



World AIDS Day 2021

December 1st is marked as **World AIDS Day (WAD)** in the remembrance of people who lost their lives due to HIV-AIDS. It is also celebrated as a victory for increased access to prevention and treatment services to every PLHIV and as an opportunity to increase awareness among communities. The theme for World AIDS Day 2021 is “End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics” which mainly focus on the tackling inequalities or inequity in accessing the services and on reaching people who are left behind. I-TECH India in collaboration with NACO, CDC India and State AIDS Control Societies organized various events and activities across the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Mumbai.

I-TECH India is grateful to CDC India, HRSA, University of Washington (UW) and PATH for the support received.

Delhi

I-TECH India participated in the event organized by NACO on WAD to showcase the key program interventions across the states. The stall was set up as part of the event organised by NACO to commemorate the World AIDS Day on 1st December 2021 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Centre. Partners of NACO were invited to share about their contributions and initiatives at this forum, which was graced by Hon’ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar and other senior officials from Health department. It was an important day for I-TECH India since NACO released the ‘National Operational Guidelines for ART services 2021’ and the ‘National guidelines for HIV care and treatment 2021’, both of which are supported by CDC India and I-TECH India.

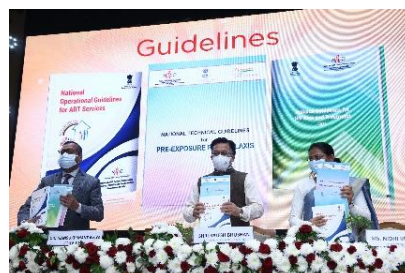
Posters, brochures, and pamphlets and a virtual display of different applications of various program activities were put up in the stall. Interventions such as Rapid response to sustain HIV treatment continuity during COVID-19 pandemic, Health on Bike, Transgender Health and Wellness Centre, Complementary services for improved HIV service uptake, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) were highlighted.



I-TECH India stall at the event



Guest of honour commencing the event



Launch of national guidelines



Mumbai

Weeklong activities for improving HIV testing and retention in HIV care were organised by Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) in collaboration with CDC India/ I-TECH India.

Flash Mob for HIV Advocacy and screening campaign

Flash mob events were held across nine major railway stations to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and mobilise individuals for HIV testing. More than 3000 people were reached with the messages through the flash mobs.



Flash mob performers with placards on HIV prevention

Launch of Elderly patient support group and screening for NCDs

Nearly 1300 PLHIV participated in the health talks conducted for elderly PLHIV across 20 ARTCs. These PLHIV were mobilised to be part of the elderly (age group of 60 and above) self-help groups (SHGs), which will provide peer support for mental wellbeing, treatment adherence and retention in HIV care. I-TECH India facilitated the health talks through a nutritionist on balanced diet and hypertension prevention and care for the geriatric (elderly) population at the ART centres in Mumbai.



Health talk by Nutritionist at Nair ARTC, Mumbai

Swayam Mahila Arogya Mela

Health check-up camps were held for the widows among the Women Living with HIV (WLHIV) from the ART centres in Mumbai. Screening for diabetes, hypertension, and Bone Mineral Density (BMD) test were conducted. The Arogya Mela also raised awareness on social protection schemes, appropriate diet and nutritious recipes and health talk on improving adherence for viral suppression. Around 262 WLHIV attended the event at MDACS, Mumbai. The WLHIV were also provided dry ration kits.



Health talk during Swayam Arogya Mela

MITWAA Anand Mela for Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV)

165 adolescents actively participated in the Anand Mela, an event for Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV) was held on 4th December 2021. Infotainment activities included street play, flash mob, songs and dance performances by adolescents, fashion show, tattoo, and bead-making stations etc. The ALHIV were also provided with a daily usage kit containing bag, bottle, nutrition packets, t-shirt, cap, mask, and sanitizer.



