NACP). In order to have a goal-oriented approach for the programme, a meeting on "*Accelerating the integrated response for fast-tracking progress on NACP Phase-V Goals*" was organized on 27th and 28th January 2023 in New Delhi. This meeting provided an opportunity to bring all the programme managers onto a single platform to discuss the progress, identify challenges and devise timelines for the achievement of NACP Phase-V goals.

In this journey, NACO will continue to provide technical inputs and guidance to augment the integrated AIDS response in States and UTs across India. Over the last two months, four regional Annual Action Plan meetings were organized. These meetings provided us the opportunity to identify gaps in the programme implementation and to channelize funds for activities to be undertaken on priority. Much focus has to be laid on NACP objectives while working on the programmatic gaps that have been identified over the course of meetings held. SACS teams should also endeavor to innovate keeping in mind the unique issues and challenges faced in their respective States/UTs.

I would like to thank the Government of Sikkim and all the North Eastern State AIDS Control Societies for their support in holding the mega event of 'North East Multi Media Campaign' in Gangtok, Sikkim in the first week of February 2023. The enthusiastic participation of youth in the region in this event is duly applauded. Such kind of innovative approach will provide a path to the programme for reaching out to vulnerable population in the region, especially to increase awareness about HIV amongst youth.

The programme implementation need to take place with due urgency and priority must be given to the 'Youth'. Undertaking specific activities in states and developing a framework with local community structures by leveraging technical support from partner organizations can make our efforts stronger. Regular monitoring from State Authority and supervision of NACP-V implementation in all the States and UTs is equally important for halting and reversing the trend of HIV, STI and related co-infections in the country.

Together we will win.



Hekali Zhimomi
Additional Secretary & Director General
National AIDS Control Organisation
Government of India

Message from the Desk of Director



Dear Readers

I welcome you to this edition of NACO Newsletter.

I am indeed happy to share the progress made in the programme through this publication. National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) has taken a paradigm shift in its fifth phase of implementation in alignment with global strategies which are aimed at the need for continuous action to end AIDS as public health threat by 2030.

The main impetus of NACP-V is on sustainability, optimization/re-purposing and augmenting the existing interventions and resources. Nevertheless, it is of immense importance to pilot newer initiatives to scale-up for responding to the geographical and community specific needs and priorities.

During the last quarter, NACO organized an assortment of interventions, events and activities in the areas of capacity building, consultations and data analysis for generating evidences. Some of the important programmes worth mentioning are: Programme Management Training for DACO/DTO at National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD); Technical Resource Group meeting for Bridge & other vulnerable population; Meeting for Gender Affirmation Care for Transgenders; Working Group Meeting for One Stop Centre; Launch workshop of the National Data Analysis Plan etc.

Programme in its entirety is adopting targeted and integrated response strategies to counter newer challenges like emerging and expanding epidemic in select geographies and population groups, higher prevalence of co-morbidities, identifying and linking populations who solicit sex and indulge in risky behaviors on virtual platforms to HIV prevention services, testing and treatment.

I believe that this newsletter will contribute and help the readers to take cognizance of the constant efforts made and best practices initiated by NACO along with State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) to combat HIV in India.

Happy reading!

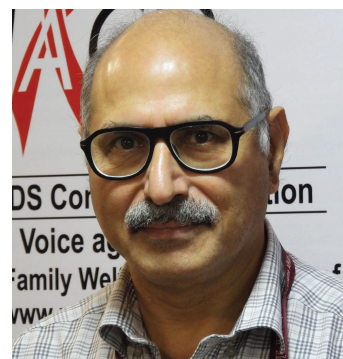
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nidhi'.

Nidhi Kesarwani

Director

**National AIDS Control Organisation
Government of India**

Message from the Desk of Editor



Dear Readers,

In order to achieve the NACP V targets, we have to break the silos and build the synergies and have a convergence with the other National Health Programmes along with mainstreaming with Line Departments and Ministries. These targets are associated to each other with such intricacy that we cannot halt one target and merely focus on another; be it Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV & Syphilis (EVTHS), Elimination of Stigma & Discrimination or Reduction in New Infection by 80%. Therefore, we can't afford to miss this deadline as it will otherwise derail the whole process for achieving goal of Ending AIDS epidemic by 2030.

