

## Better vision, Better life

With treatment the life expectancy of PLHIV is comparable with a non-PLHIV. To ensure attainment of complete health and wellbeing it is important to respond to all the needs of PLHIV community. To promote eye care, a special screening camp was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at CSC, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh Welfare for People Living with HIV/AIDS Society (UPNP+) in collaboration with Sightsavers supported by Pratapgarh Network for People Living with HIV Society (PNP+). The key objective of the camp was to generate awareness and provide eye care services to People Living with HIV (PLHIV). A total of 75 PLHIV including 29 men, 42 women and 2 young boys and 2 girls were screened during the camp. According to

the doctor, 10% clients had cataract and were advised for surgery and 30% clients were advised to use eyeglasses.

For many, this was the first time they got their eyes checked. The camp also helped them cross the hurdle in accessing services from healthcare centres.

Dr. A.M. Naqvee, Deputy CMO, Pratapgarh, Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, SMO ART Centre, District Hospital, Pratapgarh, Mr. Umesh Kumar Shukla, Senior Advocate, Pratapgarh, Mr. Vimlesh Kumar, Project Manager, Vihaan-UPNP+, and Dr. Raghuvendra Pandey, Indira Gandhi Eye Hospital, Amethi and Pratapgarh CSC staff organised the camp successfully.

## Together towards a better future



Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad

Osmania General Hospital (OGH) is one of the oldest hospitals in India situated in Hyderabad, Telangana.

The Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Centre at the hospital is supported by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and caters to about 28,000 PLHIV. The ART team under the guidance of Senior Medical Officer (SMO) and Medical Officer (MO), works in close co-ordination with the Network of Hyderabad by Positive People (NHP+) to ensure quality services to PLHIV.



Vihaan team with the OGH ART Centre team

Rammana (name changed), a PLHIV who regularly visits the centre at OGH for ART. While interacting with the Alliance India's team he expressed his heartfelt gratitude, and said that he feels very comfortable and happy visiting this centre because of the courteous staff. He highlighted that though the doctors at the centre are busy with many clients, they always take out time to understand the plight of PLHIV. He said that the doctors listen to them patiently and try to resolve all their issues. With support like this he gets constant encouragement and confidence to face any challenge that life brings forward.

## Hamari Pyaari Bindu

Bindu (name changed), is a young college girl who was born with HIV.

Her paternal family members due to fear and ignorance sent her to her grandmother's place when she was very young, and usurped her land and property.

But at the age of 18, Bindu fell sick and had to start ART. She gave up ART and became Lost-to-Follow-up (LFU). The ART Centre and Emanuel Ministries Association (EMA), where she took ART from, had a challenge of not only bringing her back but ensure strict adherence of ART.

Bindu was reached through the outreach worker who was informed by the ARTC counsellor to handle the case sensitively. She was brought back and provided counselling and necessary nutritional support by ARTC and CSC EMA.

She was depressed as she was going through the pain of stigma and discrimination being meted on

her by own family members who deprived her of her own property and her right to lead a dignified life. She requested the ARTC and EMA to help her. In joint co-ordination, both organisations visited the family members and informed her about the HIV bill and the consequences with respect to the failure to support her and for denying her just rights.

It was worth noting that the family members transferred her few acres of land and money that was left behind by her parents. Bindu is now very joyously staying with her grandmother, at the same time she is also completing her BCA. She aims to join government department as IT expert and says, "I am thankful to such wonderful people including the ARTC staff members and Vihaan team who helped me to live a quality life by supporting me to re-start ART and helped me in getting back my rights. I will be happy to be associated with Vihaan as a volunteer to provide peer support to other young PLHIV soon."

## Vihaan Updates

- 12,05,480** PLHIV received care & support services
- 5,60,270** PLHIV linked with social protection schemes
- 1,31,639** Family members and partners of registered clients linked to ICTC
- 3,81,768** Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
- 10,22,529** PLHIV screened for TB

(Through September 2017)