

# Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in Karnataka

## Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS

It has been recognised that the issues surrounding HIV is beyond the reach of the health sector alone and there is a need for a multi- sectoral response to address the impact of the epidemic. The mandate of NACP is limited to HIV prevention, care and treatment and is not in a position to focus on livelihood and social protection. Thus the need for establishing partnerships with departments/ ministries and relevant sectors becomes crucial. This will ensure better use of available resources for risk and vulnerability reduction and impact mitigation of HIV.

### **Vision**

The Vision for Mainstreaming is *Harmonised and Coordinated multi-sectoral national response to achieve NACP goal of accelerating reversal and integrating response.*

### **Key Focus Areas**

The key focus areas include

- Creating an enabling environment through policies, programmes and communication
- Facilitating expansion of key STI/HIV/AIDS services through integration with health systems of various stakeholders
- Designing and modifying policies, programmes and schemes to support social protection needs of PLHIV and HRG.

### **Key Constituencies**

Four key constituencies have been identified for NACP IV for the mainstreaming and partnership strategy. They are

**Government** : This includes ministries and departments (central, state, district, block levels, including convergence with other departments within Health Ministry) public sector undertakings, Panchayati Raj institutions, urban local bodies, armed forces, police and paramilitary forces, Railways etc.

**Civil Society**: This includes not-for-profit organisations, community based organisations, faith based organisations and Positive Networks. Local self-governance units are also included in this category.

**Corporate**: This includes private sector, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) foundations.

**Development Partners**: These include World Bank, GFATM, DFID, UNAIDS, UNDP etc.

## **Strategies for Mainstreaming and Partnership during NACP IV**

The major strategies for Mainstreaming are

### ***1. Mainstreaming for Prevention :***

#### **Provide information on HIV/AIDS to own staff and those who can be immediately reached through outreach programmes**

Most of the partners mentioned earlier have substantial reach – government ministries/ departments, public and private sector in particular- through the vast number of employees supply chain employees and the health and extension services.

#### ***Build capacities of key institutions at various levels***

Capacity building and other need based technical support to various partners will be provided to ensure that the mainstreaming activities are rolled out successfully.

### ***2. Mainstreaming for Scaling Up of HIV/AIDS Services***

#### **Integration of HIV/AIDS/STIs with the existing health systems of other Ministries**

HIV has negative effects amongst the workplace in terms of loss of income and benefit, loss of skills and experience, failing productivity and reduced profit. Work place programmes can raise awareness, support prevention, expand access to information and health services and prevent discrimination of workers infected or sick. Thus HIV/AIDS needs to become a part of workplace health promotion policies.

### ***3. Mainstreaming for Social Protection***

#### **Partnership for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS by improving access to social and legal protection for communities infected or affected by HIV**

HIV and AIDS can push people and households into poverty, in part by reducing household labour capacity and by increasing medical expenses. In some cases, HIV related stigma and discrimination marginalises PLHIV and households affected by the disease and excludes them from essential services. Social protection measures become HIV sensitive when they are inclusive of people who are either at risk of HIV infection or susceptible to the consequences of HIV and AIDS. In the light of the strategic importance of social protection to mitigate the impact on PLHIV as well as to reduce the vulnerabilities of people to infection, NACO works closely with other Government departments to identify and advocate for amendment of policies and schemes for social and legal protection of marginalised groups.

At the National level, as part of Mainstreaming with different Ministries, NACO has signed 11 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) . Taking the process forward, in Karnataka, KSAPS has conducted Inter-departmental meetings with Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports and Department of Education. As a roll-out of the component, New Mangalore Port Trust(NMPT) has established ICTCs within their hospitals, conducted awareness programmes for their staff. On World AIDS Day 2014, NMPT unveiled a poster on HIV/AIDS within their campus and organised awareness

programmes and Yakshagana, a local folk art form, for their staff. Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) also has launched sensitisation programmes for the staff. They have taken ownership of the programmes and conducted with only technical support from KSAPS.