In the last quarter, conducting four regional-level Annual Action Plan (AAP) meetings involving all State AIDS Control Society was a significant step in upholding the vision of NACP-V. Apart from reviewing all the activities, new interventions to strengthen the NACP-V were discussed in these meetings. Thereafter, several meetings, seminars, workshops and TRGs have been conducted by NACO to generate the vibe to reach the goal of ending HIV as a public health threat.

During the last year, unfeigned efforts were made by all State AIDS Control Societies to implement the latest strategies curated by the leadership at National Level. Realising the 'pace of performance' and 'response pattern' of each state and UT, NACO has developed an extensive plan of field visits of all NACP facilities at state and district level and this is happening in parallel while I am penning it down for your information! I am sure these extensive field visits will revive the utmost sincerity and dedication among our staff at the grassroots level. At the same time, it will be an enriching experience for those working here at the headquarters.

The interventions carried out in the last quarter had a special focus to strengthen the IEC activities as these interventions are the biggest contributors to achieving NACP V targets in the long run. To reach out to all nodal officers in states, a national level 'Youth Consultation' was organized from 13th to 14th January 2023 at Banaras, Uttar Pradesh. The consultation helped the Programme to underline the importance of the revamped 'Youth Strategies' and also to cross-learn at length. The Grand Finale of the 'Red Ribbon Quiz Competition' was also held around this time wherein champion teams of the four regional level Red Ribbon Quiz competitions participated. With huge enthusiasm, the North East Multi Media Campaign was also organised at Gangtok, Sikkim on 5th March 2023 in which all North-Eastern states participated. IEC officials from around the country also attended the show for the first time, making it more learning.

Other vital activities such as National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) III Launch Workshop, Programme Manager Training For State & District Level NACP Cadres, 1st Technical Resources Group (TRG) Meeting for Bridge and Other Vulnerable Population Under NACP and others have surely laid popular benchmarks towards a success that we envision to reach. For all these activities, I express my gratitude towards the leadership at NACO and all stakeholders for their contribution in providing the required support.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri
Deputy Director General
National AIDS Control Organisation

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (AAP) REVIEW MEETING

Formulation of the 'Annual Action Plan' (AAP), has always been a rigorous exercise under the National AIDS Control Programme. This exercise over the years has also unfolded as a learning methodology with equal participation from various divisions of each State AIDS Control Society. From January to February, four meetings were held regionally to formulate the Annual Action Plan for the Financial Year 2023-24 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. V. Hekali Zhimomi, Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO. These four meetings in four regions proved to be milestones in setting up the tune of the response of HIV/AIDS Programme as a whole. These meetings were held at Bhopal (3rd to 5th January) Chennai (10th to 12th January) Chandigarh (17th to 19th January) and Guwahati (2nd to



4th February) for Central & West, South, North and East & North East regions respectively. Funds were allocated as per the activities for better implementation of programmatic activities to achieve the targets.



Sl.No	Region	States who participated in the meeting
1	Central & West	Bihar, Chhattisgarh, DD & DNH, Goa, Gujarat (incl. Ahmedabad), Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mumbai DACS.
2	South	Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
3	North	Chandigarh, Delhi, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
4	East & NorthEast	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal.

4TH NORTH EAST MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGN

Multi-Media Campaign is a special package provided exclusively by National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI, only for the states of North East since 2009. Under this package special activities are conducted in all North Eastern States to promote awareness, compassion, education and support towards HIV and AIDS via sports and music. Every year NACO organises the 'North East Multi Media Campaign' (NE-MMC) in association with any of the North Eastern State AIDS Control Society, targeting the dynamic youth of the region for spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS via sports and music. This activity has helped to sensitise people over the years and acted as a torch bearer in the North East region. 'North East United Against HIV/AIDS' has been the tagline of this extravaganza.



The Grand Finale of 4th North East Multi Media Campaign (NEMMC) was held at Gangtok, Sikkim. The event was hosted by Sikkim State AIDS Control Society on 5th March 2023, in the auditorium of Manan Kendra Auditorium. The gala event was witnessed by more than 1,000 college students from Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing, Sikkim Professional University, Social Influencers, Stakeholders, Representatives from various NGOs and Government Officials. This year in the concluding mega final event of the Multi Media Campaign, Sikkim SACS organized special performance by Rap Artist and Singer from Nagaland Mr. Moko Koza. IEC officials from all State AIDS control societies were also invited to experience and understand the concept of the intervention in order to replicate it in their respective states.

