



National AIDS Control Organisation
India's Voice against AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
www.naco.gov.in

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From the Desk of Patron



It gives me great pleasure to present this edition of NACO News. The vision of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) is 'Paving the way for an AIDS free India' through 'attaining universal coverage of HIV prevention, treatment to care continuum of services that are effective, inclusive, equitable and adapted to needs'. Having already succeeded the target of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015 (over 50% reductions in annual new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths), NACO is now building on lessons learnt to redefine the national approach to reach 'the last mile' – in order to ensure a more effective, sustained and comprehensive coverage of HIV/AIDS response related services.

I am happy to share that National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV/STI, 2017-24 was launched on World AIDS Day. The implementation of this seven year strategic plan will lead in reaching the global 90-90-90 targets and Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis by 2020.

In order to bring Lost to Follow Up (LFUs) back under the ambit of ART services, the Government has launched "Mission Sampark". Under which, National Data Cleaning drive to identify the duplicates within the system, silent transfer outs between states and GIS mapping to intensify the efforts has been done and Contact Drive has been initiated for those who know their HIV status but are not on ART.

For expanding the prevention services, HIV/AIDS intervention programme has been launched for people living in correctional Homes in Guwahati in partnerships with law enforcement agencies, health and NGOs. A National consultation was also organized for deliberating ways and means to improve the ongoing prison HIV intervention in the country and to identifying strategies for expanding similar services to Women living in other closed settings (Swadhar Homes, Ujjawala Homes).

I hope the above mentioned initiatives will show good results to meet out set targets.

With these words I wish you all best luck!



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar
Additional Secretary (Health) and Director General
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

From the Desk of Joint Secretary



Dear Readers,

Once again, like previous edition of NACO News, this edition will also definitely showcase all the activities undertaken by NACO & States during the time period of October-December, 2017.

Recently, the Parliament passed the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017. HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 is a culmination of efforts of various stakeholders over more than a decade. For the HIV/AIDS Act, 2017 to come into force, Rules and Guidelines are being formulated. NACO in this regard, has constituted a 'Committee of Experts' under the chairmanship of Mr J.V.R Prasada Rao, Ex-Secretary to Government of India. The committee after wide regional consultations (covering 28 states and 7 UTS/NCT) and varied sub-committee meetings and sub-divisional meetings; taking inputs from NACO, SACS, development partners, civil society members, community organizations, positive networks, industries, institution and other ministries submitted the final Rules and Guidelines to NACO.

Like every year, this year also NACO organized a mega event in Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) stadium in Delhi. NACO has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labour & Employment on 26th December, 2017 and this partnership with Ministry of Labour & Employment and NACO is 16th MoU in the series. This partnership aims to reach out large number of workers engaged in formal and informal sectors on HIV/AIDS prevention through Department of Labour & Employment and other various institutions

A Northern region review meeting covering Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarkhand & Uttar Pradesh was held in Lucknow from 22nd to 24th November, 2017 to formalize strategy to achieve EMTCT of HIV & Syphilis by 2020 ;achieve global targets of 90-90-90; reduce new HIV infections by 75% (baseline 2010) & eliminate HIV related stigma & discrimination.

Please feel free to share your valuable thoughts & feedback for the betterment of the edition.

I wish all readers Good Luck !

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

From the Desk of Editor



Year 2017- A Glorious Year

2017 has been an exceptionally glorious year in the two and a half decade history of NACP. Why I say it exceptional is because one of the long pending issues like HIV/AIDS (Prevention & Control) Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament and Presidential Assent was granted on 21st April, 2017.

Besides helping PLHIV immensely, this Act will go a long way in addressing the issue of Stigma and Discrimination and implementing other protective measures for those involved in the care of PLHIV including health care providers.

It is historical and all of us have a responsibility to see to it that the Rules are framed in such a manner that implementation of the enacted law is strengthened on ground.

Another historic achievement of the year was implementation of "Test & Treat" policy. So now anyone infected with HIV will start getting treatment irrespective of CD4 count. This has brought nearly 1.5 lakh more patients after April 2017 into the system for treatment.

The year has been particularly also important also due to expansion of services to PLHIV by finalisation and procurement of 200 point of care machines for CD4 testing to increase the access for PLHIV and especially finalization of viral load testing as routine monitoring for early detection of 1st line treatment failure. For this PPP contract to Metropolis Health Care Ltd has been awarded and additionally procurement of 80 viral load machines has also been finalised with the award of contract to Abbott.

