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Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



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FROM THE DESK OF PATRON



Dear Readers,

I welcome everyone to this edition of NACO News!

The country is committed to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and achieving target of 90:90:90 by 2020. One of the landmark step toward this aim was the launch of “Test and Treat” policy to provide long term benefits of reduction in morbidity, mortality due to HIV, reduction in transmission of HIV, fewer opportunistic infections especially TB and reduction in linkage loss. To meet these goals, some landmark steps like Test & Treat, Mission Sampark were launched by Government. As a result of these initiatives, more than 1.85 lakh PLHIV have been put on ART services. With this, the ART coverage is being provided to 12.67 lakh PLHIV free of cost by government through 540 ART centre till 31st December, 2018. I would like to assure that these efforts will continue to benefit all PLHIVs across the country.

I am happy to share that the government has issued notification for bringing HIV/AIDS Act, 2017 in force from 10th September, 2018. Also, the rules to be framed by Central Government have also been notified on 17th September, 2018. The State governments are proactively working for notifying state specification Rules related to ombudsman. To update readers on the Act, from this edition a dedicated section is being started.

Also, with this edition NACO Newsletter going to be E-Newsletter. In this endeavor, I request your valuable feedback to make newsletter more informative.



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,

I am pleased to share first edition of NACO's E-Newsletter.

The recently launched HIV estimation 2017 indicates that India has around 21.40 lakh people living with HIV (PLHIV) with adult (15-49 years) prevalence of 0.22%. Around 87.58 thousand new HIV infections and 69.11 thousand AIDS related deaths are estimated to have happened in 2017. As per the report, impact of the programme has been significant with more than 80% decline in estimated new infection from peak of epidemic in 1995. Similarly, estimated AIDS related deaths declined by 71% since its peak in 2005.

To overcome the challenges posed by changing epidemic and drivers of epidemics, NACO is also exploring newer prevention strategies. A national workshop on "Revamping of Targeted Intervention Strategies Community Consultation & Newer Learnings" was organized. Also, the HIV & TB intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings was launched in Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

To expand the services of vulnerable population in unorganized sector, NACO in collaboration with ILO, organized Regional Workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response for HIV/AIDS involving various stakeholders from the industries of public and private sector, employer organization, trade union, departments garner support for awareness generation on HIV/AIDS in north eastern states.

For the first time, NACO in partnership with PEPFAR, the American Centre and the UNAIDS hosted "Live Life Positively: A Film Festival" from December 1st – 8th, 2018 to bring discussions about dangers from HIV and unsafe sex back in the public discourse. The films produced in India & America, portraying humanity's fight with an unknown virus that showed up in the United States in the late 1970s and early 80s and soon engulfed in the entire World, were screened during the film festival.

I hope you would like this initiative of NACO for going digital from this edition of NACO Newsletter. With these words, I, thank you my readers and wishing all of you Good Luck!

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

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

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR



Dear All Readers

First of all I sincerely apologize for the interruption in bringing NACO newsletter regularly for last few months. Infact we were in changing process of the style of NACO newsletter to E-bulletin format and therefore this disruption happened. I hope you will like the new format of this bulletin and appreciate it.

Though a lot of progress has been made in HIV/AIDS prevention and control yet as per 2017 estimations there are still 88000 new infections and 69000 AIDS related deaths happening every year. PMTCT needs in 2017 came down to 22677 per year and the number of adult prevalence has come down to. 22 %. So we are moving in right direction but there are still many areas which need to be focussed for achieving targets of 90:90:90 by 2020 and SDG goals of ending AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Some of the areas to be focussed are:-

1. To reach all those who do not know their status by expansion of CBT and generating awareness among vulnerable population to come forward and go for testing at FICTCs and ICTCs. A massive campaign therefore needs to be launched to cover school going/college going and out of school and college youth. Better implementation of programmes for them is the need of the hour.
2. As we are trying to achieve elimination of Mother to Child transmission by 2020 another area of focus therefore is to reach all pregnant women and get them tested for HIV at early stage so that they can be put on treatment to minimize mother to child transmission. NHM and all states needs to be mobilized fully for this stupendous task. We have already achieved testing of nearly 67% of pregnant women in the last year but we have to reach to atleast 90% of them in the remaining period of 1 and half year.
3. There are many other focused areas like
 - a) Expansion of VL testing services to all those on ART.
 - b) Increasing partnership with other ministries to widen our reach.
 - c) Increasing social protection schemes in many states and ensuring basic package for all PLHIV.
 - d) Increasing index testing to reach all high risk populations and access to the sexual activities happening at virtual places.

I am sure we shall overcome all our challenges with united efforts.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Jai Hind

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

World AIDS Day : #KnowYourStatus

The World AIDS Day (WAD) is observed on 1st December every year across the World. The observance of WAD is the commitment of the Government in order 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 and to commemorate people who have died. On WAD, awareness activities are conducted at ground root level by States involving communities, NGO's, youth etc. The WAD is important because it reminds the public and Government that HIV has not gone away, there is still a vital need to create awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. 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 Organization (NACO), organized a mega event at BHIM Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), Janpath, New Delhi. The event was attended by more than 1,000 people from civil society organizations,



Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS Health & Family Welfare along with dignitaries during World AIDS Day in Delhi

central govt. hospitals, community members, students from schools and colleges, volunteers from NYKS, High Risk Groups (HRGs) & PLHIV representatives from NGOs, Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners, officials from different government departments.

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS Health & Family Welfare, Government of India as the Chief Guest along with Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP), Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary (NACO), Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (NACO), Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Director (UNAIDS), Dr. Henk Bakedam, WHO Representative to

India and Sh. A.K. Kaushal Project Director (DSACS) graced the occasion.



To begin with the event, an exhibition showcasing the services associated with National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) was inaugurated by Smt. Anupriya Patel. The event in the auditorium set in motion when a laser show on AIDS Control Programme was projected.



Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble MoS Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
"As we all embark towards the ambitious target to "end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat" by 2030, the Government of India is geared up for taking concrete steps for its timely achievement. Let us fight against HIV together and end the epidemic by 2030".