The event was carried out in a participatory mode so that the ultimate importance is given to impart the message related to HIV awareness and not only to music. This year's representing bands were: All THE GRATES from Manipur, T. Vanlalmangahi from Mizoram, SOULSIDE from Arunachal Pradesh, SOCIETY SKULL from Sikkim, NEXT TO THE BLUE MOON from Nagaland, NECROSCOPE from Meghalaya, MEGHBALIKA from Tripura, SHRUTI MIRZA CHOIR GROUP from Assam.



Shri Tsewang Gyachho, SCS, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Sikkim proposed the Key Note Address for the event. Shri Arun Upreti, Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly attended the event as the Chief Guest. The guest of honor was Hon'ble K. N. Lepcha, HRDD & Law Minister graced the mega occasion by lighting the lamp. Mr. Y. T. Lepcha, Hon'ble Deputy Mayor of GMC, Mr. T. Gysachho Bhutia, MLA, Secretary Health & Family Welfare Zila Adhyaksha, HODs from various departments and NACO Officials witnessed the live event.



TEAM ASSAM WINS THE GRAND FINALE OF RED RIBBON QUIZ COMPETITION

National AIDS Control Organization conducted the Grand Finale of Red Ribbon Quiz Competition in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society on 12th January 2023 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Assam was the winner of this year's Red Ribbon Quiz Competition.

The Red Ribbon Quiz competition is usually held at the college level under the Red Ribbon Club Programme, an endeavor of the Government of India in collaboration with State AIDS Control Societies for spreading awareness on the prevention of diseases like HIV and Tuberculosis and promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation. RRCs provide a platform to college students for outreach and mobilizing activities for generating age-appropriate and culture-centric awareness, stigma reduction, and promoting voluntary blood donation. Some of the states conduct inter-college level quiz competitions after conducting the intra-college activities. Taking this activity to next level the National AIDS Control Organization organized Red Ribbon Quiz Competition with participation from four regions i.e., the state of Rajasthan representing the Northern Region, Union Territory of Puducherry representing the Southern Region, the state of Assam representing the Eastern Region, and the state of Uttar Pradesh representing the Western Region. These teams reached at National Level after winning, District, State and Regional Competitions. The Grand finale constituted of four rounds; 12 questions were asked in each round.

At present, there are more than 12,500 Red Ribbon Clubs operational in the country.

Highlights

- » The event was organized in hybrid mode and a live telecast on different social media platforms of Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society and National AIDS Control Programme was carried for wider coverage.
- » Team Assam from Eastern Region won the Grand Finale of Red Ribbon Quiz Competition.
- » Team Puducherry from Southern Region won the second position and Rajasthan from Northern Region bagged the third position
- » Event was witnessed by more than 1,500 students of Banaras Hindu University.



FOLLOW UP MEETING WITH PROJECT DIRECTORS FOR AAP FY 2022-23

A one-day meeting under the Chairpersonship of Ms. V. Hekali Zhimomi, A S & D G, NACO to review the financial expenditure of the State AIDS Control Societies as per the Annual Action Plan of FY 2022-23 and to have a detailed discussion upon the actionable decided during the Regional Review Meetings cum AAP formulation meetings (held in the

month of January and February, 2023) was conducted virtually on 14th March 2023.

The meeting was attended by the Project Directors, Additional Project Directors, Senior Officials of NACO and SACS.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the Budgeted Expenditure till 28th February 2023 and Expected Expenditure till 31st March 2023

- Review of actionable points on AAP Preparatory meeting with Project Directors SACS held on 26th November 2022 under the chairpersonship of AS & DG NACO

- Review of stock status of Anti-Retro Viral Drugs in the State

- Review of Pending mapping of the sub agencies in the State.

- Extensive screening campaigns to be undertaken in one of the High Burden District in the North Eastern States where there is gap in 1st 95, similar in line with that in the States Arunachal Pradesh.

The A S & D G concluded the meeting with some common actionable points for all states and also highlighted the importance of next financial year in terms of the annual targets to be met by each state and that by the National AIDS Control Programme.

DIALOGUE FOR NEWER INSIGHTS: INTERACTION OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH NACO LEADERSHIP

To understand the community's perspective under NACP Phase-V, a meeting was conducted under the Chairpersonship of Ms. V Hekali Zhimomi, AS &DG, NACO on 13th January 2023 at NACO office in Delhi. Representatives from FSW, MSM, H/TG, PWID, PLHIV including Youth and Women, participated in this interaction. Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director (NACO), Dr Shobini Rajan, CMO (SAG), NACO and Dr. Bhawani Singh, DD, NACO also participated in the meeting.