Now third 90:90:90 strategy will also get going from early Feb 2018 in a phased manner and in a span of 1-2 years all those who are on ART will be tested for VL once a year. This will greatly improve adherence of PLHIV on ART and early detection of failure.

Many other significant achievements of the year include:

- » Launch of "Mission Sampark" to bring back LFUs in the system
- » Increase in prison interventions
- » Development of new communication materials for increasing Voluntary Blood Donation
- » Release of the latest HIV sentinel Surveillance data (2016-17)
- » New MoUs signed with the Ministry of Labour & Employment and Department of Internal Security, Ministry of Home Affairs
- » Finalisation of Next phase of OVC project
- » Regional review meetings for NE, West & North in the presence of AS and JS, NACO. And very importantly launch of National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2017-2024 on World AIDS Day to guide NACO for next seven years.

So the year has been simply grand and we hope that 2018 will be greater with newer achievements to get to the goal of elimination of AIDS by 2030. Let us remember that though a lot has been done, yet a lot still needs to be done.

Jai Hind!

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

COVER STORY



Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS Health & Family Welfare addressing gathering during event

World AIDS Day: My Health, My Right

World AIDS Day (WAD) is observed on 1st December every year across the globe. The observance of WAD is the commitment of the Government to strengthen HIV/AIDS response and providing care & treatment to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. The day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and to commemorate people who have died from AIDS related illness. On WAD, awareness activities are conducted at ground root level by the states involving communities, NGOs, youth etc. WAD is important because it reminds the people and governments that HIV has not gone away-there is still a vital

need to create awareness, fight prejudice and educate people. Looking back into the history, WAD was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.

Like every year, this year also, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), organised a mega event in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) in Delhi. The event was attended by more than 2500 people from civil society organisations, community members, students from schools and colleges, volunteers from NYKS, High Risk Groups (HRGs), PLHIV representatives from NGOs, Development Partners and officials from different government departments.

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS, Health & Family Welfare,

Government of India was Chief Guest during the event. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Coordinator, UNAIDS, Dr. Henk Bakedam, WHO Representative to India, Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health) & Director General, NACO and Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO graced the occasion.

In the beginning of the event, an exhibition showcasing the services associated with National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) was inaugurated by Smt. Anupriya Patel. A short film titled "Journey of NACO" on the successful completion of 25 years of NACO was screened.



Shri Pradip Kumar sharing experience with the audience

“ Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health) & Director General , NACO

I would like to reiterate that the massive progress in the programme would not be possible without the active participation and involvement of various community members and the representatives. I take this opportunity to thank all of them.



“ Shri Pradip Kumar who won the title of Mr. Manipur, 2007 in the 60 kg category

When I started taking ART, that time it was not available free. Every month my family had to arrange Rs.35,000. I am thankful to the Government of India for initiating free ART, programme for everyone in the country.



“ Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Coordinator, UNAIDS

I have seen 25 years of NACO, full of success, full of achievements. NACO has brought us from darkness to light. NACO has taken from insecurity to security.



“ Dr. Henk Bakedam, WHO Representative to India

Everybody counts. Everybody matters. Every body needs to be aware how you prevent yourself from contracting AIDS.



“ Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare

I salute all professionals, researchers, scientists who have dedicated life for the betterment of the people infected with HIV. I wish to assure all of you that we at the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare stand committed to provide any support from our end.



“ Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO

No thank will be over in the function like this, if I don't thank our community partners, civil society groups, People Living with HIV around whom our programme revolves.



Music and dance gives soul to the universe and wings to the mind which is beyond imagination. To add beauty to the occasion, a magnificent dance was performed by the Transgender Community “Space Troupe” and “Dancing Queen”.



In the series of launches on WAD, two key initiatives were launched by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare:

- (i) National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and STI, 2017-2024.
- (ii) Short clip showcasing Mission Sampark

E-Launches

- » NACO Monographs, having set 5 booklets on different services
- » National Blood Transfusion Website and new set of awareness material
- » In-Country Data Verification in 6 states of Phase 1 and Data Validation of E-MTCT of HIV and Syphilis

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India



We have been able to enact HIV AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2017 which is a landmark people centric and progressive legislation and brings in legal sanction to prevent all forms of discrimination faced by people living with HIV at various settings.

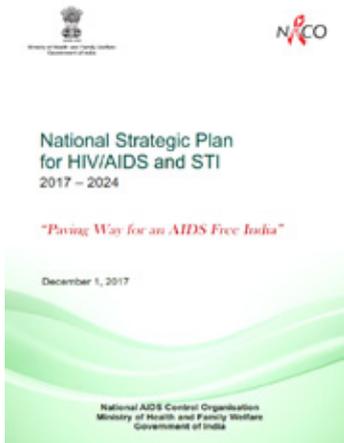


With memories of colourful events, like always, WAD has always been a turning point in rejuvenating energy to fight and to address stigma & discrimination faced by PLHIV.