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP) *“The National AIDS control programme has been extremely successful in halting and reversing the tide of HIV/AIDS epidemic in country, still there is no place of complacency as country embarks on the ambitious goal of achieving ‘End of AIDS’ as a public health threat by 2030”.*



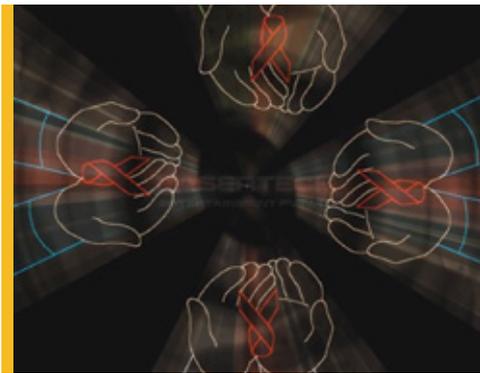
Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO *“India has done extremely well in fighting HIV/AIDS. I would like to congratulate MoHFW & NACO. The theme is Know Your Status but for programme it’s very important to know details. If you know details, know HIV/AIDS then you will also know better to fight it.”*



Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Director for India, UNAIDS *“We have to make sure that people are tested and we reach a good level of achievement. We have moved to second 90 which certainly is a good example to the world.”*



Dr. Henk Bakedam, WHO Representative to India *“What makes NACO stand out is it’s amiable system of continuous engagement and deliberations with all stakeholders & community engagement to be precise.”*



Laser Show Depicting Activity of AIDS Control Programme



Launch of Operational Guidelines on intensified HIV/TB case finding and Linkages



Launch of NACO Calendar 2019-2020

Ms. Neha Pandey
IEC & MS, NACO

Film Festival

Epidemics like HIV/AIDS know no geographical boundaries and as such they have to be fought collectively by everyone. Realizing the potential power of collaborations, the National AIDS Control Organization, in partnership with PEPFAR, the American Centre and the UNAIDS hosted “Live Life Positively: A Film Festival” from December 1st – 8th, 2018, featuring a list of films produced in India & America, portraying humanity’s fight with an unknown virus that showed up in the United States in the late 1970s and early 80s and soon engulfed in the entire World. The Film Festival was inaugurated by Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW), GoI. The



other dignitaries present in the inaugural ceremony were Ms. Mary Kay Loss Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission (U.S. Embassy), Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG

(NACO & RNTCP), Sh. Alok Saxena, JS (NACO), Sh. Naresh Goel, DDG (NACO) and Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director (UNAIDS).



Left to Right: Ms. Mary Kay Loss Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Manu and Kartik, lead couple of *LOVESICK*, opening film of the festival, Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP, Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW), GoI, Dr Bilali Camara, UNAIDS, Sh. Alok Saxena, JS, NACO and Sh. Naresh Goel, DDG, NACO

The objective to conduct the film festival was to use the absolute power of cinema in spreading awareness about the HIV/AIDS, epidemic by bringing back some of the empowering cinematic portrayals which were so ahead of their times that they still fit best in the periphery of the issues faced by PLHIV on day to day basis such as

stigma & discrimination. Although some of the films are as old as the age of epidemic itself but were found still relevant, particularly in view of the fact that today's younger generation, though having access to unlimited information through the world wide web, is increasingly turning more vulnerable and ignoring HIV/AIDS

and its prevention. It is also a time when the lessons learnt from history need a revisit to achieving global target of ending AIDS by 2030. The main thought behind this Film Festival was to bring discussions about 'dangers from HIV and unsafe sex back in the public discourse.'



Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (H&FW), Gol, during the Inaugural - Ceremony of the film festival on Dec 1, 2018

"I hope that this Film Festival would lead to harness the soft power of cinema in spreading awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, how we fought it, and how there are lessons from history that could guide us in achieving global target of ending AIDS by 2030."

"I am happy to know that the select films in this Film Festival celebrate the fight of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How it impacted the families, communities, societies and countries over the years and how the researchers, the medical fraternity, civil society groups, individuals and the governments fought it together. I am sure that many will get benefitted through these screenings."



Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP, addressing gathering during Inaugural - Ceremony of the film festival on December 1, 2018

"It is my privilege to witness the overwhelming response received during this Film Festival and I sincerely, hope that we don't just stop here but turn this endeavour into a chain and bring on board several such examples in the times ahead."



Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, during the Closing - Ceremony of the film festival on December 8, 2018

The films screened during this festival were: Dec 1: Love Sick, Dec 3: Philadelphia, Dec 4: Phir Milenge, Dec 6: Dallas Buyer's Club, Dec 7: Milk and Dec 8: Long Time Companion. The venue for the screening was the American Centre, 24 KG Marg, New Delhi.

Of course, with tremendous efforts

of Government of India and the ever supporting development partners in the field of HIV/AIDS, a lot has been brought under control in terms of figures but a sensitive realization of sitting over a potential volcano which might erupt any moment, has to be there round the clock. Keeping the same in mind, this Film Festival was an endeavour

to focus upon the youth, who are highly vulnerable and need regular & appropriate information on potential disaster that HIV/AIDS could still bring about, particularly due to increasingly lower age of sexual debut, absence of emphasis on safe sex, increasing migration and the usage of drug.



The result of the Film Festival was no lesser than a victory, as it provided an open forum to watch a

universally accepted language of emotions followed by comprehensive panel discussions

and many informal ones over several digital platforms.

Ms. Jyotika Cheema,
IEC & MS, NACO

Launch of HIV & TB intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Bengaluru & Chennai

Karnataka



Booklet on HIV and TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Karnataka was released by Mr. Jawaid Akthar IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka

HIV and TB Intervention in Prisons and Other Closed Settings in Karnataka was conducted by Mr. Jawaid Akthar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka at a high-level meeting organized at Bengaluru on 6th September 2018 in the presence of Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG (NACO), Dr. Anoop Puri, DDG (NACO), Mr. N.S. Megharikh I.P.S, Additional Director General of Police and Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Karnataka; Mr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, Commissioner of

Health, Govt. of Karnataka, Dr. Shamla Iqbal, IAS, Project Director, (Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society), Smt. Surekha Vijayaprasad, Joint Director, Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Karnataka, Dr. Bhawani Singh, Deputy Director (TI), (NACO), Dr. Manjula, State TB Officer, Govt. of Karnataka, Mr. Raju Gowda, Member, Karnataka State Legal Service Authority and Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan, President, (SAATHII).

A booklet on HIV and TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Karnataka was also released by Mr. Jawaid Akthar and online-reporting tool was launched by Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO. An MoU was signed and exchanged between Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, State Prisons Department and Department of Women and Child Development. There were more than 140 representatives from the following departments which participated in the launch event: NACO, KSAPS, Prisons, Department

of Health & Family Welfare, Women & Child Development State Legal Service Authority, NGOs, CBOs, SAATHII, TI representatives, Program Officers from RNTCP, representatives of Swadhar and Ujjawala Homes.

Mr. Jawaid Akhtar, in his presidential address, appreciated the efforts taken by KSAPS team for its achievement in bringing down the prevalence rate of HIV in the state. He said, “the success of the intervention depends on the effective coordination between different line departments.” Dr. Anoop Puri said, TB is a common co-infection of HIV and advised the State TB cell to work hand-in-hand with State AIDS

Prevention Society to address HIV-TB issues amongst inmates living in Prisons and other Closed Settings. Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO highlighted that the available data from the prison sites across India shows that the prevalence of HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis among inmates living in prisons and other closed settings is much higher than in the general population. Mr. N.S. Megharikh, in his address, shared that the overcrowding in the prisons is the main cause of spreading most of the diseases including TB, STI and HIV/AIDS. Mr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey, said that the prisoners and inmates of the other closed settings are one of

the community groups who need special care especially in the context of HIV-TB. Dr. Bhawani Singh, elaborated on the evolution of the present program in reference to the studies conducted in prisons across the country. He stressed on the importance of creating and enabling environment within prisons and closed settings, strengthening systems for service delivery and follow up of the positive inmates. Dr. Shamla Iqbal in her welcome address, shared that the project titled SUBHIKSHA aims to improve the access and quality of HIV-TB prevention, and treatment services for prisoners and inmates in Ujjwala, Swadhar and State-run Homes.