The meeting provided a platform for the community members to share their insights and perspective with NACO leadership for better understanding and sharing

of grassroots intelligence. There were in-depth discussions on the needs of the community along with the barriers faced in accessing HIV related services provided by NACP facilities. The meeting served as an opportunity for leadership and the community to familiarize with each other, increase mutual understanding for the community actors and systems to work in full partnership with equal responsibilities on both sides for national health and social welfare systems.



NATIONAL DATA ANALYSIS PLAN (NDAP) III LAUNCH WORKSHOP

Improved data collection procedures as well as data analysis capability and the need for evidence-based planning at all levels under the programme has provided NACO with an excellent opportunity to utilize the programme data to its full potential.

In this context, NACO initiated the National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) under NACP-IV. Under the NDAP, secondary data analysis is carried out by a team of data analysts and programme managers under NACP. The data analysts are mentored by Senior Public Health/Clinical Experts as well as by Senior NACO/SACS Officials. Till date two rounds of

NDAP, first round during 2014-15 and the second round during 2018-19, were successfully completed. Third round of NDAP was launched during the 'Capacity Building Workshop on Operational Research and launch of NDAP III' held from 2nd to 4th March 2023.

The objective of the workshop was to take input on draft concept notes of select topics for in-depth analysis from the experts. The workshop was attended by NACO/SACS officials, Senior experts and data analysts from ICMR Institutes, Medical Colleges and Public Health Institutions.



Two major documents were released during the workshop:

National Data Analysis Plan:
Round II Report

National Data Hub:
User Manual and
Standard Operating
Procedures

NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION

The fifth phase of the NACP continues to keep the promise to sustain the focus on adolescent and youth population to promote safe behaviour practices. Keeping this promise as vision, a two-day 'Youth Consultation' was organised by the IEC Division, NACO, held from 13th to 14th January 2023 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The objective of the consultation was to revamp the youth activities at the state level and increase comprehensive knowledge about HIV among youth. The consultation discussed issues related to engagement of youth from various schools, colleges and universities to come forward and participate in

activities related to HIV AIDS and also provide them the right information so that they can serve as the brand ambassadors for the cause. The goals and strategies that must be followed at the district, state, and regional levels for the revamping of youth programme were reflected upon in detail during the consultation.

The group work sessions of the consultation were carried by dividing all participants into four different groups. Groups created a plan of action to stage four national events, such as a marathon, reel-making competition, drama competition, and quiz competition in 2023 under youth component.



TRAINING ON PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT FOR SACS, DISHA & DAPCU OFFICIALS

Programme Management and Review Division with Capacity Building Hub conducted state level training on 'Programme Management for SACS and DISHA /DAPCU Officials' of various states in January, February and March 2023 under Project Sahyog (GF grant 2021-24) of HLPPT. The Programme

Management Training has been conducted in states, viz, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand in the month of January; Karnataka, Meghalaya and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in the month of February; Chandigarh and Haryana in the month of March.



ONE DAY SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME FOR DISTRICT AIDS CONTROL OFFICERS AT NITRD

PMR Division-NACO in coordination with Central TB Division (CTD) convened a one-day sensitisation programme for District AIDS Control Officers (DACO) on 18th February 2023. Objective of the programme was to orient DACO officials, facilities under the National AIDS Control Programme and coordination with National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme and monitoring of the programme at district level. Total 26 participants from different states participated in the training held at National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, Delhi.



1ST TECHNICAL RESOURCES GROUP (TRG) MEETING FOR BRIDGE AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATION UNDER NACP

The 1st Technical Resource Group Meeting for Bridge and other vulnerable population was convened on 6th March 2023 at NACO under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Shalini Bharat, Vice Chancellor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The meeting was

Co-Chaired by Mr. Dr. Niranjana Saggruti, Director, Population Council's office in India. The Meeting was attended by Technical Resource Group Members, NACO HODs and officers, Bi-lateral Partners, SACS officers, TI Implementing NGO partners and community representative.



