

## Tracking life

With an aim to ensure better quality of life Vihaan systematically tracks each PLHIV registered at CSC. The team works relentlessly also brings back people who are lost to follow up (LFU) at the anti-retroviral treatment centre (ARTC) with an aspiration to ensure zero LFU cases in India! The efforts would take a long time specially when there are states such as Andhra Pradesh with a high HIV prevalence and 1,93,415 PLHIV registered clients in the 40 ARTC across 13 districts. Till December 2016, there 922 LFU cases were reported from the state.

In this backdrop, recently when the Gudiwada ART in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, reported zero LFU cases it was a significant achievement for the Vihaan team. As of December 2016 the Gudiwada ARTC had a total of 585 LFU clients, out of which there were 20 deaths and 126 transferred-out cases, resulting in 439 active care cases. On an average the Gudiwada ARTC shared a list of 16 to 18 new LFU clients with the CSC team, enabling better tracking and retrieving clients to the ARTC. The good practices that helped in reaching the goal of zero LFU clients were measures, such as, such as, and strong coordination between the ARTC and CSC teams, cross-referral evidence with the ART centres and verification of the client's case-details, regular follow up of the registered clients, counselling and motivating clients, family counselling to garner greater support at home and providing a friendly environment at the facility.

The ARTC at Chilakaluripet in Guntur district is following the example set by the Gudiwada ARTC and is set to become the next zero LFU ARTC in AP. The achievements are a boost to the Vihaan team to continue its commitment to retain PLHIV clients to treatment, with a renewed vigour and strengthen the HIV response in India.





## "State Consultation on Orphan and Vulnerable Children Living with HIV"

National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+)  
in Collaboration with

Delhi State AIDS Control Society

Venue: Vishwa Yuva

Date: 19 December 2016

Vihang

*Building a brighter future for children living with and affected by HIV*

### For a brighter future

On 19th December 2016 Vihaan partner, National Coalition of People Living with HIV (NCPI+) organized a state consultation on shelter, food and educational needs of children living with and affected by HIV. The consultation was organized in collaboration with Delhi State AIDS Control Society (DSACS) to discuss the issues of children living with HIV (CLHIV). One such issue was that of the implementation of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), a scheme that provides shelter and care for children who are orphaned, vulnerable and in need. However, the scheme often does not address the specific needs of children living with or affected by HIV, and there is a need to ensure that it is extended to CLHIV and those who are affected by HIV without any stigma and discrimination. It was discussed that a long term sensitization plan needed to be developed for sensitizing those working for children, such as, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members and shelter home staff and ensure collective measures by the concerned agencies for better welfare mechanisms.

The major recommendations were: Women and Child Development Department and Child Welfare Committees (CWC) will identify shelter homes in each district. NCPI+ with the support of DSACS, will sensitize the staff of these shelter homes. A special sensitization program will be developed for the members of CWC to generate greater awareness among them on HIV and related issues faced by children. Children living and affected with HIV must be included in schemes such as, national food security and under the Right to Education (RTE) act.

The consultation was attended by members of various government departments, such as, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), DSACS, Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DALSA), Women and Child Development Dept. and members of CWC. Representatives of civil society organizations such as NAZ Foundation, Pardarshita, and India HIV/AIDS Alliance, were also present. The discussions enabled the participants to recommit to the cause of children living with and affected by HIV and envision a brighter future for the children.

## Bringing back hope

Rishi, has hearing impairment and his wife Madhu, who has a speech condition (stammering speech) are a discordant couple from Demudu Madanapuram village in Vijayanagaram district of Andhra Pradesh. They are agricultural wage workers and have a son studying in class 9. Rishi, came to know his HIV status in 2014 but refused to register in ARTC Vizianaragam. The CSC team tracked him and regularly followed up with him, they took him for counselling

and he was finally registered with the ARTC. In August 2016, he developed reactions like numbness, tingling and burning sensations in his palm and soles. Gradually he discontinued with the treatment and became a lost to follow-up (LFU) case.

Ms. Govindamma, outreach worker with the Vihaan CSC visited his home to find out the reasons of stopping the treatment, to resolve them and bring him back to treatment. With the support of his son and his wife, the ORW successfully convinced him on

the importance of ART adherence and the disadvantages of discontinuing with the medicines; she even accompanied him to the ART in December 2016. After several rounds of counselling and check-ups, Rishi is now on active care and the medical officer has given him medicines to treat the numbness and burning sensations. He now adheres to the treatment and shared his joy at finally getting relief from his discomforts and lives a life of contentment with his wife and son.

*(Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.)*

## Vihaan Updates

- 11,06,154** PLHIV received care & support services
- 4,52,435** PLHIV and family members linked with social protection schemes
- 1,03,638** Family members and partners of registered clients linked to ICTC
- 2,70,385** Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
- 8,31,101** PLHIV screened for TB

*(Through January 2017)*

