Support to National Response to Mainstreaming HIV

Millennium Development Goal:
Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Targets:
Halt by 2015 and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Relevant India Development Goal:
The goal of the National AIDS Control Programme–Phase III (NACP-III) is to halt and reverse the HIV epidemic in India by 2012

Background
A 2006 study by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), UNDP and the National Council of Applied Economic Research revealed that HIV and AIDS have a significant financial impact on households in India. Loss of life and decreased human capacities resulting from HIV-related illness has worsened the economic condition of households particularly those with limited financial resources. With huge costs in terms of healthcare expenditure and lost income, families living with HIV run the risk of sliding into poverty. The design of the current National AIDS Control Programme (NACP-III) was informed by these, and several other empirical studies including a UNDP-supported needs’ assessment study for People Living with HIV (PLHIV). This body of work points to the need to go beyond the health dimensions in understanding the impact of HIV epidemic.

Accordingly, the NACP has identified the need to mainstream HIV as a key strategy to upscale prevention work among the general population, and improve the capacities of communities, especially women, to cope with the impact of HIV and AIDS.

UNDP supports NACO in forging multi-sectoral collaboration between government ministries and departments and civil society by providing technical expertise at the central and state levels. Combined efforts have advocated for the modification of existing polices and schemes, pro-active inclusion of PLHIV in new schemes and formulation of HIV-specific social protection policies and schemes.

Objectives
- Expand coverage and impact of the national HIV response by mainstreaming HIV in selected ministries
- Enhance capacities of people from civil society to protect human rights of PLHIVs and other marginalized communities, especially women
- Improve capacities of government officials to effectively manage NACP-III, particularly in key ministries that contribute to the achievement of NACP-III goals

Project Information
Area: HIV and Development
Budget: US$ 15.44 million
Duration: 2008 – 2012
Implementing Partner(s): NACO

Other Partner(s):
Tata Institute of Social Sciences; Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India; International Council for Research on Women; Population Council; Swasti Health Resource Center

Location(s):
National Level; five UNDAF states (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh)
Results so far

- Nineteen government social protection schemes have been amended and 41 directives by the State Council on AIDS have enabled social protection of marginalized groups, for example, Madhu Babu Pension Scheme in Odisha. These have been possible through training of over 35,000 government officials in rights-based approaches to HIV
- HIV services have reached two million high risk and vulnerable people with the help of district outreach workers and functionaries. Over 400,000 women and men between the ages of 15 and 49 have been tested for HIV
- Improved access to justice for PLHIV through training of 2,000 paralegal workers
- Twenty-nine PLHIV networks have been set up or strengthened through mobilization, capacity and institutional development
- Significant contributions have been made to NACP-III in areas of mainstreaming, migration, community care centres, stigma, greater involvement of people living with AIDS and gender sensitivity. In addition to contributing to strategy papers on transgenders, stigma and migration for NACP-IV, UNDP has developed a strategy on HIV-sensitive social protection and mainstreaming
- Strategic advocacy for transgenders has resulted in the inclusion of a separate category for transgenders in the 2011 census. An Election Commission directive has also enabled transgenders to vote under a separate gender category—‘others’
- The new government methodology to estimate Below Poverty Line population has a secondary category for PLHIVs and transgenders
- The Approach Paper to the 12th Five-Year Plan has recommended an increase in access to social protection for women living with HIV
- Forty-seven knowledge products and 51 capacity building tools has strengthened the evidence base of development planners

Looking to the Future

- Effectively address vulnerabilities of marginalized groups such as PLHIVs, women, girls and migrants
- Work closely with government departments to identify and advocate for amendment/adaptation of social protection policies and schemes
- Support policy formulation for engendering the national response to HIV and AIDS
- Promote greater involvement of PLHIVs
- Develop action plans for a nation-wide roll-out of new policies
- Strengthen government capacities at national, state and district levels for effective implementation of the national programme

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