The objective of the meeting was to provide an overview of the bridge population under NACP including operational definition and current gaps & challenges to reach out to bridge population; to discuss on findings from 'National workshop on Revamping Bridge Population Intervention under NACP-V'; on the Operational research on Truckers & Migrant Population and on the 'Terms of Reference' of **National Technical**

The full day meeting saw participation and in-depth discussions on the way forward in terms of interventions for bridge and other vulnerable population under NACP phase-V. A major recommendation emanated from the meeting was to constitute the 'National Technical Working Group' with the key objectives towards revision of the current operational guidelines, finalization of the operational definition of the bridge population, designing the service delivery packages and M&E frame work.



GENDER AFFIRMATION CARE FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS

In India the recent progress on acknowledging the rights of Gender minorities was made through the historic judgment of decriminalization of homosexuality by Honorable Supreme Court of India and Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. Aligning with the recommendations of Supreme Court, the National Human Rights Commission and other Welfare Ministries and NACO have initiated dialogue with respective divisions/ departments to include GAC

of the committee held on 21st December 2022, it was proposed to organize a sensitization workshop for the AIIMS staff. Taking this forward, a One-day Sensitization Workshop on Transgender Persons and Transgender Sensitive Health Care was conducted with the support of Association for Transgender Health in India (ATHI) Team and Experts & Leaders from the Community. A total 131 participants (52 in Batch I, 58 in Batch II and 21 in Batch III) have been sensitized in the workshop.



The objective of the Workshop was to provide the knowledge to the participants about the basic understanding of sex, sexuality and gender with reference to the Transgender Community and to sensitize the participants on the rights of the transgender persons to safe and dignified healthcare and Transgender friendly set-up. as well as to apprise the participants on the Transgender Health Care and their requirements.

(Gender Affirmation Care) in a tertiary health setting. As a pilot, Center of Excellence Gender Affirmation Care Clinic has been established in AIIMS, New Delhi.



In this line, a committee has been constituted by AIIMS that involved representatives from the CCM, Psychiatry, Burn & Plastic Surgery and Pediatrics division under the Chairpersonship of the Director, AIIMS to establish GAC Clinic. During the 1st meeting

SAMPOORNA SURAKSHA STRATEGY PHASE II

To present the facility assessment findings and draft implementation plan under the Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy, Phase II involving 11 States i.e Delhi, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam and West Bengal, NACO conducted a two-day **Workshop on 9th- 10th February 2023** at Mohali, Punjab.

The workshop was attended by more than 50 participants. Discussions were held to improve the proposals presented by the States and accordingly state specific implementation plan was proposed to be revised. All 11 states were requested to revise the proposal as suggested and submit to NACO by February - March 2023.

The SBCC material developed under the Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy, was also released formally during the workshop.



TRAINING VISIT OF POST GRADUATE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ARMED OFFICERS MEDICAL COLLEGE, PUNE TO NACO

As part of capacity building & cross learnings, orientation visit by medical students is held annually to facilitate training, knowledge exchange and to sensitise young doctors towards National AIDS Control



Programme and strategies adopted under the programme. This year's training visit of Post Graduate Medical Officers of Armed Officers Medical College, Pune was organised by National AIDS Control Organisation on 21st March 2023 at NACO, New Delhi. The orientation meeting with AFMC delegates was chaired by Dr. Shobini Rajan, CMO (SAG) & DDG, NACO. Trainee medical officers from AFMC Pune, nodal officers from various programme components in NACO attended the meeting. The training visit was also followed by an exposure visit to facilities under the National AIDS Control Programme, facilitated by the Delhi State AIDS Control So

ONE STOP CENTRES: A KEY INITIATIVE FOR KEY AND BRIDGE POPULATIONS

Under the guidance of NACO, the 'One Stop Centre (OSC) Intervention' has been started in April 2022. This project was being implemented to achieve the NACP V goal of ending AIDS among Key and vulnerable populations by 2030. Out of a target of 71 One Stop Centres across 25 states in India (34 for BP, 20 for TGs and 17 for PWIDs), 66 One Stop Centres (32 BP, 15 PWID and 19 TG) have been established.

OSCs are providing services like Disease Screening (HIV/Syphilis/STI/TB/Hepatitis B & C/NCD), treatment of Minor Illness/First Aid, Counselling, Commodity Supply, IEC, linkages with Social Protection Schemes, Legal Acts' awareness and disease confirmation & Treatment linkages with Stakeholders under National Programmes, Gender Affirmation services/hormone therapy, Harm Reduction services, Cancer screening, literacy & skill development through referrals and linkages.