Ms. Neha Pandey
IEC & MS, NACO

PROGRAMMES

National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI 2017- 2024



National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV/AIDS and STI 2017-2024 was launched by Smt. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, on 1st December 2017 (World AIDS Day). This seven-year National Strategic

Plan will herald the country to the dream of 'Ending of AIDS' by 2030 .

The vision of NACO is that of 'Paving the way for an AIDS Free India' through 'attaining universal coverage of HIV prevention, treatment to care continuum of services that are effective, inclusive, equitable and adapted to needs'. The goals remain those of the 'Three Zeros' - i.e. zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination, which form the basis of this strategic plan. The implementation of this seven year strategic plan will lead in reaching the global 90-90-90 targets and

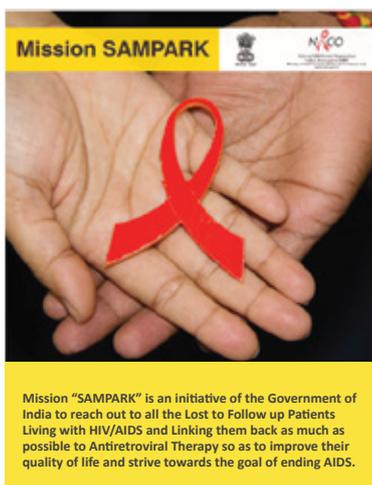
elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis by 2020.

Further by 2024, NSP will lead to reducing new HIV infections to a level of less than 20,000 new infections every year, where it ceases to be a public health threat. The National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and STI (2017-24) provides a solid framework to tailor the response to local needs based on context-specific evidence to realise an AIDS free India.

Let us all take a pledge today to implement this NSP and work towards eliminating stigma and discrimination and ensuring that no child is born with HIV in this country.

Dr. Asha Hegde, BSD, NACO
Mr. Rajiv Sindhu, BSD, NACO

Mission Sampark



The Government of India is committed to working towards providing universal access to comprehensive, equitable,

stigma free, quality care support and treatment services to all the people living with HIV. Provision of life saving Antiretroviral drugs, free of cost with public health approach, is one of the major pillars response to AIDS. The free ART services have transformed a disease once considered to be a death sentence to now a chronic manageable disease. A landmark decision was taken by the Government to launch Test and Treat Policy, under which all PLHIV are offered ART irrespective of CD4 count, clinical stage, age or population. The policy is a turning point in

the country's response to HIV. After the roll-out of the policy in April-2017, about 1.73 lakh PLHIV have been initiated on ART.

Since ART is not really a cure, but a lifelong treatment – it is imperative that once initiated, the patients need to take the treatment throughout their lives and adhere to strict norms. But due to many compounding factors, some individuals who initiated their treatment with the ART centres stop coming back and discontinue therapy –these are termed as Lost to Follow Up (LFU) and some even after counselling are not willing

to take ART due to feeling of “well-being” or fear of “side effects”. This poses a significant challenge to the national programme. Under Mission Sampark, National Data Cleaning is going on to identify the duplicates within the system, silent transfer outs between the

states and GIS mapping to intensify the efforts. Based on this a clear road map will be prepared to reach out to the people “who know their positive status” but are “not on ART”. Second step would be Contact Drive. LFUs will be offered on site counselling services,

linkages to existing social beneficiary schemes and any medical service at ART centre. With this endeavour, the government strives to bring all PLHIV under ART services and ensure adherence for achieving the set goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

Dr. Manish Bamrotiya
CST, NACO

Launch of HIV Interventions in Correctional Institutions in Assam



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO, launched HIV/AIDS intervention programme for women living in correctional homes at a function held in State Home for Women, Guwahati on 2nd November 2017 in the presence of Shri. SK Sinha, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam; Smt. Varnali Deka, Addl. Secretary, H&FW, Director, AYUSH & Project Director Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS) and Shri Nabakumar Tamuli, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Assam. This is the first State in the country to introduce HIV/AIDS intervention programme for women living in correctional homes. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and exchanged between ASACS and the Social

Welfare Department, according to which the intervention programme would be planned and carried out in all the correctional homes for women in the State. While addressing the function, Shri Sanjeeva Kumar emphasised that treatment and care for those living with HIV/AIDS inside the correctional homes should be comparable to the treatment and care available for the general population. He also mentioned that the MoU assumes significance in addressing the issues of women and rehabilitating and empowering them with skills and employment. Shri SK Sinha, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Assam highlighted that there was a need for a common platform for various agencies for a concerted fight against HIV.