Tamil Nadu



Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Vijayabaskar released the booklet on HIV & TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Tamil Nadu during the launch event

Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Dr. Vijayabaskar released the booklet on HIV & TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Tamil Nadu during the launch event.

HIV and TB intervention in prisons and other closed settings in Tamil Nadu was launched by Dr. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu at a high-level meeting held on 7th September

2018 in Chennai in the presence of Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. K. Senthil Raj, Project Director, TANSACS & State TB Division, Sh. Ashuthosh Shukla,

Additional Director General of Police (Prisons), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Anoop K. Puri, DDG, (NACO), Dr. Shobini Rajan, Assistant Director General, (NACO), Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran, National Professional Officer, WHO, India, Smt. V. Amuthavalli, Director, Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Sh. R. Lalvena, Commissioner, Social Defence Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Sundaramoorthy, Senior Civil Judge, State Legal Service Authority, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Bhavani Singh, Deputy Director-TI, (NACO), Dr. Sai Subhasree, Raghavan, President, SAATHII and Mr. Bruno, Narcotic Control Bureau (Chennai Zone) Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed and exchanged between Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, Prisons Department and Social Welfare Department. Dr. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, stated that TNSACS has been taking concerted efforts to achieve the

national targets of ending HIV epidemic by 2030 and had assured that the Govt. of Tamil Nadu stands committed to extend all necessary support in implementing the project in prisons and other closed settings to achieve the overall goal.

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, emphasized upon the value of equitable health care services for all, including the inmates of prisons and other closed settings and assured that the Department will ensure quality service delivery under the proposed HIV-TB intervention.

Sh. Ashuthosh Shukla, Additional Director General of Prisons, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, in his address, shared that ICTC which were established in all nine central jails with the support of Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society have been extremely helpful in providing testing services for inmates living in prison settings. He suggested to extend ICTC service facilities in all District Jails in the State. He said his Department is fully committed in reducing the recidivism and hence

he suggested SACS, SWD and other line departments and NGOs to have a common meeting to develop an action plan for social reintegration of released inmates. Sh. R. Lalvena, Commissioner, Social Defence, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, shared that most women living in these settings are from socially marginalized groups and many have also been victims of gender-based violence or have a history of high-risk sexual behaviour. He has requested civil society organizations who are implementing HIV and TB intervention to extend support for ensuring linkages after they are released from homes. There were more than 140 representatives from the following departments who participated in each of these launch events: NACO, SACS, Prisons, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Women & Child Development State Legal Service Authority, NGOs, CBOs, SAATHII, TI representatives, Program Officers from RNTCP, representatives of Swadhar and Ujjawala Homes.

Telangana



Shri. Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG (NACO & RNTCP) during the launch of HIV&TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings

HIV and TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Telangana was launched by Shri. Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP), on 9th May 2018 in Hyderabad, in the presence of Shri Saidaiah, Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Telangana State, Dr. Preeti Meena, IAS, Project Director Telangana State AIDS Control Society, Smt. Viziendira Boyi, IAS, Director Department of Women Development & Child Welfare Govt. of Telangana, Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, Zonal Director, Narcotic Drugs Control Bureau, Shri B.R. Madhusudan Rao, Member Secretary State Legal Service Authority, Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan, President SAATHII. Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, shared that the complaints and limitations are in every corner of the development programmes but ultimate aim is to strengthen the community. He urged SACS and RNTCP to institutionalize a mechanism to carry out activities in a more coordinated manner. He appreciated the step of making condoms more available & access a welcoming one. He reiterated about the need for a strong cooperation between SACS, Prisons, WD&CW,



The MoU was signed and exchanged between the SACS, State Prisons department, and SACS and Department of Women Development and Child Welfare.

NGOs, CBOs, and TB division to effectively implement the proposed activities in prisons and other closed settings. Shri Saidaiah, Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Telangana, highlighted that the Department has been taking concerted efforts to prevent recidivism by way of providing employment opportunities in the outlets including petrol pumps run by State Prisons department. Shri Madhusudan Rao, Member Secretary- State Legal Service Authority (SLSA), informed that the advocates who are part of State legal service authority are already working with HIV-TB and health

related issues. "SLSA have been supporting female sex workers, TGs to get various social protection schemes in the State besides providing legal assistance", he added. The event was attended by senior officers from NACO, Telangana SACS, State Prisons Dept., Department of Medical & Health, Directorate of Health Services, Women Development and Child Welfare Department, State Legal Services Authority, NGOs, CBOs, TI representatives, Program Officers from RNTCP, WD&CW, representatives of Swadhar and Ujjawala Homes and SAATHII.

Odisha



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP addressing participants

HIV and TB Intervention in Prisons and other Closed Settings in Odisha was launched by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP, on 10th May 2018 in Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Dr. Pramod Kumar Meherda, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha; Shri Gopabandhu Mallik, DIG Prisons, Government of Odisha, Dr. Lingaraj Mishra, Director, Family Welfare,

Government of Odisha, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Patnaik, Project Director, Odisha SACS, Dr. S K Singh, Superintendent, Narcotics Control Bureau, Zonal Office, Odisha, Dr. Bhawani Singh, Deputy Director (TI), NACO, Dr. Deepak Ranjan Sahoo, Deputy Secretary, State Legal Aid Services, Odisha, Dr. Prashant Kumar Hota, State TB Officer, Odisha and Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan, President, SAATHII.

Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS&DG (NACO & RNTCP), in his inaugural address, informed that HIV and TB intervention has recently been launched in seven States in the country. He said the integration of HIV and TB provides an opportunity for coordinated effort to achieve maximum results. He reiterated that the hidden and hard-to-reach population should be covered as part of the last mile connectivity to achieve elimination of TB by 2025 and eradication of HIV by 2030. Dr. Pramod Kumar Meherda, in his address pointed out that certain population which was



Dr. Bhawani Singh, Deputy Director-TI, NACO, presented an overview on the evolution of NACP

missing out previously, should be covered as part of the last mile effort to achieve the objectives of elimination of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Shri Gopabandhu Mallik, encouraged more civil society organizations including NGOs/CBOs to come forward to provide HIV prevention and treatment services to people living in prisons and other closed settings.

Dr. Bhawani Singh, shared progress of the program in halting and reversing the HIV epidemic in the country. He said Odisha SACS

should play a key role in coordinating with the line departments to achieve the desired results. The event was attended by representatives from various departments which included senior officers from NACO, SACS, State Prisons Dept., Department of Health and Family Welfare, Women Development and Child Welfare Department, State Legal Services Authority, NGOs/CBOs, TI representatives, Program Officers from RNTCP, representatives of Swadhar and Ujjawala Homes and SAATHII.

Mr. Abraham Lincoln, Technical Expert-Harm Reduction
Ms. Sophia Khumukcham, Program Officer-IDU
Ms. Kim Hauzel, Technical Officer-IDU

Release of HIV Estimations 2017



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS&DG (NACO & RNTCP), during the launch of "India HIV Estimation 2017"

Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS&DG (NACO & RNTCP), launched the "India HIV Estimation 2017" on 14th September, 2018. National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) undertakes HIV estimations biennially in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS). The objective of HIV estimations is to provide updated information on the status of the HIV epidemic in India at the National and State/Union Territory level.



Dignitaries during the launch of "India HIV Estimation 2017"

As per the report, India is estimated to have around 21.40 lakh people living with HIV (PLHIV), with adult (15-49 years) prevalence of 0.22%. Around 87.58 thousand new HIV infections and 69.11 thousand AIDS related deaths are estimated to happen in 2017.

The report concludes that, overall, the impact of the programme has been significant with more than 80% decline in estimated new infection from peak of epidemic in 1995. Similarly, estimated AIDS

related death declined by 71% since its peak in 2005. As per UNAIDS 2018 report, the global average for decline in new infections and AIDS related deaths from peak has been 47% and 51% respectively.

Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary (NACO), Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Director (UNAIDS India), Dr. Swaroop Sarkar, Director, Department of Communicable Diseases (WHO SEARO), Dr. DCS Reddy, Former HOD, Dept. of PSM, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU,

Dr. Raman R. Gangakhedkar, Scientist G & Head, Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, ICMR, Dr. Payden, (Deputy WHO Representative to India), Dr. Ryan D. McGee (Deputy Country Director, CDC India, Dr. D K Shukla, Scientist G & Chair NWG, ICMR-NIMS and Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, SI, NACO also graced the occasion along with the representatives from development partners, civil societies, national and regional institutes of surveillance as well as various State AIDS Control Societies.

Dr. Arvind Kumar,
Surveillance-SI, NACO

State Consultations on HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017



Background: The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency

Syndrome Bill, 2014 was passed by the Parliament and received Presidential assent on 20th April, 2017. The Act was notified on e-gazette on 21st April, 2017. The Act is unique and a progressive piece of legislation and is also first of its kind where it addresses stigma & discrimination, provides an enabling environment for enhancing access to services and safeguards rights of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) & those affected by HIV. The Act makes provision for

Central and State Government to provide diagnostic facilities related to Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) and Opportunistic Infection management. The Act also promotes safe workplace in healthcare settings to prevent occupational exposure and strengthens grievance redressal in the form of placing Ombudsman at State level and Complaints Officer at establishment level.

Notifications: On 10th September, 2018 The HIV and AIDS Act, 2017 was notified. The Act mandates framing of Central Government rules (section 47), State Government rules (section 49) and Central Government Guidelines (section 46) for its effective implementation. Central Government rules and Guidelines are to be notified in the house of Parliament while State Government rules are to be notified at respective State Legislatures.

Procedure: A committee of Experts (CoE) was constituted at NACO under the chairmanship of JVR Prasada Rao, ex-Secretary to Government of India for drafting of Central Government rules and model State rules. Regional consultations were conducted across India having participation from NACO, SACS, civil society members, development partners, institutions, community representatives, positive networks and corporate sector. Based on the inputs and feedback received

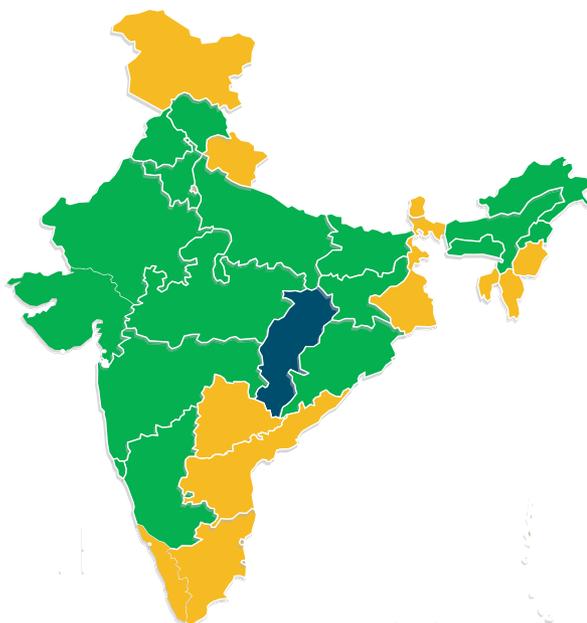
during these consultations both Central Government rules and model State rules were finalised.

Central Government Rules: Central Government rules were notified on 17th September, 2018. The rules cover manner of notification of HIV and AIDS policy for Establishments (section 12) and Grievance Redressal mechanism at establishments (terms of reference, manner of inquiry and disposal of cases, confidentiality etc of Complaints Officer) (section 21).

State Government Rules: NACO has formulated model draft rules for the States in order to assure uniformity. The rules are in draft form and are open to customisation according to demography, polity, prevalence, geography, HRG population and PLHIV. Decisions like number of Ombudsman, their placement, coverage, appellate jurisdiction, their appointment/selection and renunciation, powers and sustainable model ensuring availability of ART and Opportunistic Infection

Management have to be put in by the States.

Role of States: States have been proactive at holding State Consultations on the Act after they received communication from NACO. Letters were sent from Secretary, MoH&FW and AS&DG, NACO and RNTCP to all States and UTs/NCT. State of Chhattisgarh was the first state in India to take the initiative and hold the state consultation on the Act. Chhattisgarh is also the first state to formulate State rules followed by the State of Karnataka which has also drafted its State rules. In other States the process of formulation is in pipeline. Once the rules are formulated they would be vetted by Department of Law and Justice after which they would be placed in respective State Legislatures. Placed below is the map of India highlighting the status on State consultations during April- December, 2018.



State Consultations on HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017

- States where consultations were conducted between April-December, 2018
- States where consultations were conducted before April, 2018
- States where consultations are pending to be conducted

Ms. Garima Sharma,
Consultant

Visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare during Swachhta Pakhwada

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India visited NACO on 13th April, 2018 as a part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which is a campaign in India that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas. The objectives of Swachh Bharat include eliminating open defecation through the construction of household-owned and community-owned toilets and establishing an accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use. She inspected various divisions



Shri Alok Saxena felicitating Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India



of NACO and also interacted with the officials. While addressing Smt. Anupriya Patel appreciated the cleanliness in the office and administered the Swachhta Pledge

along with NACO officials. She advised to inculcate cleanliness, a behavioral trait as a habit and keep all the surroundings clean for clean and healthy India.

Ms. Rakhunai Lanah,
IEC & MS, NACO

National Workshop on Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) of HIV & Syphilis

The National EMTCT Workshop was held from 24th to 28th October, 2018 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of AS & DG, (NACO & RNTCP) to discuss and review various challenges, solutions and ways to address challenges towards reaching EMTCT (Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV & Syphilis) by 2020. During the review meeting, barriers for the saturation of health facilities for HIV testing, issues of private sector engagement and reporting, strategies for reaching first 90 by strengthening community based screening, partner testing, HR rationalisation, task shifting and gaps in reporting systems were highlighted.