Uniqueness of the OSC project:

- Provide a large spectrum of services, to new/uncovered Key and Bridge Populations, through a single window approach with extensive range of outreach activities.

- Drop-in-Centres: OSCs have 1 room for recreational activities of the community groups, mainly to act as drop-in-centres and provide services in a friendly environment with flexible timings as per the community needs.

- Provide services in a stigma free environment.



CAPACITY BUILDING-CUM-CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON HIV & STI BURDEN ESTIMATIONS

Periodic HIV burden estimations has been one of the key components of robust strategic information system under the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) of the Government of India. Building upon the rich experiences of the HIV burden estimations and in view of the focus on the STIs, STI burden estimation has been included as one of the key components of the integrated and enhanced surveillance and epidemiology framework of NACP Phase-V.

From 21st to 25th March 2023, NACO hosted a five-day long capacity building and consultation

workshop on estimating the burden of HIV and STIs. In addition to stalwarts like Dr. D. C. S. Reddy, Chair, NACO's Technical Working Group-Surveillance and Epidemiology) and Dr. Mohamed Shaukat, Chair, NACO's Technical Sub-Group, STI Surveillance, specialists from UNAIDS and WHO, Geneva and technical experts from various institutes were key resource persons during the workshop. Representatives from NACO, regional institutes of surveillance & epidemiology, and state AIDS control societies were also present during the meeting.



JAMMU HALF MARATHON – 2023

Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society, was one of the supporting partners in hosting the 3rd Edition of 'Jammu Half Marathon' that was organized by 'Radio Mirchi 98.3 FM and Jammu Athletes Club'. More than 1,200 runners participated in the Marathon that was held on 26th March 2023.



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Mehta Flagging-off 3rd edition of Jammu Half Marathon from University of Jammu.

The title of the marathon was 'Say no to drugs - Yes to Life' and 'Know Your HIV Status'. The event was divided into 3 categories i.e., Half Marathon (21.097) Km; The Great Jammu Run (10 Km) and FIT Fun Run (5 Km). Mirchi 98.3 Radio channel promoted JKACS messages on HIV/AIDS, Testing, OST and Toll Free Number 1097 etc. on a regular basis to put an impact on the listeners (especially youth) for around one month.



Chhattisgarh

State level workshop of Folk Troupes

Chhattisgarh State AIDS Control Society organized a 2-day workshop involving members of the select folk troupes from 13 districts of the state. The event had around 150 participants along with the nodal officers. Additional Project Director Dr. Khemraj Sonwani addressed the members



from folk troupes to identify hotspots and suitable timing for organizing folk programme in rural area in order to involve more people from the villages for awareness generation.



State Council on AIDS Meeting – Chhattisgarh SACS

Chhattisgarh SACS organized the State Council on AIDS (SCA) meeting on 3rd March 2023 under the Chairpersonship of Additional Chief Secretary, Mrs. Renu Pillai. Secretary of Health Services, Secretary of the Livelihood Mission, Under Secretary of the Labour Welfare Department and representatives of other departments were also present in the meeting. Project Director of CSACS

Shri. Bhim Singh briefed the members about the objective of the meeting. Additional Project Director Dr. Khemraj Sonwani presented the state scenario and progress of HIV programme in the State. Secretary Health Services Shri R. Prasanna instructed other departments to mainstream HIV positive people in notable government schemes.



2ND NAGALAND HARM REDUCTION CONFERENCE – NAGALAND SACS

The 2nd Nagaland Harm Reduction Conference was held on 28th-29th March 2023 at Kohima, Nagaland. The conference was organised by Nagaland State AIDS Control Society in collaboration with KRIPA Foundation and other organisations. It was necessitated as a result of the change in the drug and HIV trend and the new emerging developments brought about by the HIV/AIDS (P & C) Act 2017, NDPS Act 1985 (Amendment 2014), National Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Control Programme, TB/HIV (Eliminating TB 2025), and the introduction of the 95-95-95 targets under NACP-V, making it a great need for a supreme collective effort to address this epidemic from multi- sectoral approach.

The event was graced by the presence of the Guest of honour, Shri. Kekhito, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland. Dr. Melissa Nyendak, Director, Division of Global HIV/TB,

CDC India was present as the Special Guest. Dr. Akuo Sorhie, Project Director, NSACS delivered the key note address.

