

Analysis of prison data (2015) indicates that across 1,401 prisons, there were 4, 19,623 prison inmates including 2, 82,076 undertrials (67.2% of total inmates). Eighty eight percent of the undertrials were below the age of 50 years and would eventually return to the community outside the prison. There is very limited data on the prevalence of drug use or HIV risk behaviours among Indian prisoners. However, the available data highlights that prevalence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, Hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis in prison populations is 2 to 10 times higher than general population. Therefore, spread of HIV in prisons has significant public health implications as almost all prisoners return to their community thereby facilitating the spread of HIV infection to the general population.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri. Jagat Prakash Nadda on 6th February 2016 launched Prison HIV intervention as part of Project Sunrise at Imphal, Manipur (project Sunrise is supported by CDC through FHI360 for enhancing HIV prevention and care services for IDUs in North-Eastern States). The National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI (2017–2024) released on December 1, 2017 emphasized “TI Style” approach in Prison settings. NACO has been successfully implementing HIV / TB intervention in Prisons and other closed settings in India in a phased manner with the support of partner NGOs such as FHI360 (with CDC grant) in Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Assam; Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) in Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana; and SAATHII in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand; West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

Based on the experience of working with prison populations, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP, launched HIV/ TB intervention for women living in Closed Settings in Assam. This was the first State in the country to introduce HIV/ TB intervention for women living in Closed Settings which include Swadhar, Ujjawala and State-run Homes. While the implementation of phases I&II being stabilised in North-Eastern and Punjab regions, phase-III had witnessed a massive scale up across the country.

The National Consultation on HIV Intervention in Prisons and Other Correctional Institutions was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary and Director General, NACO in New Delhi on 6th December 2017. The consultation aimed to discuss ways to improve the ongoing prison HIV intervention in the country; identify strategies for expansion of similar services to women living in other closed settings (Swadhar Homes, Ujjawala Homes etc.); finalize operational guidelines for implementing HIV interventions in prisons and other closed settings; discuss the significance of setting up surveillance sites in prison settings; and share some best practices including a study conducted in Punjab prisons.



The report of the National Consultation held in New Delhi on 6th December 2017 was released during the inter-divisional meeting (NACO and RNTCP) held under the chairmanship of AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP on 26th April 2018. The report is available at (LINK [*****](#))