Participants along with the Dignitaries during National Workshop on Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) of HIV & Syphilis in Delhi

During the meeting, current status of uptake of critical PPTCT milestones including ART initiation and adherence in pregnant women and Early Infant Diagnosis (EID)

uptake at six weeks of age was projected. The meeting also reached consensus on the process for better follow up of the positive pregnant women as well as the

systems that need to be strengthened for reaching EMTCT, including the country's investments in PLHIV - ART Linkage System (PALS) which will ultimately lead towards documenting EMTCT required for WHO validation. A

grading tool framed for monitoring EMTCT indicators, States and Districts have also been identified as good, better and best. This initiative has been strategic in bringing forth an insight to the status of the PPTCT of HIV and

congenital Syphilis across India. The continuous Internet connectivity was a great barrier in data entry at PALS. To overcome this challenge an offline PALS data entry system was launched. This will definitely be a boon to all the ICTC counsellors.

Dr. Asha Hedge, BSD, NACO
Dr. Vishal Yadav, BSD, NACO

National Dissemination Meet on HIV/AIDS OVC Social Protection Project



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP along with the dignitaries during National Consultation on Dissemination of OVC Project Phase I

The National Consultation on Dissemination of Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project Phase I was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG (NACO & RNTCP), on 29th May, 2018 in Delhi. OVC project is dedicated to provide comprehensive care, support & treatment, linkages and uptake of social protection to OVC.

Objectives

1. To disseminate key learnings of OVC Project Phase I.
2. To replicate different Models of OVC project in other States.

Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, as the Guest of Honor, in his key-note addresses, the issue of HIV/AIDS to be “non-medicalized” and be recognized as “a human problem”. He recounted a personal experience of having been moved to tears by a letter from a Child Living with HIV, which contained a detailed description of his life and the question, “What have I done to deserve this?”, children are helpless and voiceless to a great extent. Empowerment of children would be the key to their receiving due entitlements through State Departments. They have to build in an OVC component into their



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, AS & DG, NACO & RNTCP addressing the participants during the workshop

programmes. The OVC Project's IEC materials on the theme of CABA were also launched.

Representatives from various sectors like State AIDS Control Societies (SACS), Development Partners, Project Directors etc were present in the workshop. The entire workshop was divided into five sessions. The major focus areas were to enhance identification, assessment and service delivery for all vulnerable CABA and need for OVC/CABA interventions. The key learnings & challenges of OVC Social Protection Project Phase I were

highlighted by Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT). The representative from States agreed to engage line departments to increase the uptake of social protection schemes in developing sustainable strategies to institutionalize service delivery for CABA. The need was felt for customizing the approach in dealing with OVC.

Other focal areas of the workshop were the experiences shared by the Prathmesh, Child Leader and Kallesh, Community Leader from Snehgram who had shared their

perspective of primary stakeholder and lessons learnt for the betterment of future and healthy life of CLHIVs. During the workshop, USAID highlighted the need to work closely with children of key populations specially children of Female Sex Workers (FSW) to address child psychological issues with sensitivity. There were many positive case studies that were presented as an outcome of OVC Phase I project, one of which was a child continuing his/her studies as his mother could get an income certificate with the assistance of project staff.



“The OVC is not a simple task, instead, simple tasks may be undertaken at state level to scale up OVC project and make it a nationwide dissemination.” **Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (IEC & MS), NACO**



“The efforts taken in India towards the health and well-being of OVC have the tremendous progress made in the HIV/AIDS prevention and care sector.” **Mr. Xerses Sidhwa, USAID**



“There is need to provide 360 degree approach and 100% coverage of all populations affected by HIV/AIDS. We need to act as a channel and facilitate to bridge the gaps. The OVC programme should focus more on children of key populations, where children live in predatory & dangerous atmosphere”
Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO

“There is a “mindset gap” when it comes to linking OVC with social protection. Can we set aside 8% of our budget for this group that is 8% of the HIV population? This will enable percolation of service.” **Mr. Manoj Pardeshi, NCPI+**

“I thanked USAID on behalf of 55,000 children already touched by the OVC project and the 4 lakh children to be added.” **Dr. Troy Cunningham, KHPT**

Outcome & Way Forward

1. To scale up the OVC project in all the states, USAID emphasized on ‘Expanding the net’ by reaching other most vulnerable children in OVC project Phase II and working closely for the children of key populations.
2. The deliberations will move forward, once after MoUs signed with various Line Departments and schemes are reviewed. The SACS will prepare plan of action to take it further.

Ms. Sonal Walia, IEC & MS, NACO
Mr. Ravi S Bhushan, OVC Project

5th Meeting of National Core Group on Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis in India



Dr. Ashok Kumar, Ex. Additional DGHS Chairperson NCG addressing the gathering during the workshop

The 5th Meeting of National Core Group (NCG) on Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis in India was held on 21st May 2018 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ashok Kumar, Ex. Additional DGHS, and Chairperson NCG; Co-chaired by Dr. D C S Reddy and Dr. K. S. Sachdeva, Deputy Director General, NACO along with the members of the NCG, officials from NACO and representatives from development partners UNICEF, WHO and CHAI, attended the meeting.

Objectives

- (i) To review the coverage of EMTCT process and impact targets for Phase-II of EMTCT data validation exercise.
- (ii) To review the protocols for EMTCT Phase II-Program Review, Data Verification eValidation; Laboratory Assessment and Enabling Environment.
- (iii) To discuss Sub - National Validation of EMTCT.

Mr. Tejas Mulik,
PPTCT, NACO

National Community Consultation for developing IEC material for PWIDs in India



Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO addressing the gathering during the workshop

National AIDS Control Organization in collaboration with India HIV/AIDS Alliance organized a National Community Consultation for developing IEC materials for Person Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) on 17th & 18th May, 2018 under the chairmanship of Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO.

Objectives

- To develop community and gender sensitive IEC materials for IDUs and their sex partners.
- To work out the ways to better use the HIV/AIDS Act to strengthen service uptake and ensure they are rights based for the IDU community.
- To identify strategic gaps and recommend responses in the national programme specific to IDU related IEC.

The consultation was attended by development partners from USAID, UNAIDS, WHO, World Bank, UNICEF, FHI, ILO, various SACS representatives and community representatives. During the consultation, review of existing IEC material for HRGs – PWIDs, MSM, TG, FSW, Bridge population were also done to assess and identify the needs for revision in order to

address the changing context and current needs of the communities. Various issues like safe injection, abscess prevention and management, condom use, overdose prevention and management, treatment literacy – OST, HCV, ART Adherence and waste management of needle & syringes were also highlighted. By the end of the workshop, a

strategy paper was prepared on the basis of which NACO will develop a communication strategy for PWIDs. Following this consultation NACO will also be organizing other key population specific workshops/-meetings to ensure next generation IEC materials that will contribute to vision and purpose of Mission SAMPARK.

Ms. Nidhi Rawat,
IEC & MS, NACO

Study on “National Estimation of Blood Requirement in India”



Release of Study of National Estimation of Blood Requirement in India – 2017

The study on “National Estimation of Blood Requirement in India”, the first of its kind in the world, has estimated the population need, clinical demand, supply and utilization of blood. The study

estimated a population need of 26.4 million units which indicates that the country needs to collect 26.4 million units of whole blood to address the need for blood and components in the country. The

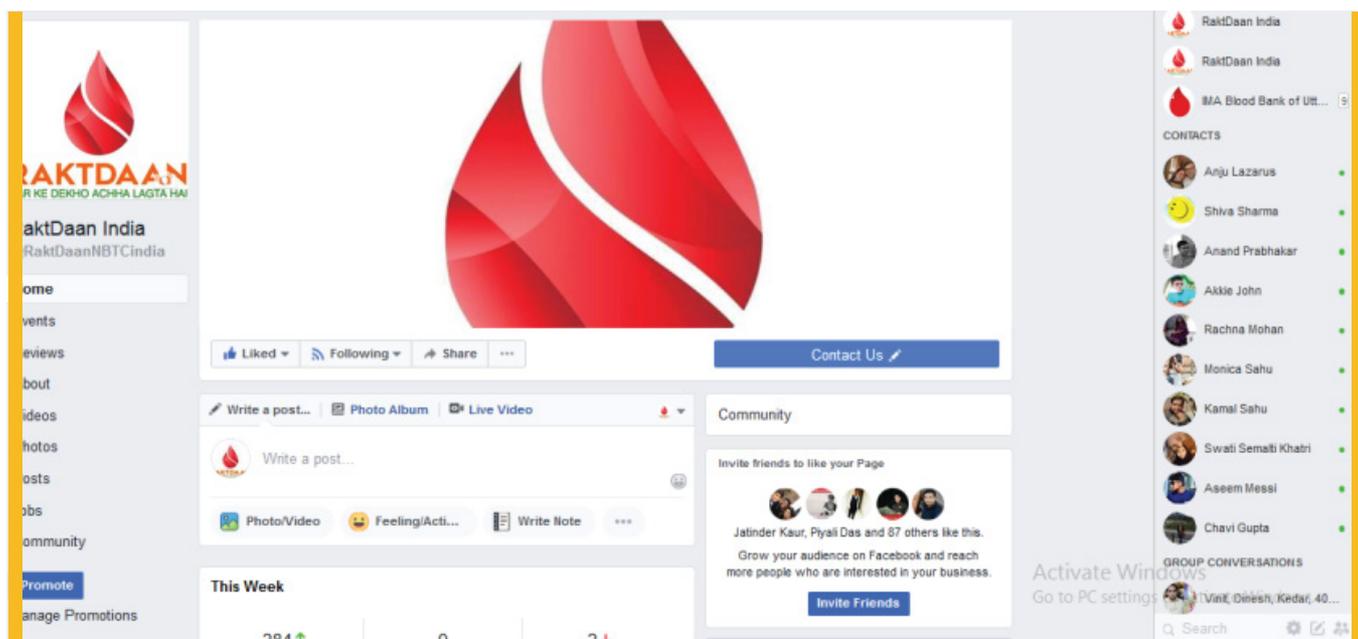
clinical demand was estimated to be 14.6 million units to address the demand that arises in healthcare facilities; the current supply was 13.5 million units against the clinical demand. Around 55% of the need

was converted into demand which requires a multi-sectoral approach to address the gap. The overall clinical demand per bed was found to be 9.2 units in a year and, the bed occupancy rate (BOR) adjusted clinical demand per bed was 11.2 units per annum .One of the significant findings of the study was that 3.43% of the eligible population must donate blood once a year to address the estimated

clinical demand of the country. The study has also created models which could be used by district and state health authorities as well as individual facilities to estimate their blood requirement. The study stresses the need for concerted efforts to be re-focused on the voluntary blood donor program in a systematic manner. Though supply and collection seem to be adequate to address demand, the distribution

of availability is an issue and therefore, access may not be equitable. It is not just the quantum of donors or donation, but making blood accessible and available at the point of demand that is most critical. Uniform high quality, logistics, cold chain management, common inventory and appropriate regulatory framework need to be addressed to achieve equitable access.

RaktDaan India – A Social Media Initiative



To reach out to the masses through social media, NBTC has begun a social media initiative RaktDaan India to spread awareness about blood donation and motivate people to participate in Voluntary

Blood Donation Camps and walk in to Blood Banks for donating blood. RaktDaan India launched a month long campaign from 1st to 30th June 2018, wherein people were notified regarding the Outdoor and in -

House Voluntary Blood Donation Camps in the Blood Banks. Many Celebrities have also endorsed the RaktDaan India Campaign.

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

Regional Workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV' in Chandigarh'



Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (IEC & LS), NACO along with participants during the regional workshop

A regional workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV' was organized by NACO in collaboration with International Labour

Organization and Himachal Pradesh SACS in Chandigarh on 24th & 25th May, 2018. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General NACO; Dr.

Baldev Kumar, Project Director, Himachal Pradesh SACS and Dr. Veena Singh, Project Director, Haryana SACS.

Objectives

To mobilize various stakeholders including industries of public and private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, departments to garner support for awareness generation on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and related issues.

The representative from labour departments, Dattopant Thengadi Board for Worker Education and Development (previously known as CBWE) and various industries like Confederation of Indian Industry, Ambuja Cement Foundation, GMR-Toll Plaza, GMR Foundation, Helpage India, Anand Automotive,

WIPRO, CIPLA, Morepen Labs, Sun Pharma, KCCI, SAFL, SACS officials from eight states Punjab, Haryana Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Delhi and Karnataka were also part of the workshop. The workshop revolved around the experience on HIV/AIDS intervention in formal and

informal sector, analysis of ICTC data on HIV positivity among workers in various occupations, best practices from industries, strategy to promote VCT@fast track and reduce stigma & discrimination at the workplace. Ambuja Cement Foundation was the key location for the field visit.

Key Outcome

- Mobilized employer organization (Confederation of Indian Industries, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Himachal Chamber of Commerce & Industry etc.)
- Industries of public and private sectors were sensitized and mobilized for awareness generation on HIV and Tuberculosis at the workplace.
- Labour Departments, Central Board for Worker Education will extend support to SACS for HIV/AIDS intervention and mobilize various industries.
- Action plan to promote campaign VCT@work were drafted for each SACS which attended workshop like Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Delhi and Karnataka.
- Himachal SACS and Ambuja Cement Ltd agreed to coordinate and mobilize more industries for HIV intervention at the workplace in the region of Baddi and Nalagarh

HIV/AIDS Intervention in Major Ports in India-An update

Ministry of Shipping has extended support in HIV/AIDS prevention, care & support and treatment services to port workers, seafarers, truckers, single male migrants and other vulnerable population under the ambit of MoU signed between

Ministry of Shipping and NACO. A total of 12 Major ports have been mobilized and engaged in awareness generation, establishment of services like ICTC, FICTC, STI Clinic and ART Clinic within existing health infrastructure

of Medical Department of port trust in collaboration with SACS concerned. The services offered by major ports on HIV/AIDS have been extended to the surrounding communities.