The 2nd Nagaland Harm Reduction Conference aimed to bring together people working in the field of harm reduction, policy makers and pressure groups to cross- learn the innovation and good practices of evidence-based intervention minimising the adverse health risks and harms associated with drug use in Nagaland and other parts of the region. The conference provided a platform for the professionals from the state and outside to share their expertise and experience, highlighting the success and challenges and have dialogues to strengthen the policies and programmes of public health, social security to ensure evidence-based response to prevent the menace and spread of HIV /AIDS.

AIDSCON 12 – THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ‘TOWARDS AIDS-FREE WORLD’

A Two-Day National Conference AIDSCON 12 was organized by Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society on 10th & 11th March 2023. The Conference was inaugurated by Sh. Yashpal Garg, IAS, Secretary Health, UT, Chandigarh along with Sh. Akhil Kumar IAS, Additional Secretary Health, UT, Chandigarh, Dr. Suman Singh, Director Health Services UT, Chandigarh, Dr. Bhawna Rao, Deputy Director, NACO, Govt. of India, Dr. Bitra George, Country Director, India FHI 360, Dr. S. Chitradevi, Project Director, Puducherry State AIDS Control Society and Dr. V. K. Nagpal, Project Director, Chandigarh SACS, Chandigarh.

The objective of the conference is to bring together experts from the medical and social fields and to discuss the latest developments in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

More than 350 participants attended this conference that included experts and programme people, members from development partners, civil society

organisations and community representatives. A total of 10 sessions on different important topics took place in which speakers from Global Organizations like FHI-360, IPPF, PATH, NARI, Plan India, Humsafar Trust, NCPI+, Indian Drug Users Forum, National Network of Transgender Persons, India HIV/AIDS Alliance, UNICEF presented their research work, learning and shared their experiences during AIDSCON-12.



BEST PRACTICE

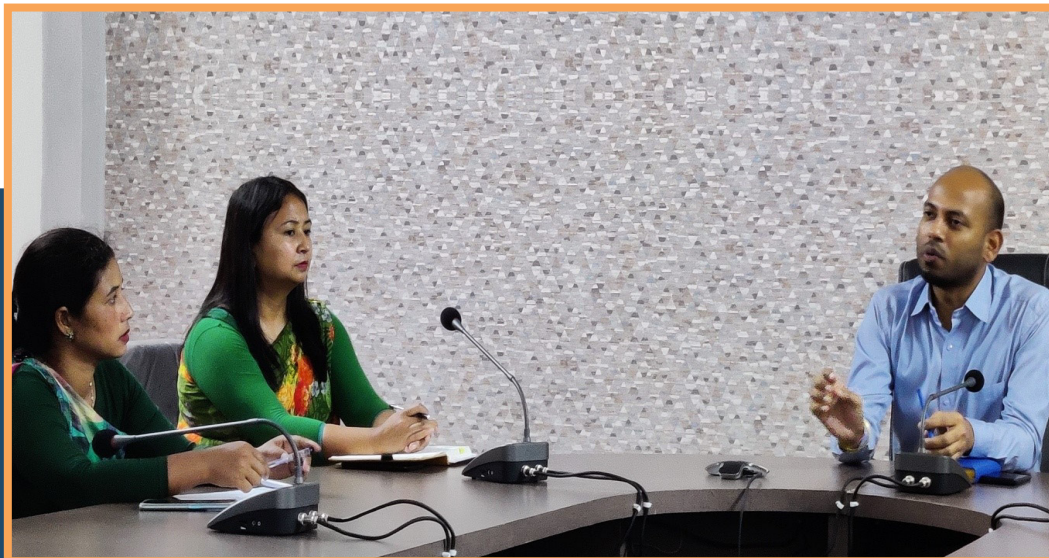
FINDING THE MISSING LINK— MEGHALAYA SACS

The 2021 estimates released by NACO confirms that the HIV epidemic is very high in Meghalaya (0.76%), after Mizoram (1.19%) and Nagaland (0.82%). Around 30% of people who are infected with HIV in North-Eastern states are injecting drug users.

Among the 12 districts in Meghalaya, three districts have shown high prevalence of HIV which is alarming as the number of PLHIV are increasing despite numerous efforts from the National AIDS Control Organisation and Meghalaya AIDS Control Society. Districts which are having high prevalence are: East Khasi Hills, The West Jaintia Hills and The East Jaintia Hills. Also, as per the estimates, at least over 8,000 PLHIV and many of them are yet to know their HIV status. Out of the total numbers of PLHIV in Meghalaya only 50% of them are availing ART services indicating

that there is a huge number of PLHIV who are Lost to Follow Up (LFU).

