Celebrating and saluting leadership

With all its shortcomings, India’s National AIDS Control Programme is one of the most successful public health programmes globally. This has been due to the active, vigilant and meaningful engagement of people living with and most affected by HIV. However, the struggle is not yet over and to keep the momentum going, it is important that we celebrate our successes and rejuvenate our commitments. As an attempt towards the same, on the eve of this World AIDS Day, on 30th November 2016 NACO/AIDSVL (All India Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS) organised a “Leadership Awards – Celebrating Emerging and Saluting the Established” for communities most affected by HIV and their organisations. Every year, World AIDS Day is observed on the 1st December to raise awareness on HIV and support people living with HIV in their rights. This year, the theme of the day was “Leadership, Commitment and Impact”. Total of seven awards were given, one for each of the key population groups. The award winners were selected for their outstanding contribution in HIV programming and/or human rights of their community specifically in the last five years. The winners of the Leadership Awards 2016 were, Ravi Kiran from the MSM, Beena Gari from the PLHIV, Meera Pandya from the transgender and hijra community, Vandini Thapa and Keshallina Angiam from the PWID community and Harsh Agarwal from the Youth group. Nagaland User Network (NUN) won the prize for the best Community Based Organization (CBO). The winners expressed their happiness and re-committed themselves to advocate for the rights of their communities. The established leaders appreciated this initiative of bringing all leaders from different key populations on a common platform, united for a common cause, and committed themselves to strengthen the capacities of the emerging leaders. Several dignitaries who addressed the meeting included, Mr. Oscar Fernandes, parliamentarian and former chair of the parliamentary forum on HIV/AIDS, Mr. C.V. Sharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO, Gursharan Grewal, Country Director, UNAIDS India, Akkia Narang, Assistant Country Director (POC), UNDP. Several others enthusiastically participated in congratulating community leadership.

Empower, is the largest paperless tablet based application for client tracking of clients. On 1st December NACO organized a World AIDS Day programme. The application has improved outreach work, enabling better tracking of clients. On 1st December NACO organized a World AIDS Day event at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, where India HIV/AIDS Alliance also participated. Honourable Mr. J. P. Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, visited the stall and the Vihaan team took this opportunity to demonstrate the empower application to Mr. Nadda. The health minister appreciated the innovative data management system and its various features and further motivated us to continue pioneering successful responses to the HIV epidemic in India.

Encouragement from the Union Health Minister

When people have the support of their governments, their lives are better and similarly when governments stand by the citizens, the country is stronger. India’s HIV programme is an example of such a strong partnership between the civil society and the government and the collaborative efforts that has successfully ensured a global response to the HIV epidemic. Building on it, this year Vihaan partners commemorated World AIDS Day that saw a strong participation from the heads of the state governments. The Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (NAPL+) along with Nagaland SACS organised “Hands-up for #HIV Prevention” conference. Honourable Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri T. R. Zeliang, graced the occasion. He released red balloons to commemorate the day, followed by a pledge to raise awareness and support those living with HIV. A day long HIV testing campaign with the help of mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres was launched on the occasion. The Network of Maharashtra People with HIV (NMP+) along with the Goa SACS organized a state level convention on Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV on 6th December 2016. Honourable Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Manohar Parrikar, inaugurated the event. The Vihaan partner Mamma, in Association with the SACS, organised the event where the Health Minister assured the people’s support in the day. The event was attended by nearly five hundred participants including the MLA, senior government functionaries and other stakeholders. Participation of ministers and members of government and other organisations to commemorate the World AIDS Day is, significant contribution in strengthening support and working towards an AIDS free India.
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Strengthening government and civil society collaborations!

When people have the support of their governments, their lives are better and similarly when governments stand by the citizens, the country is stronger. India’s HIV programme is an example of such a strong partnership between the civil society and the government and the collaborative efforts that has successfully ensured a global recognition of the Indian HIV response. Building on it, this year Vihaan partners commemorated World AIDS Day that saw a strong participation from the heads of the state governments. The Network of National Positive people (NNP+) along with Nagaland SACS organised “Hands-up for HIV Prevention” conference. Honourable Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri. T. R. Zeliang, graced the occasion. He released red balloons to commemorate the day, followed by a pledge to raise awareness and support those living with HIV. A ten-day HIV testing campaign with the help of mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres was launched on the occasion. The Network of Maharashtra People with HIV (NMP+), along with the Goa SACS, organized a state level convention on Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV on 6th December, 2016. Honourable Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Suresh Kalmadi, also inaugurated the event. Vihaan partner Mamta, in co-ordination with the NACS, organised the event where the Health Minister assured the passes for PLHIV and educational support for CHLV in the state. National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCP+), in coordination with Bihar SACS, organised a sensitisation programme for the state cabinet on the rights of PLHIV with special reference to the HIV Bill. It was attended by nearly five hundred participants including key state and national government functionaries and other stakeholders. Participation of ministers and members of government in the events organized to commemorate the World AIDS Day, is significant contribution in strengthening support and working towards an AIDS free India.

Vihaan Updates

10,91,650 PLHIV received care & support services
4,39,423 PLHIV and family members linked with social protection schemes
2,56,011 Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
7,87,887 PLHIV screened for TB

(Through December 2016)
Celebrating and saluting leadership

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Strengthening government and civil society collaborations!

When people have the support and working towards an HIV-free India, the country is stronger. India’s HIV programme is an example of such a strong partnership between the civil society and the government and the collaborative efforts that has successfully ensured a globally accepted national HIV response. Building on it, this year Vihaan partners commemorated World AIDS Day that saw a strong participation from the heads of the state governments. The Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (NMP+), along with Nagaland SACS, organised “Hands up for HIV Prevention” conference. Honourable Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri T. R. Zeliang, graced the occasion. He released red balloons to commemorate the day, followed by a pledge to raise awareness and support those living with HIV. A day-long HIV testing campaign with the help of mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres was launched on the occasion. The Network of Maharashtra People with HIV (MMPI+) along with the Goa SACS, organized a state level convention on Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV on 6th December 2016. Honourable Chief Minister of Goa, Shree Laxmikant Parsekar, inaugurated the event. Vihaan partner Mamta, in Ahusnash Pradesh with the SACS, organized the event where the Health Minister assured from the passes for PLHIV and educational support for CHLV in the state. National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCP+), in coordination with Bihar SACS, conducted a sensitisation programme for the state cabinet on the rights of PLHIV with special reference to the HIV Bill. It was attended by nearly five hundred participants including the state level government functionaries and other stakeholders. Participation of ministers and members of government in the events organized to commemorate the World AIDS Day, is significant contribution in strengthening support and working towards an AIDS free India.

Encouragement from the Union Health Minister

ePower, is the largest paperless tablet based application for client management and reporting that was developed under the Vihaan programme. The application has improved outreach work, enabling better tracking of clients. On 1st December NACO organised a World AIDS Day event at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, where India HIV/AIDS Alliance also participated. Honourable Mr. J. P. Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, visited the stall and the Vihaan team took this opportunity to demonstrate the ePower application to Mr. Nadda. The health minister appreciated the innovative data management system and its various features and further motivated us to continue pioneering successful responses to the HIV epidemic in India.

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Vihaan News

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