The activities undertaken by major ports in collaboration with SACS

- **Mumbai Port Trust:** Training for Trainers (ToT), intensive training for medical and Para medical staff were organized. 1 ICTC, 4 FICTC and 2 STI Clinics are functional. More than 10 sensitization & HIV testing camps were organized in surrounding communities.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Raigarh:** Sensitization and awareness programme initiated for JNPT employees, families and surrounding communities. Community based testing carried out for communities residing near port areas and truck parking slot in collaboration with local NGO. FICTC has been established. 6 Health Educators, supervisors, counselor and lab technician and medical & para medical staffs are engaged in HIV/AIDS intervention.
- **Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), Goa:** Joint Working Group meeting held between MPT and Goa SACS in November, 2017. Medical and Para Medical staffs are trained. FICTC was established in Port Hospital. 607 pretest counseling and voluntary testing were carried out in financial year 2017-18.
- **Deendayal Port Trust, Kandla:** Port trust has constituted an internal committee and subsequently adopted 'Workplace Policy on HIV/ AIDS'. Training for Trainers (TOT) was conducted. 2596 People were sensitized.
- **Paradip Port Trust:** Workplace policy on HIV/AIDS has been formulated. FICTC has been functional at port hospital. Screening of HIV conducted for port employees and surrounding communities. Regular screening of truckers in the port area is done and Local NGOs like CAD and IRDMS are engaged.

- **Kolkata Port Trust:** Workplace policy for HIV/AIDS has been undertaken by Centenary Hospital (Port Trust), Kolkata. Training programme conducted for medical and para medical staff and other technical staff. ICTC established on May 2017. Port employees and outsiders are availing facility of HIV screening.
- **Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai:** HIV/AIDS awareness programme has been conducted. HIV screening conducted for 199 employees on voluntary basis. Awareness drives being periodically conducted by KPL for employees, BOT terminals, Truck Drivers & Cleaners, CISF Personnel etc.
- **Chennai Port Trust:** Medical and Para Medical staffs are trained. ICTC has been functional. ToT conducted for the training faculties of Port Trust. Port employees, CISF personnel, truckers and contract workers are regularly sensitized. Insertion of HIV messages in the pay slip of Chennai Port Trust Employees.
- **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin:** Awareness drive initiated for truck drivers in the premises of Lorry Parking Area and Pass section of VOC Port Trust. IEC programme are conducted by VOC and DAPCU- Thoothukudi on the regular basis.
- **Cochin Port Trust:** Cochin Port has adopted a 'Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS' and 'AIDS Manual' as well. FICTC has been established which caters to staff, truckers, sea farers, CISF personnel etc.
- **New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT), Mangalore:** 290 Medical and para medical staffs were trained.
- **Vishakapatnam Port Trust:** IEC activities are initiated in collaboration with SACS. Hoardings are erected in port areas.

Regional Workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV'



Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, NACO addressing the participants

A regional workshop on 'Strengthening Public and Private Sector Response in NACP IV' was organized by NACO in collaboration with International Labour Organization and Sikkim SACS in Gangtok, Sikkim from 26th to 27th

September 2018. The two-day workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Arjun Kumar Ghatani, Hon'ble Minister, Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim in the presence of Dr. Naresh Goel,

Deputy Director General, NACO; Ms. Zug Castillo Brigitte, Senior Technical Specialist, International Labour Organization, Geneva; Dr. Pempa Tshering Bhutia, Health Principal Director, Government of Sikkim. The regional workshop was

organized for 8 states of north eastern region with the objective to mobilize various stakeholders including industries of public and

private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, departments to garner support for awareness generation on

HIV/AIDS and to strengthen the Public and Private sector response to HIV/AIDS.



Participants

Sh. Arjun Kumar Ghatani, Hon'ble Minister, Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim along with NACO officials, representatives from ILO and officers from IEC & MS divisions of State AIDS Control Societies, officials from Department of Labour, Tourism, Health and Legal Affairs, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC), TCI Foundation, media and representatives of various industries.

Apart from that, a field visit to National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation Hospital situated at Rangit in Sikkim was conducted for sharing and learning about various initiatives taken by NHPC on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Outcome

- The major industries of public and private sector particularly National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited and pharmaceuticals companies from Sikkim were encouraged and mobilized for HIV/AIDS prevention activities.
- NHPC Limited is committed to extend support to Sikkim SACS for awareness generation, promotion of campaign VCT@Work. Similarly, Department of labour, tourism, legal affairs etc will collaborate with Sikkim SACS to strengthen world of work response to HIV. Tour operators and taxi driver union strength department of tourism will further be mobilized and engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention and voluntary testing.
- The analysis of ICTC data, primarily incidence of HIV positivity in occupation of client tested for HIV were presented for eight north eastern state by ILO. Subsequently, action plans were developed for eight SACSs (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim & Nagaland) based on the analysis of ICTC data.
- Transport Corporation of India Foundation (TCIF) will extend support in advocacy and sensitization to mobilize various industries. TCIF will also support for mobilizing transporters and other organizations institutions concerned for HIV/AIDS awareness activities targeted to transport workers, migrant etc.

- ILO is committed to extend technical support to mobilize stakeholders and activities in North Eastern Region to promote VCT@Work and engagement of non-traditional partners (Micro Small Medium Enterprises) in north eastern region to reduce the vulnerability of HIV infection among working population.
- ILO will provide technical assistance and support to SACS in state consultation on world of work response to HIV to enhance sectoral partnership to address HIV vulnerability among various occupations.

Mr. Ashish Verma, IEC & MS, NACO
Mr. Utpal, IEC & MS, NACO

Inter - Ministerial Meeting for strengthening mainstreaming & partnership and sharing of reports



Interaction between dignitaries during Inter- Ministerial Meeting for strengthening mainstreaming & partnership

NACO collaborates with various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India for collective action on vulnerability reduction, integration of HIV related services and social protection for people infected & affected by HIV and most at risk populations. So far 16 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed by NACO. To make this partnership stronger, an inter-ministerial meeting was organized under the

Chairpersonship of Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO on 12th September, 2018 at NACO. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen partnership through garnering support in reaching out large number of people with awareness messages on HIV/AIDS, information on services and treatment related to HIV/STI/AIDS offered by various other ministries, institutions and public sector undertakings under their purview.

The meeting was attended by Department of Internal Security, MHA, Department of Defence, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Coal. During the meeting, the sharing of reports on activities carried out on HIV/AIDS prevention and data related to services established and benefits given in voluntary testing and treatment were primarily

discussed. The robust coordination and data share mechanism could help NACO in achieving global strategy of 90:90:90 by 2020. It was mentioned that NACP is data driven

programme and sharing of data is extremely important to keep case track on treatment adherence. Inter-ministerial coordination is important in view of bringing

uniformity in system and treatment procedure especially in dealing with HIV & TB co-infection.