Finding the Missing Links is a project which brought back 241 LFUs in East Jaintia Hills District into ART. This was an initiative by the Meghalaya State Network for Positive People (MSNP+) supported by the office of Shri. Abhilash Baranwal, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District and funded by a Coal Company as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility project. The Office of the Deputy Commissioner took various initiatives to reach out to these people and put them back on treatment. The process was and the journey was not easy but has provided good results. The project started from the month of September 2022 and continued till January 2023.



Best Social Media Engagement

Nagaland SACS

The best Social Media Intervention in the January-March quarter has been brought out by the state of Nagaland by once again engaging the popular Social Media Influencer, Moko Koza.

As a professional Mr. Moko Koza happens to be a famous singer and rapper from the state of Nagaland. The singer also happens to be a YouTube sensation with more than 1.4 lakh followers from around the globe. Moko was initially reached out by the state for launching a song on the World AIDS Day observance on the theme of Equalize. The rapper came out with a song dedicated to the lives of people living with HIV and dealing with the aspect of self-stigma. The song soon became a hit by receiving more than 60,000 organic views. The song also became a torch bearer for states who aspire to engage their audience innovatively with the issues related to HIV.

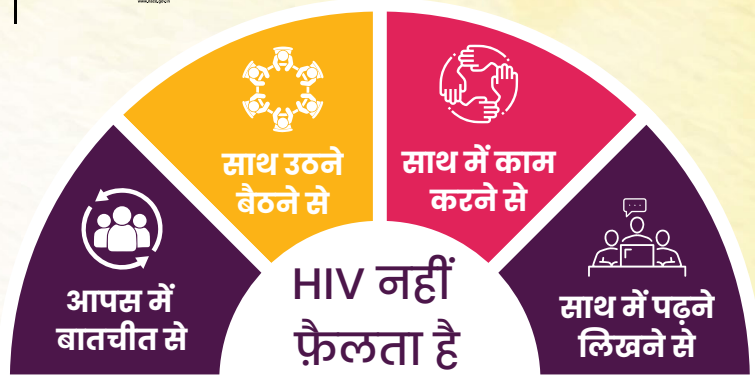
In the month of March, Moko Koza was once again reached out to be the Guest Performer at the Grand Finale of the 4th North East Multimedia Campaign held at Gangtok, Sikkim. To showcase the participation of

the renowned personalities and to align their voice with one of the biggest activities carried out by NACO in the field of HIV, dedicated especially to the North Eastern States, all NESACS in were asked to identify renowned and celebrated voices from their states and to upload video bytes around the Grand Finale of the 4th NEMMC.

Moko Koza not only shared his joy of being a participant in the cause of the National AIDS Control Programme but also physically participated in the NEMMC event and interacted with Youth and other members of the community and opinion makers. The state of Nagaland ensured both virtual and physical presence of the artist that helped in gaining the trust of the followers.

The innovative approach will surely help other states to be more experimenting with the Social Media interventions and hence will expand the reach among the general population and youth and popularise the dialogue around 'HIV'.





इसलिए HIV स्टेटस
के कारण भेदभाव...

#Abnah!
Chalega!

Additional Secretary & Director General: Smt. V. Hekali Zhimomi, Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Director: Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Editor: Dr. A.K. Puri, Deputy Director General (IEC, MS & CST) NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Editorial Panel: Dr. Shobini Rajan, Deputy Director General; Dr. U B Das, Deputy Director General; Dr. Bhawna Rao, Deputy Director; Ms. Nidhi Rawat, National Consultant (IEC & MS); Dr. Jyotika Cheema, Consultant (IEC & MS), NACO; Mr. Subhrajit Bhattacharjee, Consultant (IEC & MS), NACO and SHARE INDIA Team

NACO e-newsletter is the digital publication of National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

6th & 9th floor, Chanderlok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi – 110001 Tel No: 011-43509999, Fax: 011-23731746

Visit our website: www.naco.gov.in

Editing, Design & Production: The Visual House, Email: tvh@thevisualhouse.in

Your feedback is important to us. Please write to us at nacoindianews@gmail.com

 @NACOINDIA

 @NACOINDIA

 @NACO_INDIA

 @NACOINDIA





Download NACO AIDS APP

Supported By | 