Fourth Edition

I-TECH India
Newsletter
June 2022

I-TECH
INDIA

I-TECH India implements all its activities with support from Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), University of Washington (UW), PATH US and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). I-TECH India collaborates with NACO, Mumbai District AIDS Control Society and State AIDS Control Societies of Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur for implementing program interventions.

Program Updates

Experience Sharing and Review Meeting: I-TECH India facilitated a three-day Experience Sharing and Review Meeting (ESRM) from 19 to 21 April 2022 in Guwahati, Assam. 46 participants attended the meeting which aimed at strengthening the HIV prevention program in priority states by using an integrated and innovative approach for achieving the first 95 of the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets. Participants also developed state-specific action plans with defined targets, roles, and priorities for the next six months of the current regional operational plan.

ESRM (Guwahati)

Training on HIV disclosure for ARTC MOs and Counsellors (Mumbai)

Training on HIV Disclosure for Children and Adolescents Living with HIV: I-TECH India conducted a two-day (20–21 April 2022) training workshop on 'HIV Disclosure for Children and Adolescents Living with HIV' for 22 medical officers and 37 antiretroviral therapy center counselors at the Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society (MDACS). The healthcare providers were trained to provide ongoing support to caregivers for disclosing status to their children/adolescents and for helping them cope with their emotions during the post-disclosure phase.

Index Testing and Partner Services Training: Trainings were organized for ICTC, ART center (ARTC), and TI NGO staff in Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Mumbai for fast-tracking efforts to reach the first 95 of the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets. The objectives were to improve the providers' knowledge and skills in supporting status disclosure and encouraging index clients to have their exposed contacts tested for HIV to link them to treatment services and/or prevention packages and strengthening linkages between the outreach and HIV testing facilities.

A total of 129 ICTC counselors, 20 ARTC counselors, and 86 TI NGO staff were trained in northeast and around 55 healthcare providers working at ICTCs and TI NGOs were trained in Mumbai.

Index Testing training (Mumbai)

Index Testing Training (Mizoram)

HTN Training for para medical staff at ARTC (Mumbai)

Promoting Lifestyle Management for Hypertension Prevention and Management among People Living with HIV (PLHIV): I-TECH India, in collaboration with MDACS and Resolve to Save Lives, is implementing "Screening and Management of Hypertension (HTN) in PLHIV" program at Mumbai ART centers. A one-day sensitization program was held for 87 ART center paramedical staff to improve service uptake and delivery for the management of hypertension in PLHIV.

Changing needs of Program under Basic Service Division
Capsular Training for ICTC Counsellors
Dissemination of Capsular Training for ICTC Counselors

National Capsular training for ICTC Counsellors: I-TECH India facilitated the dissemination of a national training module for integrated counseling and testing center (ICTC) through its e-learning platform for 170 state officials and counselors. The training addresses the gaps in reaching the first 95 of the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and serves as an opportunity to revisit program implementation. State-level dissemination of the training is also planned to reach all 37 states/UTs of the country within the next two to three months.

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Program Updates

Training with SACS (Arunachal Pradesh)

NACO visit at Assam SACS

Above Site Support in the Northeast India:
I-TECH India, in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, organized a two-day capacity building review meeting (hybrid) for HIV prevention and treatment facility staff (25-26 April 2022). The meeting focused on improving viral load service uptake and result utilization following the National Operational and Technical Guidelines for ART services and for promoting the U=U HIV prevention strategy. Discussions were also focused on the significance of timely referrals for eligible PLHIV to the State AIDS Clinical Expert Panel, referral mechanisms, follow up, and monitoring and evaluation tools. A total of 40 participants attended this meeting.

I-TECH India's NETSU team also supported the Assam State AIDS Control Society to present programmatic updates and facilitate the partners' meeting and community consultation during a visit planned by national experts and government officials from NACO. The state action plan for the upcoming months was also discussed during this visit.

Virtual Outreach Model for MSM: Under I-TECH India's Project Sunshine, a virtual outreach model is currently being implemented in Nagaland and Mumbai to provide a basic package of HIV testing and treatment services to MSM (men having sex with men) seeking sexual networks on virtual spaces (e.g., dating applications) using a 'virtual' outreach worker who is a member from the community. I-TECH India also presented this virtual outreach model during a three-day virtual interventions meeting organized by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in New Delhi from 19 to 21 April 2022.

Virtual Interventions meeting (Delhi)

I-TECH India's participation in national/regional meetings

Regional Consultation on Welfare of Transgender Persons (Guwahati)

Community Systems Strengthening (Mumbai)

National consultation and review meeting of Prison and other closed setting Interventions (Delhi)

Stories from the Field

Anthony, Community Counsellor, Mizoram

"I have the privilege to help my community after joining I-TECH India. I have the opportunity to reach out to a greater number of PLHIV community, who are hidden and have no access to treatment. I am happy to be an instrument for bringing them to treatment which helped them to have a better mental and physical wellbeing", says Anthony, a community counsellor based in Mizoram under I-TECH India's Project Sunshine.

To improve service delivery at the closed settings, he became part of a joint outreach team comprising of Mobile ICTC, Case Detection Unit (I-TECH India) and TI team to visit District Jail and Rehabilitation centres routinely. As a community counsellor, he is trained to provide treatment literacy to PLHIV who are hesitant to take treatment. He is among few community leaders of Kolasib District Positive Network and has been honoured as 'PLHIV champion' in Kolasib. Due to his reputation among community, he helped linking many PLHIV to the TI and ICTC.

Anthony is a 'role model' who inspires to work with dedication and hard work for the upliftment of the community.

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