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO inaugurated Mobile ICTC facility for inmates and also launched health camp through facility available with National Health Mission

The launch function was attended by: Dr. Bitra George, Country Director, FHI360; senior officials from Directorate of Social Welfare, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam; Technical Specialists, Regional DAPCU Coordinator, Regional CST coordinator, Programme Officers, Capacity Building Specialist, and other senior officers from FHI360/NETSU, officials from Assam SACS and superintendents from correctional institutions supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and more than 100 inmates from the State Home for Women.

Mr. Abraham Lincoln,
Technical Expert-Harm Reduction,
NACO

National Consultation on HIV Intervention in Prisons & Other Correctional Institutions

A National Consultation on HIV Intervention in Prisons and other closed settings was held under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO in New Delhi on 6th December 2017. The Consultation was aimed at deliberating ways and means to improve the ongoing prison HIV interventions in the country, identifying strategies for expanding similar services to women living in other closed settings (Swadhar Homes, Ujjawala Homes), finalising the operational guidelines developed for implementing HIV intervention in prisons and other closed settings, discussing the significance of setting up surveillance sites in prison settings, and sharing some of the best practices including the study conducted in Punjab prisons. Shri

Sanjeeva Kumar emphasised that NACO is taking cognisance of key recommendations made by international agencies to ensure equal access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons. He said NACO in consultation with UNAIDS, WHO, UNODC and other key stakeholders had identified eligible interventions from the comprehensive package recommended by the UN agencies for implementing HIV intervention in prisons and other closed settings. He added that NACO has been rapidly scaling up HIV intervention in prisons across the country which is currently catering to around 1,20,000 prison population through more than 90 prison sites across 14 States.

Shri Ajay Kashyap, Director General of Police (Prisons),

Tihar Prison, shared that there are 16 central prisons situated in Delhi which come under the same administration. He stated that Tihar is one of the very few Jails in South Asia region to introduce a comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment services for prison population. Dr. Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative-India, said that globally, HIV, TB and hepatitis C and B infections among prison inmates have been reported much higher than the general population due to various factors. Dr. S.Venkatesh, Deputy Director General, National AIDS Control Organisation said that the impact made over the last twelve months of implementation strongly recommends rapid scale-up of HIV intervention in prison settings across the country



Dr. Bhawani Singh Kushwaha,
Deputy Director-TI
Ms. Kim Hauzel,
Technical Officer-IDU

MoU between Ministry of Labour & Employment and NACO



Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO with Shri Manish Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment

NACO has initiated formalizing partnership with key Ministries of Govt. of India in order to strengthen collaborative approach for vulnerability reduction, integration of services and social protection for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and most at risk populations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National AIDS Control Organisation and the Ministry of Labour & Employment on 26th December, 2017 in NACO. The MoU was signed by Shri Manish Gupta, Joint Secretary on behalf of Ministry of Labour & Employment and Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary on behalf of National AIDS Control Organisation. This partnership with Ministry of Labour & Employment and NACO is 16th MoU in this series.

This partnership aims at:

- » Reaching out to the large number of working population both in organised and unorganised sectors with information on STI/HIV/AIDS and related services, particularly HIV testing under the VCT@WORK and treatment of workers living with HIV.
- » Providing package of Integrated Counseling and Testing Centre (ICTC) / Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)/HIV services through integration in existing health infrastructure.
- » Mobilisation of various key stakeholders like Employer Organisations, trade unions, and industries of public and private sector for HIV/AIDS intervention as suggested in National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work adopted by MOLE. Ministry of Labour & Employment is one of the key Ministries partnering with NACO. A Joint Working Group (JWG) will be constituted comprising senior officials from both the Ministries in order to implement activities as laid down in the signed MoU.

The partnership with the Ministry of Labour & Employment is important in order to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention for workers engaged in the formal and informal sectors through meaningful engagement of various organisations and institutions at national as well as state level.

Mr. Ashish Verma
IEC & MS, NACO

State-level workshop on strengthening partnerships between Law Enforcement, Health and Civil Society Organisations in the context of HIV/AIDS in Assam



A state-level sensitisation workshop to strengthen the partnerships between law enforcement agencies, health and civil Society Organisations in the context of HIV/AIDS was organised under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO on 3rd November 2017 in Guwahati. Assam SACS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prison Headquarters under Home Department, Government of Assam in the presence of AS &

DG, NACO. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, NACO emphasized on dealing with the people from marginalised groups whose problems are related to their behaviour. He highlighted that the imprisonment has a little impact upon IDUs, Female Sex Workers and Men having Sex with Men. He also added that Section 71 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2014 legitimized opioid substitution therapy, and

highlighted the provisions that exist for the addicts to volunteer for treatment under section 64A.

