

A close-up portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair, looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. She has a red bindi on her forehead and a small gold nose ring. She is wearing an orange garment. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

Vihaan
Care & Support

Improving Quality of Life for People Living with HIV

Named for the Sanskrit word for 'dawn's first light,' **Vihaan** is a national initiative to establish 350 **Care & Support Centres** (CSCs) across India to provide expanded access to key services, increase treatment adherence, reduce stigma and discrimination, and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV (PLHIV). The programme is designed as the care & support component of the country's HIV response under **National AIDS Control Programme IV** (NACP IV).

Working in close collaboration with the **Department of AIDS Control** and with support from the **Global Fund**, the programme operates in 31 states and territories and will reach more than one million PLHIV by 2016. The Vihaan consortium is led by **India HIV/AIDS Alliance** and 17 state-level PLHIV networks and NGOs, which in turn partner with district-level PLHIV networks and other organisations to deliver care & support services in communities.



Care & Support Centres

Vihaan CSCs are committed to the health and well-being of India's PLHIV community and their affected families, with special effort to reach those from underserved and marginalised populations, including women, children and high-risk groups, such as female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgenders, hijras and people who inject drugs. A safe space for PLHIV, CSCs coordinate with nearby ART Centres and provide access to essential care & support services, including counselling, outreach and follow-up support, health referrals, and linkages to social welfare schemes.





CSC Services

Counselling

Support from trained counsellors is available to individuals, couples, groups, children and adolescents living with HIV on a range of priorities, including anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and adherence, positive prevention, nutrition, sexual & reproductive health, and other need-based issues.

Outreach

Outreach services include follow-up with PLHIV on ART, CD4 testing, tracking 'lost-to-follow-up' or 'missed' cases, motivating family members for HIV testing, and training on home-based care.

Referrals

CSCs provide referrals to general healthcare providers such as government

hospitals and tertiary facilities, as well as other HIV-related services like integrated counselling and testing (ICT), prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT), tuberculosis (TB) co-infection, opportunistic infections (OIs), sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), opioid substitution therapy (OST), and palliative care. The centres also support referrals for legal services and crisis response.

Linkages

CSC staff support PLHIV to access, register for, and avail various government social protection and welfare schemes and entitlements, as well as helping them acquire important identity documents like ration cards, voter IDs, Aadhaar numbers, and PAN cards.



The **Vihaan** programme works with the **Department of AIDS Control (DAC)**, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and **State AIDS Control Societies (SACS)** in 31 states and territories. Vihaan is supported by a grant from the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** and is implemented by **India HIV/AIDS Alliance** and partners, including:

CPK+	HLFPPT	MAMTA	NMP+	RNP+	TNP+
FXB India Suraksha	KHPT	MNP+	NNP+	SAATHII	UPNP+
GSPN+	LEPRA Society	MPNP+	Plan India	TNP	

Vihaan and India's PLHIV community would like to express our **gratitude** to the many stakeholders and partners who support the implementation of the programme. Special thanks to our **Government of India** partners – especially **DAC** and **SACS** – for their untiring partnership and to the **Global Fund** for providing the financial support to make this programme possible.

Visit your nearest CSC for more information: