



Celebrating emerging leadership and saluting the established

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 India HIV/AIDS Alliance 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. 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 Parida from the transgender and hijra community, Kusum from the sex workers community, Nandini Thapa and Ketholelie Angam from the PWID community and Harsh Aggarwal from the Youth group. Nagaland Users 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. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO, Oussama Tawil, Country Director, UNAIDS India, Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director (Poverty), UNDP. Several others enthusiastically participated in congratulating community leadership.

Encouragement from the Union Health Minister

eMpower, is the largest paperless tablet based application for client management and reporting that was developed under the Vihaan program. The application has improved outreach work, enabling better tracking of clients. On 1st December NACO organized a World AIDS Day event in 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.



eMpower impresses the Union Health Minister!

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,



Mr T. R. Zeliang, Chief Minister of Nagaland, releasing red balloons in support of those living with HIV/AIDS



Mr Laxmikant Parsekar, Chief Minister of Goa, at the GIPA convention

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 recognized robust 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 Naga People Living with HIV and AIDS (NNP+), along with Nagaland SACS, organised "Hands up for #HIV Prevention" conference. Honourable Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shree 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, Shree Laxmikant Parsekar inaugurated the event. Vihaan partner Mamta, in Himachal Pradesh with the SACS organised the event where the Health Minister assured free bus passes for PLHIV and educational support for CLHIV in the state. National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+), 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 MLAs, senior 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
- 7,87,877** PLHIV screened for TB

(Through December 2016)