On his visit to Guwahati Central Jail, Shri Sanjeeva Kumar advised IG Prisons to depute all medical and paramedical staff to get trained on various aspects of HIV prevention and treatment services including OST service so as to scale up the interventions to all the priority prisons in Assam.

Ms. Sophia Khumukcham,
Program Officer-IDU

NACP Regional Review Meeting - Northern Zone



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO along with the dignitaries during the Review Meeting

The third Regional Review Meeting of National AIDS

Control Programme covering Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarkhand and Uttar Pradesh was held in Lucknow from 22nd to 24th November, 2017. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO. Shri Prashant Trivedi, Principal Secretary, Health, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Shri. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, Shri Pankaj Kumar, MD, NHM cum Project Director UPSACS and Shri. B. Srinivasan, Additional Secretary, Health cum Project

Director PSACS, along with the officials from NACO and SACS, representatives from professional associations, Community and Development Partners attended the meeting. The major objectives of the meeting were to review performance of all components: Basic

Services including Counselling, Testing, HIV-TB, EMTCT of HIV & Syphilis and STI/RTI; Research; Targeted Intervention; Monitoring & Evaluation; Care, Support & Treatment; IEC & Mainstreaming; Lab Services; Blood Bank; Human Resources; Admin & Finance

under the NACP for 2016-17 & 2017-18 and to discuss the strategy to achieve EMTCT of HIV & Syphilis by 2020, achieve global targets of 90-90-90, reduce new HIV infections by 75% (baseline 2010) & eliminate HIV related stigma & discrimination

Highlights of the Meeting:

- » To review Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) in five states (Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam & Uttar Pradesh)
- » Release of Epidemiological Fact-sheet: Volume III on Northern States

Dr. Asha Hegde, BSD, NACO
Mr. Rajiv Sindhu, BSD, NACO

National workshop & conference for Blood Donor Motivation Organisations-“BLODCON”



Participants in the “BLODCON 2017” - National Workshop & Conference for Blood Donor Motivation Organisations

National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC), NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has mandated to promote voluntary blood donation to make blood accessible and available through well-coordinated Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) in the country. In this context, NBTC in association with Federation of Blood Donors Organization (FIBDO), West Bengal conducted “BLODCON 2017” -

National Workshop & Conference for Blood Donor Motivation Organisations at Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab from 10th to 12th November, 2017. About 150 participants attended the workshop. Shri Rana K P Singh, Hon’ble speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha along with Dr. Shobini Rajan, Director – NBTC, Shri Som Parkash, former Chief Parliamentary Secretary, MLA Phagwara, Sh. Angad Singh, MLA, Nawanshahr, Sh. Ramesh

Mittal, Lovely Group Chairman, Sh. KP Rajgopalan, FIBDO President, Mr. Biswaroop Biswas, National Secretary, Sh. H.R. Singla, LPU Director General and Mr. Vitin Puri, President, HWBD Club graced the occasion. A rally – “Walk for Blood” was organized within the campus to sensitize and motivate the students about the importance of Blood Donation.

Launch of National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) official website



www.nbtc.naco.gov.in

An official website of NBTC was launched on the occasion of World AIDS Day on 1st December 2017 by Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare. The NBTC

website is essential for ensuring networked, centrally coordinated, efficient and self-reliant BTS system in the country. NBTC website is envisaged to be one stop shop for all information pertaining to

the blood bank management including promotion of voluntary blood donation, access to latest guidelines, policy updates and has website links to other relevant websites and resources at all levels.

Key features of the NBTC website:

- » Centralized database and key person contact details
- » Grievances / feedback
- » Blood components stock details
- » Centralized information on registry for national voluntary blood donors and Voluntary Blood Donation (VBD) Organisations / Associations.
- » Apex & training centres services
- » Donor engagement & scheduling of VBD Camps
- » Camp Calendar
- » Links to SBTC & SACS, Haemovigilance, NOTTO websites etc.

Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO
Mr. Jolly J Lazarus (VBD), NACO

Meeting of Joint Working Group of Department of Internal Security, MHA and NACO



Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (IEC & LS) addressing the members of the Joint Working Group as the chairman of the Group

To implement activities as laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Department of Internal Security, MHA and National AIDS Control

Organization (NACO), a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Director General, NACO. The first meeting of JWG was held

on 6th October, 2017 in NACO which was attended by senior officials from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), National Security Guard (NSG), Assam Rifles (AR) and NACO.