Outcome

- The officers representing the Ministries/ Departments shared various activities on HIV/AIDS prevention and services on testing and treatment. The possibilities were explored on expansion of services primarily ART through Public Private Partnership (PPP) as per NACO guidelines, ICTC/FICTC etc. Sharing of data related to pregnant mothers and medication of the infant exposed to HIV in order to achieve national goal of EMTCT, Linkage of HIV positive cases to ART centre were highlighted.
- The advancement in National AIDS Control Programme primarily test & treat, treatment of HIV and co-infections including TB were explained that required to be adhered to be at same pace.
- The team from NACO comprising of representatives from various divisions will visit each ministry to develop clarity on their systems at place, additions/changes required in treatment procedures, training need assessment, capacity building, sharing of guidelines etc.
- Evolve strategy for reporting mechanism; strengthen partnership, collaboration and mainstreaming activities.

Mr. Ashish Verma, IEC & MS, NACO
Mr. Utpal, IEC & MS, NACO

Capacity building Workshop on Social and Behaviour Change Communication



Participants during Capacity building Workshop on Social and Behaviour Change Communication

The Capacity building Workshop on Social and Behaviour Change Communication was held on 14th and 15th December, 2018 at

Manesar. Through this workshop, participants were expected to enhance understanding of behavioural theories, steps of SBCC,

how to use integrated communications to drive behaviour change using social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, hands on

experience in designing communications approach and understanding role of research in communication. The participants will further carry these key learnings and use them in their assignments related to IEC and SBCC. The workshop focused on adding to the understanding of

Participants on SBCC strategies, use of research and communication in SBCC and its integration with different media platforms. The workshop revolved around (i) Health Behavioural theories (ii) Role of communication in behaviour change and (iii) Use of social media to build integrated communications.

The role of research in the communication campaign for behaviour change, monitoring evaluation and learning framework of communication during project development, project implementation and project completion phase were highlighted during the workshop.

Key learnings of the workshop:

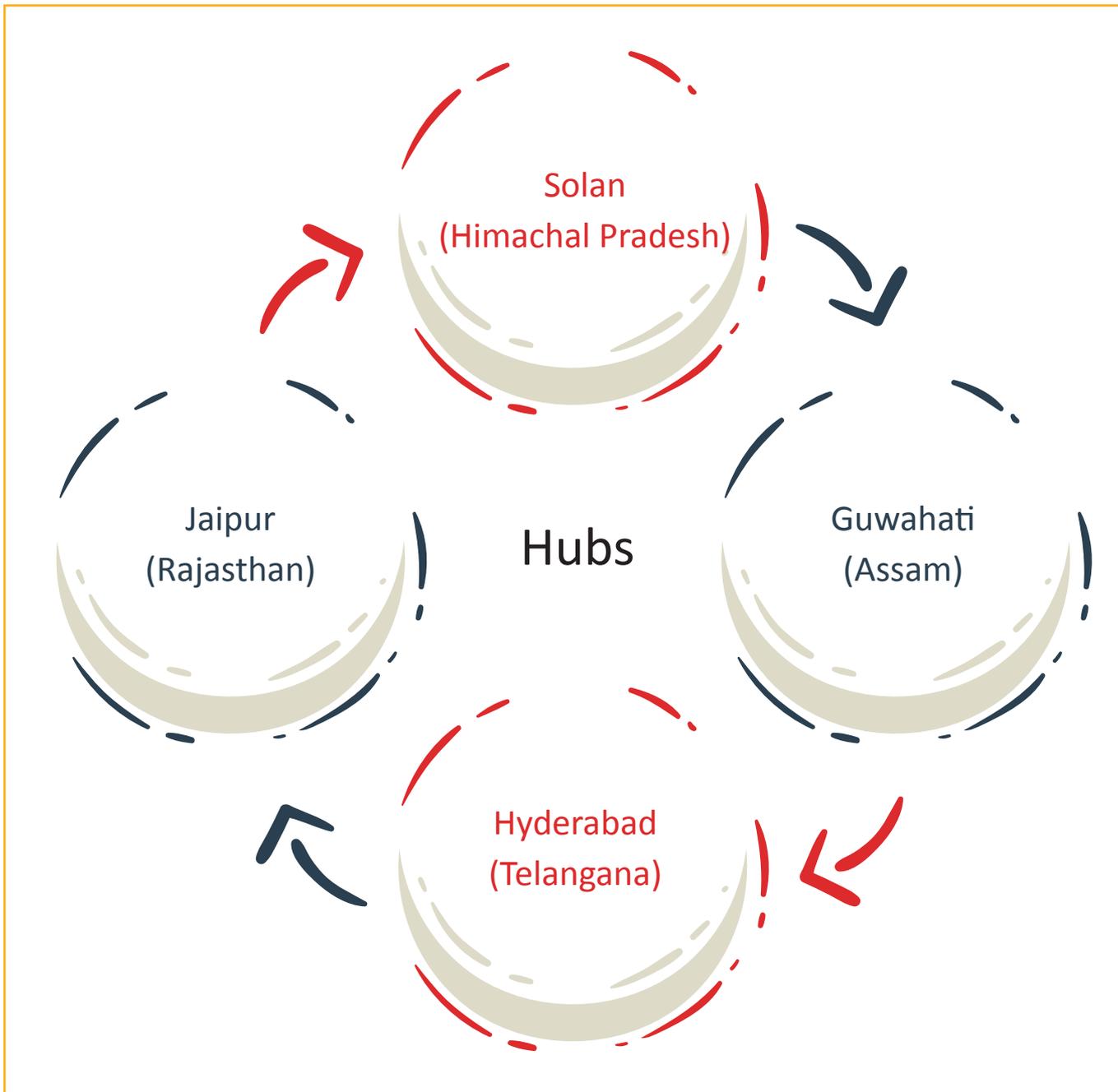
1. The communication design should be backed by behaviour theories and should always be contextualised as per the need considering the purpose, target audience and situational demand.
2. Communication is a strong tool in behaviour change & designing a communication campaign is a step wise systematic process.
3. Social media in today's era has a dynamic role to play as a platform of communication eventually influencing behaviour change.
4. Being evidence based is utmost necessary for a campaign to succeed for its purpose. Research should always be an adjunct in SBCC campaign development, implementation and evaluation.

Dr. Sanjay Rout,
IEC & MS, NACO

Update on Helpline - 1097



National AIDS Toll Free Helpline – 1097 service is run by NACO, since its launch on 1st December 2014. Helpline is functional 24*7 and counselors based at 4 hubs in the country handle calls in 12 regional languages. Information, counseling, referral and feedback services about HIV/AIDS related issues are provided through the helpline.



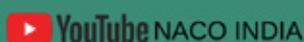
In-order to improve the mechanism of complaint redressal through the feedback service of the helpline, a computerized online Grievance Redressal module is prepared and which is to be made available live for access by National & State level officers. This system will be effective for addressing the complaints within lesser time frames. Majority of the callers continue to be from the age group 21-30 years. 96% of the callers constitute of males. Only 4% females utilize the AIDS helpline service in the country. From the initiation of the helpline till 30th September, 2018, out of the total calls received, 62% of the calls were connected and more than 25% of the callers are provided with information about HIV/AIDS related issues.

Mr. Benjamin,
IEC & MS, NACO

Do you know the right age to cast your vote?

Do you know your HIV status?

Go to the nearest Government Hospital for free Voluntary Counselling and Testing



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

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