Anand Mela at MDACS, Mumbai



Launch of Learning Management System (LMS) - *Mitwaa.net*

I-TECH India's LMS platform - *mitwaa.net* had a soft launch during the Anand Mela. *Mitwaa.net* is a part of the I-TECH India's MITWAA initiative for ALHIV seeking treatment at the ART centres in Mumbai launched in collaboration with MDACS and CDC India. Around 1000 ALHIV seeking antiretroviral treatment from the treatment centres in Mumbai are expected to benefit from the *mitwaa.net* LMS platform.



mitwaa.net Home Page

Manipur

I-TECH India participated the state level World AIDS Day observance organized by Manipur State AIDS Control Society (SACS) on 1st December 2021. The observance was jointly organized and participated by various Government departments, non-government organisations, community representatives, civil society organizations and bilateral partners. I-TECH India supported Manipur SACS in distributing 500 t-shirts based on the WAD theme.

On occasion of WAD, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh announced that from December 2021 onwards all the PLHIV across the state will get ART medicines through home delivery to reduce social stigma. He further said that a substantial number of PLHIV do not have access to ART as they hesitate to visit hospitals or ART centres, fearing social stigma. Distributing ART medicines through physical outreach would help in increasing the accessibility irrespective of the circumstances.

Launch of new Link ART center (LAC)

As part of the WAD observance on 1st December 2021, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesan and Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh launched the Link ART Centre (LAC) at sub-district hospital in Mao, Senapati District to make ART more accessible for far-flung areas. I-TECH India has supported the SACS in feasibility assessment and establishment of this Link ART Centre.

Creative stall

During the state level observance, I-TECH India, Maruploi Foundation and Transgender Health and Wellness Centre (TGHWC) opened a stall showing the creativity of the transgender community by displaying the garments woven by them. Hon'ble Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesan, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh and officials visited the stalls to interact with the staff of TGHWC.



Transgender displaying their creativity

A cultural program by the transgender community based on the theme of 'End Inequalities, End AIDS, End Pandemics' and 'U=U' was organised through the Transgender Health and Wellness Centre.



Cultural program in Manipur



Health camp

I-TECH India, Maruploi Foundation and Transgender Health and Wellness Centre (TGHWC) organized a health camp to increase health awareness and ensuring access to health care services among transgender community. Medical officer Dr. Jayananda, CMO, Imphal East and Medical advisor, I-TECH India provided consultation to the patients at the camp.



Health camp in Manipur

Mizoram

Launch of Know your status campaign

I-TECH India's initiative in collaboration with Mizoram SACS on 'Know Your Campaign for Index Testing Surge' was launched by Hon'ble Health Minister of Mizoram, to focus on achieving the testing targets for the 1st 95.

Rally for HIV awareness

Mizoram State AIDS Control Society organized a rally on HIV awareness on 1st December 2021 where staff of SACS, TI, participated along with officials of CDC and I-TECH India. Mizoram SACS, with support from AHF, distributed t-shirts and caps.



Community Consultation

A Community Consultation was organised to commemorate the World AIDS Day 2021 by Mizoram SACS in collaboration with I-TECH India. The consultation was attended by leaders of PLHIV community, representatives from Positive Women Network of Mizoram (PWNM), Mizoram State Network of Positive people (MISNOPP), VIHAAN, OVC and officials from CDC India, I-TECH India, PATH, Alliance India.



HIV awareness rally in Mizoram

Nagaland

Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS) in coordination with I-TECH India and other stakeholders observed the state level World AIDS Day on 1st December 2021 at IMC Hall, Dimapur which was attended by around 350 participants. The program was graced by the Director, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Nagaland and Project Director, Nagaland SACS.

Awareness session on U=U

I-TECH India's Technical Specialist (Key Population) addressed the audience and spoke on the importance of greater involvement of transgender into the program and the importance of U=U. She shared that it is the first time that transgender inclusion has happened in the state and its huge achievement for the SACS. She added that there is a need to strengthen 95-95-95 activities and address the issues associated with stigma. She stressed that equal health access should be made available to the vulnerable communities.



Address to the audience on U=U