The objective of the partnership between NACO and MHA:

- » To reach out to a large number of Central Armed Police Forces and provide right information on prevention and control of STI/HIV/AIDS
- » To facilitate building of humane perspective and appropriate skills among police forces to reduce stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and MARPs
- » To integrate STI/ HIV/AIDS services in the medical and health services under the control of Department of Internal Security and issuance of directives to include the issue of HIV/AIDS in the major trainings

The discussions focussed on reaching out to a large number of armed forces with the

awareness messages on HIV/AIDS prevention, linkages with services and activities to

strengthen national response to HIV through effective multisectoral response.

Major action points discussed were as follow:

- » Issuance of advisories / directives to prioritise activities for actual implementation as laid down in the MoU signed between the Department of Internal Security and NACO to all units of CAPFs by MHA.
- » Training of medical officers / health service providers and other staff of CAPFs
- » Share national guidelines, treatment protocols like 'Test & Treat', training modules, HIV/AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act 2017 etc.
- » Share number of people aware and link with services.
- » Engagement of welfare associations wives welfare association, ex-servicemen, constables for awareness generation drives. MHA may provide a list of welfare associations for better coordination with SACS and for Utilisation of available services related to mobile application including 'NACO AIDS App', 'National AIDS Helpline 1097'.

Mr. Ashish Verma,
IEC & MS, NACO

STATES

Meghalaya

Two Day Sensitisation cum Training Workshop for Peer Educators on Adolescent Education Programme (AEP)



The AIDS Control programme in India reaches out to youth through specially developed Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) focusing primarily on prevention through awareness building. The two-day Sensitisation cum Training Workshop for Peer Educators on AEP was

organised by the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society with the technical support from the Directorate of Education Research and Training (DERT) and Directorate of School Elementary Literacy (DSEL), Meghalaya at Regional Training Centre, H & FW, Govt. of Meghalaya Shillong on the 21st

and 22nd September, 2017. The key focus area of the training was to define the role of Peer Educators in AEP.

The workshop had a series of presentations which included a presentation on the Role of Peer Educators in AEP by Larina Nongpiur (AD Youth), on Ill Effects of Drugs & Myths & Misconception by Arbor Thangkhiew (Representative from VHAM), on Role of a Counsellor and the Basic services by Mitcy Nongrum (ICTC Counsellor) and on Life Skills by Lalnunmawii Pachuau (RPM). The presentations were followed by a group work on the case studies and in-depth insight of body mapping depicting physical and biological changes in a human

W. Alexander Kharkongor
AD (IEC), Meghalaya SACS

Tamil Nadu

The Children's Day Celebration



A child welcoming Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar M.B.B.S., Honorable Health & Family Welfare Minister

Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) organised a special event at Birla Planetarium, Chennai with 180 Children from NGOs and CBOs providing care and support services. The objective was to enhance in-built skills and capacities of the Children Living with HIV (CLHIV). Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, B.L., Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired the programme along

with Mr. Karthik Sivakumar, film actor as the Chief Guest. Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., Principal

Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department presided over the function and Dr. K.

Senthil Raj, I.A.S. was the Guest of Honor.



Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar M.B.B.S., Honorable Health & Family Welfare Minister along with the other dignitaries

Impact & Outcome of the event

- » To promote and encourage the CLHIVs in bringing out their capabilities.
- » To stand and share the platform along with the other children to empower social gathering among them.
- » To provide moral support and motivation for behavioural change among the parents/peers of CLHIVs to invest in the quality education for their children with no self stigma.

Straight from the heart of CLHIVs –:

“I am so happy to be part of this programme and it was a privilege to meet with one of the popular actors and above all, I was able to get new friends here” - Selvi & Janani

“We had never participated in such informative programmes before; we enjoyed and learnt a lot about science and social issues. And the best was the books which we received, it helps us to broaden our knowledge.” -Gopalakrishnan & Vijay

Training of Trainers for the Faculties of National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)



Mr. S. Sankara Narayanan, Dy. Registrar (Administration), NIEPMD along with the trainees

In order to educate and create awareness about the issues related to HIV/AIDS and to incorporate HIV in the curriculum, a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme was conducted on 25th October, 2017 in NIEPMD, Muttukadu for 10 faculty members. During his welcome address, Mr. S. Sankara Narayanan, Dy. Registrar (Administration) requested the faculties to involve in the ToT programme and spread right message on HIV/AIDS to the students. The sessions included HIV/AIDS scenario in India and National Response, Basics of HIV/AIDS, Prevention of HIV, Understanding MARPS and Gender Dimension of HIV, Positive Living and Stigma and Discrimination against PLHIV, MARPs and how to Contribute in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Key outcome of the Training

