“United to End TB”

Vihaan News

Monthly Newsletter | April 2017

Vihaan Updates

11,32,013 PLHIV received care & support services
4,98,018 PLHIV and family members linked with social protection schemes
1,10,759 Family members and partners of registered clients linked to ICTC
2,26,061 Lost to Follow-Up, PLHIV screened and referred to ART service
8,62,055 PLHIV screened for TB

(Through March 2017)

Moving together is progress

The fourth National Review and Coordination Meeting of Vihaan was organised on 30th March in New Delhi, with the objective of bringing together key stakeholders involved in the national care, support and treatment (CST) programme, to strengthen the coordination among each and improve the quality of care. The meeting was attended by 130 delegates representing NACO, CTG, State AIDS Control Societies and Vihaan Sub-Recipient organisations, development partners such as UNAIDS, WHO, CSHO and community representatives. Dr R S Gupta, DG (CST), NACO emphasized on the importance of focusing on the care being provided to PLHIV through Care and Support Centres under Vihaan. This has great significance as the government has greater results to deliver with limited resources. In addition to the discussions on the progress of Vihaan, the deliberations during the day were focused mainly on the ongoing drive to firm up the traceable Lost to follow up (LFU) PLHIVs and escalate the tracking activities aiming to achieve the optimal result of bringing them back to treatment. The deliberations were also based on the need to be taken up jointly by stakeholders to prevent PLHIVs from becoming LFU and improve retention in HIV care. Ways to improve the reach of Vihaan programme in the geographies where new ART centres are being set up, strategies needed to improve the efficiency of outreach in metro cities, community based housing, and the need for potential care in HIV were other important areas discussed.

The stakeholders, while appreciating the progress made by the programme so far, felt that the programme needs to prioritize areas of focus so that it complements the National priority of 90:90:90 strategy.

Real work needs investment

“the power to influence national level policies is in the hands of the Civil Society Organizations and you. Data and voices policies is in the hands of the Civil Society Organizations and you. Data and voices these powerful words were shared by Dr R S Gupta, DG (CST) while addressing the meeting, which was attended by 130 delegates representing NACO, CTG, State AIDS Control Societies and Vihaan Sub-Recipient organisations, development partners such as UNAIDS, WHO, CSHO and community representatives. Dr R S Gupta, DG (CST), NACO emphasized on the importance of focusing on the care being provided to PLHIV through Care and Support Centres under Vihaan. This has great significance as the government has greater results to deliver with limited resources. In addition to the discussions on the progress of Vihaan, the deliberations during the day were focused mainly on the ongoing drive to firm up the traceable Lost to follow up (LFU) PLHIVs and escalate the tracking activities aiming to achieve the optimal result of bringing them back to treatment. The deliberations were also based on the need to be taken up jointly by stakeholders to prevent PLHIVs from becoming LFU and improve retention in HIV care. Ways to improve the reach of Vihaan programme in the geographies where new ART centres are being set up, strategies needed to improve the efficiency of outreach in metro cities, community based housing, and the need for potential care in HIV were other important areas discussed.

The stakeholders, while appreciating the progress made by the programme so far, felt that the programme needs to prioritize areas of focus so that it complements the National priority of 90:90:90 strategy.

That they have life in abundance

Here is a case which proves that a lot more can be done for the community if organizations are willing to go the extra mile. The CSC run by Guruprasad, an organization founded by 11 individuals living with HIV in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra managed to bring down the number LFU among those on ART to just eight cases. This is a remarkable achievement in a fairly solid terrain like Ratnagiri where transportation is also a challenge. A good number of effective strategies have been put in place by the CSC to reduce the LFU rate and move towards zero LFU in the ART centre. As and when the outreach worker meets an LFU client in the field, a telephonic counselling session is given by the professional/peer counselor. Still, a major reason for LFU is lack of financial resources for travel between their residence and the ART centre. Guruprasad takes care of their travel expenses at least for a period of six months through locally mobilized resources. In addition, nutritional support is also provided to such clients for a period of six months. At times, such clients miss their treatment-related documents and thereafter stop visiting ART centre due to fear. The CSC makes sure that such clients are accompanied to the ART centre to complete the documentation before availing the services again. The CSC receives commendable support from the ART centre for all their efforts and initiatives. During the period of ART shortage in the ART centre, CSC team with the strong support of the Senior Medical Officer of the ART centre mobilized drugs to ensure that no PLHIV is turned back from the ART centre due to shortage. This CSC works tirelessly with a strong commitment to the cause and willingness to provide selfless services so the community. Kudos to the entire team!
Moving together is progress

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With over 1300 deaths per day, TB remains a major public health issue in India and a serious concern for people. The Indian Union TB Race, a CSR partner observed World TB Day on 24th March in collaboration with other Global Fund delegates and other civil society organizations working in the field. The celebration activities that took place at the state level, events to be highlighted

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Vihana updates

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2,86,001 Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
8,62,055 PLHIV screened for TB

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“United to End TB”

On 3rd March, CTS in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Foundation launched the “United to End TB” campaign

“We the power to influence national polices be in the hands of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), we will manage to influence your voices.” These powerful words were captured in the mind of the entire team! The CSC works tirelessly with a strong commitment to the cause and no PLHIV is turned back from the ART centre due to shortage. This is also provided to such clients for a period of six months. At times, some clients misplace their treatment related documents and are also provided to such clients for a period of six months. In addition, nutritional support care of their travel expenses at least for a period of six months is also provided to such clients for a period of six months. The outreach worker meets an LFU client in the field, a telephonic counselling session is given by the professional/peer counselor. Still, a major reason for LFU is lack of financial resources for travel between their residence and the ART centre. Gunuprasad takes care of their travel expenses at least for a period of six months through locally mobilized resources. In addition, nutritional support is also provided to such clients for a period of six months. At times, some clients misplace their treatment related documents and thereafter stop visiting ART centre due to fear. The CSC makes sure that such clients are accompanied to the ART centre to complete the documentation before availing the services again. The CSC receives commendable support from the ART centre for all their efforts and initiatives. During the period of ART shortage in the ART centre, CSC team with the strong support of the Senior Medical Officer of the ART centre managed to mobilize drugs to ensure that no PLHIV is turned back from the ART centre due to shortage. This CSC works tirelessly with a strong commitment to the cause and willingness to provide selfless services so the community. Kudos to the entire team!