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The Project Director of the CSC highlighted the significant role of the Global Fund in Vihaan programme in strengthening the Indian Government’s HIV programme. He further highlighted the important task to track lost to follow up clients and bringing them back to ART and addressing the stigma and discriminatory practices. The visit was overwhelming for those clients rescued and peer counsellors shared with great enthusiasm their experience of using mPower, the tablet based application, which is an important tool for identifying clients who need support, prioritize critical cases, successfully bring LFU clients back to ART and supporting family members of PLHIV to get their HIV testing done.

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11,16,623 PLHIV received care & support services
4,75,174 PLHIV and family members linked with social protection schemes
1,07,209 Family members and partners of registered clients linked to ICTC
2,82,194 Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
8,19,690 PLHIV screened for TB

(Through February 2017)

Cervical cancer screening for WLHIV

Manipur Network of Positive People (MNP Plus), observes the World Cancer Day with a two day camp for cervical cancer screening. The theme this year was, “We can, I can”, to raise awareness about the disease, promote early screening and save women living with HIV (WLHIV) from this preventable type of cancer. WLHIV have four to five times higher risk of HPV and cervical cancer. Around 100 WLHIV availed Pap smear tests. They were also provided free blood sugar and blood pressure tests. They were encouraged to offer cervical smears and 47 were identified with inflammatory smear; they were referred for further treatment. Imphal East and West CSCs are following up these clients closely.

Shri Th. Bisajit, Member of Legislative Assembly and Thongui AC, inaugurated the camp. Dr. Lucy, Deputy Director, Care Support and Treatment Division from Manipur SACS explained the importance of Pap smear testing for WLHIV specifically for WLHIV. She spoke about the benefits of timely detection and dangers of ignoring warning signs, such as, abnormal vaginal bleeding and cervical pain; women ignore these signs for various reasons, such as, fear, denial or lack of knowledge, but timely detection and treatment is crucial in preventing untimely deaths.

The camp was therefore a step forward in the right direction, raising awareness and access to cervical cancer screening among women who are at a higher risk.

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The Vihaan team visited their house but only found Sham’s father there. He visited the village again after a few days and met Sham but was unable to convince him to take treatment. Next day, Mr. Ranjan, Project Coordinator, Palamu CSC, along with Manoj visited the village and Sham avoided them by hiding in the field. In the meantime, Katri was pregnant. Unable to talk to Sham or Katri, the PC met the village headman and explained the importance of institutional delivery for Katri. The village headman asked Sham to take Katri to the hospital the very next day.

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The visiting delegates were overwhelmed with the compelling stories of young women, men and adolescents and their journey of living with HIV. They appreciated the good work being done for PLHIV in India and encouraged to continue the initiative. They thanked the community for sharing how the Global Fund has impacted their lives for the better.

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