- » To incorporate HIV in the curriculum
- » To start credit based HIV certificate programme
- » To upload HIV information in NIEPMD website
- » To provide training on HIV to the administrative staff of NIEPMD

R. Leelakrishnan
Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society

Punjab

Jan Jagrukta Muhim

Punjab SACS adopted a unique mid-media campaign named "HIV/AIDS Jan Jagrukta Muhim" to create awareness about HIV/AIDS/STI/ART/OST/VBD in rural and semi-urban areas and

to achieve the goal of 90:90:90 by 2020. About 15 lakh people were approached through the Muhim. The first phase was conducted from 1st October to 29th November, 2017 and the

second phase was conducted from 1st December 2017 to 29th January, 2018 covering 1000 villages having >3000 population urban/village/semi urban slum.



Ms. Anjali Bhawara, IAS, Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare, Punjab flagging off HIV/AIDS Jan-Jagrukta Muhim in the presence of Shri B. Srinivasan, IAS, Project Director, PSACS cum Additional Secretary, Health & Family Welfare along with Dr. Manpreet Chhatwal, Additional Project Director, PSACS

The IEC Vans wrapped with thematic information on prevention, detection and treatment services rotated in the allocated districts for an identified period of time. As per the micro plan, 1000 villages were identified by the respective Civil Surgeons. At the District level, TB Officers were designated as Nodal Officers and at the State level IEC Officers and other Programme Officers were designated as nodal officers to reach out to the untouched population.

Facts about the Jan Jagurata Muhim

- » A total of 14,051 villagers were counseled and out of them 13,852 villagers were tested for HIV
- » A total of 34 people were found with HIV reactivity in their first test results. These detected people were linked with the nearest stand alone ICTCs of respective districts for confirmed results and further for linkages with ART Centres if found positive with three test results.
- » Condom counseling conducted with 16,826 people.
- » A total of 21,229 people gathered during 120 folk performances carried out in the 1st round of Muhim. The second phase of the Muhim is in progress which will be covering 10 districts with 500 villages.

Punjab SACS

Nagaland

Hornbill Festival –“Festival of Festivals”



Hornbill Festival is one of the most cherished festivals of Nagaland. The festival is named after Hornbill, one of the most venerated bird species in the state whose importance is reflected in a number of tribal cultural expressions, songs and dances. Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS) had

organized Hornbill Festival from 1st December to 10th December, 2017. Colourful and vibrant stalls were set up in Kisama, Kohima where the

locals participated with full zeal and enthusiasm. A mobile ICTC was stationed at the festival venue from 1st December to 10th December,

2017 where a total of 53 persons came forward for voluntary counseling and HIV Testing.

Multimedia Campaign- “Life Now, Yes Life, No HIV”

NSACS organised a Multimedia Campaign, at ‘The Heritage’ in Kohima on 1st December, 2017. Altogether, 12 bands participated in the state level

band competition which was held under the theme ‘Life Now, Yes Life, No HIV.’ Shri N. Ramakrishnan, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary

for Health & Family Welfare graced the occasion. He urged the youth to spread awareness and education on HIV and AIDS.



The band since 90’s from Dimapur was declared winner of the State level band

competition. Pay the Rent from Kohima and Trance Effect from Dimapur were adjudged the

first runner up and second runner up respectively.

Mumbai

Anand Mela – A Carnival for Children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLHA)



Mr. Mark Green, USAID Administrator addressing the participants

A unique initiative taken by Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society (MDACS) to provide an opportunity for Children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLHA) to be together, ‘Anand Mela’ was organized in Acworth Complex, Kidwai Marg, Wadala West, Mumbai. Mr. Mark Green, USAID Administrator graced the event as the chief guest. He said that the United States reaffirms the commitment to ending HIV/AIDS. He also appreciated the progress made by India in controlling HIV/AIDS. The institutes and partners like Pediatric Centre of Excellence & telemedicine, IOCL, Mahajan Foundation etc were facilitated on the occasion for their exemplary contribution in the field of HIV/AIDS.



Children playing spinning wheel in the carnival

The first carnival was arranged by MDACS in 2016 in collaboration with Museum on Wheels, IOCL, Amul Milk, KHPT and Vihan. This year also, Mahajan Foundation extended their support by arranging astonishing rides and fun games with music to entertain children. Wockhardt Foundation, Bank of Baroda also supported the event. A total of 436 CLHAs along with their parents participated actively in the event.

