

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

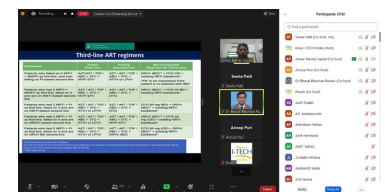


IAS 2022 Conference
(Montreal, Canada)

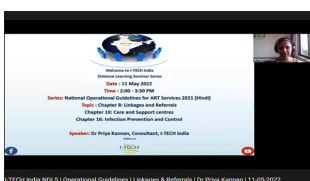
E-poster presentation at the 24th International AIDS Conference: The 24th International AIDS Conference (IAS) was held from 29 July – 02 August 2022 at Montreal, Canada. More than 12500 delegates including researchers, program specialists, community activists, donors and stakeholders attended the conference which focused on next generation HIV response through scientific research, emphasis on dialogues with communities who are left behind, sustainable finance discussions and understanding the success stories on prevention and care across the globe.

Ms Abhina Aher, Transgender Activist & Technical Expert on Key Population, I-TECH India participated in the conference. She was part of the panel discussion for session on youth engagement on SRHR and HIV integration. Contributions from Ms Abhina on sustainable financing were also acknowledged during the closing ceremony. I-TECH India presented five e-posters on differentiated service delivery in closed settings; Comprehensive healthcare model for Transgender population; Technology-enabled expert clinical initiative; Single window approach for screening and management of hypertension among PLHIV; and Engaging peer networks in Opioid Overdose Response.

Dissemination of the National Guidelines for HIV Care and Treatment: I-TECH India supported NACO in updating the national technical guidelines for HIV care and treatment. These National Guidelines for HIV Care and Treatment are a compilation of the revised treatment options for HIV positive adults, adolescents, and children and includes the latest global recommendations in HIV programme. I-TECH India continues to support NACO with the dissemination of these national guidelines through the series of Distance Learning Seminars at national level for all ART centres in the country. Till July 2022, 10 sessions have been held and 14 more sessions will be organised in the coming weeks.



Distance Learning Seminar on National Guidelines for HIV Care and Treatment



Distance Learning Seminar on National Operational Guidelines

Dissemination of the National Operational Guidelines for ART Services: The recently launched National Operational Guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Services provides detailed standard operating procedures for provision of care as well as for planning, implementing, and monitoring the program for effective service delivery. I-TECH India, in coordination with CDC India, facilitated the revision of the guidelines and supported NACO to disseminate the guidelines to healthcare providers at the ART centers through a series of national and regional distance learning seminars. 23 sessions were held which were facilitated by program experts from NACO, CDC India and I-TECH India in English, Hindi, and regional languages (Tamil and Telugu) reaching around 24,000 healthcare providers across the country.



Shri. Alok Saxena, AS&DG, NACO along with other participants at the CoE consultation (Delhi)

Consultation on Strengthening Centers of Excellence in HIV Care under National AIDS Control Programme: I-TECH India and CDC India supported the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in facilitating a two-day consultation (27 - 28 June 2022) which focused on strengthening and enhancing the existing models of centers of excellence (CoE) to meet the evolving priorities of NACP Phase V, emphasizing the adoption of an integrated approach for optimized service delivery. Programme Directors and Deputy Programme Directors from CoEs/pCoEs, officials from NACO and State AIDS Control Societies (SACS), Nodal officers and SMO from ART centers, HIV experts, and officials from partner organizations actively participated in this consultation. The findings from a digital self-assessment tool and recommendations for strengthening CoEs/pCoEs through building capacity of the treatment centers and maximizing integrated patient-centered service delivery were also shared.