Ms. Dnyaneshwari Sonawane
IEC & MS, MDACS

Dr. Shrikala Acharya
Addl. Project Director, MDACS

EVENTS

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is celebrated in India on 1st of October every year to share the need and importance of blood in the life of an individual. NACO celebrated the day by organising a Blood Donation Camp on 4th October 2017 at Chanderlok Building, New Delhi. About 45 donors turned up for donation.



Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO donating blood during the camp

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day (WAD) is observed on 1st December every year across the globe. On WAD, awareness activities are implemented at the ground level by the states by involving

communities, NGOs, youth etc. The activities include comprising of painting competitions, dance competitions, collage-making competitions, bike rally,

walk in, rangoli competitions, balloon release, art competition, street plays, blood donation camps, candle marches and music concerts.

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Maharashtra



IEC material on HIV/AIDS awareness inaugurated by the Hon'ble Health Minister of Maharashtra along with the other dignitaries

Dr. Deepak Sawant, Hon'ble Health Minister of Maharashtra in the presence of Dr. Pradip Vyas, Principal Secretary, Public

Health Dept and Dr. Satish Pawar, Director Health Services graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in Mantralaya,

Mumbai. The IEC material comprising audio jingles, posters for general awareness and flipchart & posters for Children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLHIVs) were released. Under CSR, Kotak Mahindra Bank sponsored Hepa Infection control filters to prevent air borne infection within the ART centre was also launched.

Mr. Ramakant Gaikwad
Maharashtra SACS

Daman & Diu



Goa



Madhya Pradesh



Meghalaya



Uttar Pradesh



Kerala

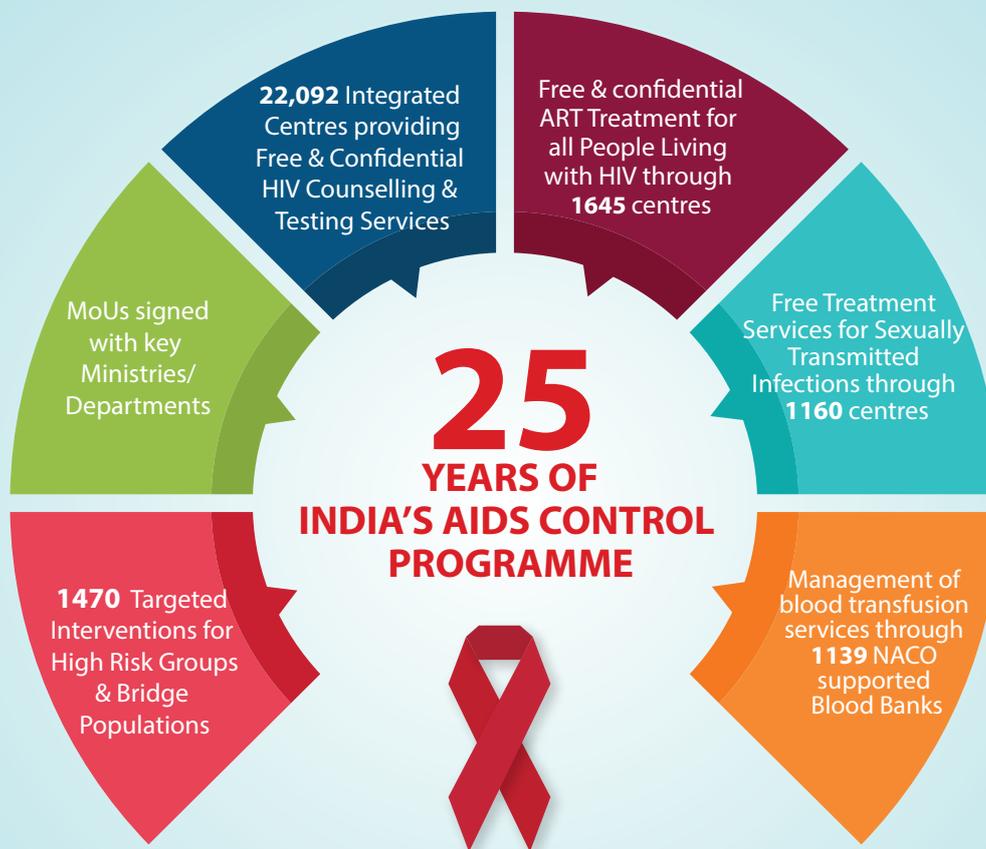


DAPCU (Rajkot)



Nagaland





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