Support for Strengthening Integrated Information Management Systems: I-TECH India, in coordination with NACO, conducted the training workshop on Strengthening Integrated Information Management Systems for NE region (11-15 July 2022). The training focused on 'SOCH—Strengthening Overall Care for HIV Beneficiaries,' a beneficiary-centric, web- and mobile-based system integrated with other MOHFW IT systems. The system will capture inventory and service delivery information pertaining to individual beneficiaries throughout the HIV continuum, creating a centralized repository of electronic health records and facilitating forecasting, inventory planning, and clinical decision support. A total of 113 participants attended this workshop including officials from NACO, SACS (Odisha, West Bengal and 8 NE states) and partner organisations.



SOCH Training (Assam)

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Program Updates



I-TECH India facilitating group work during OSC workshop (Delhi)

National consultation of One Stop Centre for Key and Bridge Populations in HIV care: I-TECH India participated and facilitated a session at the 'National Consultation of One Stop Centre (OSC) for Key and Bridge Populations in HIV care' which focussed on concretizing the concept of one stop centers and exploring the strategies and service components in implementation of one stop centers for key and bridge population (20-21 June 2022). The objective of the consultation also focussed on developing strategies for implementation of venue based integrated service delivery based on existing experience of Delhi.

Empowering Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV) in Mumbai under the MITWAA Initiative: In collaboration with Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS), I-TECH India organized a three-day training session for 76 ALHIV in Mumbai. The session's objectives were to improve skills in effective communication, interpersonal relations, decision-making, and self-management, as well as ART adherence, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health. A career guidance session was also organized for adolescents aged 15-17 years to provide information on the available options for higher education. A total of 56 adolescents attended the career guidance session.



Training for ALHIV under Mitwaa initiative (Mumbai)



Training on Cross-Border intervention (Assam)

Training on Cross-Border Interventions: I-TECH India, CDC India, and PATH facilitated a one-day training on cross-border interventions, planning provision of comprehensive HIV services in the border areas of Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland (03 June 2022). The training focused on assessing spaces of vulnerability, cross-border migration patterns, the effects of injection drug use, sexual behavior, and sexual networks. Interventions such as community consultations with key population (KP) groups and the involvement of key stakeholders are planned as next steps for improving service uptake in border areas for HIV prevention and risk reduction.

Training of Healthcare Provider on understanding Key Population groups, vulnerability, and disclosure counselling: To fast-track index testing among Key Population (KP), it is imperative to have better understanding of KP groups, vulnerability patterns, sexual networks, barriers in accessing HIV services, and skills to encourage disclosure with sexual partners. I-TECH India facilitated three batches of one-day training on 'disclosure' for 72 counsellors from ICTC and DSRC centers in Mumbai (06 - 08 June 2022).



Training of counsellors on KP groups vulnerability (Mumbai)

Expanding Private Sector Engagement in Mumbai: Early diagnosis of HIV, as well as linkage to appropriate prevention and treatment services is crucial to control the spread of HIV. I-TECH India, in collaboration with Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society (MDACS), has formalized an agreement with four laboratories in the private sector located at places convenient to key population (KP) clients in Mumbai. These laboratories will provide HIV and sexually transmitted infection testing services to KP clients at subsidized rates, thus improving service uptake and early detection.



Private sector engagement (Mumbai)

Stories from the Field



Training of ALHIV under Mitwaa (Mumbai)

Gauri (name changed) an 18-year-old adolescent living with HIV wasn't ready to discuss the fears with her family or ARTC counsellor and had no information on other available resources. The ARTC counsellor disclosed her HIV status in 2019 in presence of her mother, a year after being on treatment. The ARTC Counsellor encouraged her to participate in trainings under the MITWAA initiative in Mumbai. During the trainings, she was happy to look around at her peers who had been living positively despite being affected with HIV and are also taking their medications daily. She started attending the MITWAA trainings regularly which helped her explore many issues related to adolescent health and development. The workshops helped her gain knowledge and insights on how to deal with life challenges, make informed choices especially related to sexual & reproductive health, importance of treatment adherence and benefits of a healthy diet. During these trainings she acquired confidence and communication skills too. **She expressed her willingness to be associated with the MITWAA team reaching out to her peers, to educate them and empower them for a better future.**