

# Newsletter

## COVID 19 Response

### SAATHII

#### Partners

- ◆ National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+)
- ◆ Gujarat State Network of Positive People (GSNP+), Gujarat
- ◆ Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Karnataka
- ◆ All Manipur Nupi Maanbi Association (AMANA), Manipur
- ◆ Empowering Trans Ability (ETA), Manipur
- ◆ Maa Maajhi Gauri (MMG), Odisha
- ◆ Dr. Sameera M Jahagirdar, MGMC&RI, Puducherry
- ◆ Vikalp (Women's Group), Gujarat
- ◆ Nirangal, Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Queerala, Kerala
- ◆ Rural Resource Development Council (RRDC), Odisha
- ◆ Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI), Telangana
- ◆ Symphalliang Welfare Trust, Meghalaya
- ◆ Good Will Welfare Organisation, Nagaland
- ◆ Informal trans men collective in Odisha
- ◆ Raahi, Karnataka
- ◆ Sahayatrika, Kerala
- ◆ Varta Trust, West Bengal
- ◆ Badlav Samity – Madhya Pradesh
- ◆ Jan Vikas Samity – Uttar Pradesh
- ◆ Disha-Roman Catholic Diocesan Social Service Society (RCDSSS) – Rajasthan
- ◆ Amitie Trust – West Bengal
- ◆ Modern Architect of Rural India (MARI) – Telangana
- ◆ Mansa Foundation – Punjab

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#### At a Glance



- ◆ **Provision of HIV and COVID prevention and care support to around 13,000 PLHIV across the country by SAATHII and its Partners**
- ◆ **Ensured uninterrupted supply of ART medication for 1072 HIV+ inmates of prisons and OCS**
- ◆ **Groceries, essentials and/or cash was distributed to 1,157 HIV+ pregnant women and 11,377 were provided personal protective equipment**
- ◆ **750 members of the transgender and other sexual/gender minority communities provided with cash transfers, food supplies, and personal protective equipment**
- ◆ **Educated 5,818 tea garden workers on COVID 19 prevention and management**
- ◆ **Built the capacities of 472 health care providers and 288 frontline health workers from 140 tea garden hospitals on COVID-19 prevention and risk mitigation strategies**

#### Background

The COVID-19 pandemic, a global health crisis, has ushered in unprecedented times across the globe. SAATHII as a non-government organization remains committed to supporting the Government of India's measures for pandemic control, and has been working round the clock to respond to the needs of the communities and health departments at state and district level.

## Project Svetana



Project Śvetana has reached out to a total of 12,801 positive pregnant women with HIV care support and psychosocial services through in person or telephonic during the reporting period:

- ◇ Among them, 5470 positive pregnant women were provided support for replenishment of ART drugs.
- ◇ Other support provided included: 571 newly identified positive pregnant women linked to ART, 1457 followed up for early infant diagnosis, 699 for reaching facilities for ante-natal, delivery or post natal services and 1358 for provision of Nevirapine, CPT or ensuring testing of spouses.
- ◇ About 1,750 PPW were provided nutritional support through dry rations / groceries, 9 were given cash transfers, 5 were linked for social protection and 11377 provided with face masks.
- ◇ Additionally, Śvetana teams also coordinated with SACS/ district officials / Vihaan program and ensured ART drug supply for 2899 PLHIV during this period

## Project Sambhuya

Project Sambhuya: Supported the NHM in Assam in carrying out the following:

- ◇ At the community level: Educated 5,818 tea garden workers on maintaining social distancing at the workplace, use of masks, maintenance of hand hygiene, and respiratory hygiene, and uptake of Family Health and TB services and ensured access to free health and nutrition schemes and services.
- ◇ At the health facility level: SAATHII built the capacity of 472 health care providers and 288 frontline health workers from 140 tea garden hospitals on COVID-19 prevention and risk mitigation strategies including infection prevention, maintaining social distancing, quarantine procedures, testing availability and protocols and installation and usage of Government COVID app called Arogya Setu.



- ◇ In addition, SAATHII has disseminated central and state government guidelines and IEC materials on COVID-19 and enabled triage and referral in case of COVID 19 cases while continuing to increase availability and quality of Family Planning and TB services to COVID-19-vulnerable plantation Workers



## Project Subhiksha

The services provided by Subhiksha team are:

- ◇ Out of 273 prisons and Other Closed Settings (OCS) that have HIV+ inmates in the 13 operational states of Subhiksha, the project staff were able to coordinate with 259 prisons and the local ARTC/LAC/SA-ICTC, towards ensuring uninterrupted supply of ART medication of 725 HIV+ inmates inside those prisons.
- ◇ The project staff delivered ART medication to 120 post-release HIV+ inmates at their homes.
- ◇ Out of the 931 HIV+ released inmates, project staff contacted 562 of them over the phone to ensure treatment adherence.
- ◇ Nutritional support was provided to 24 post released inmates and their family members.
- ◇ The project team also delivered 9401 HIV screening kits to 109 prison based F-ICTCs.
- ◇ In addition to the direct project beneficiaries, the project team provided / arranged for nutritional support for 234 other beneficiaries (103 PLHIV and 30 other affected populations) in their operational geographies.



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Registered in 2002, SAATHII is a national non-profit agency in India that works towards universal access to healthcare, justice, and social protection for socio-economically marginalized women and children, communities impacted by the HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics, and groups marginalized on account of their sexuality and/or gender identity. SAATHII's programs are implemented across 36 states and union territories of India.



## Project Cap TB

CaP TB field staff based at districts continued the follow up services:

- ◇ Ensured the continuation of TB services at 42 out of 69 project facilities
- ◇ provided one month's supply of PPE kits to 69 health facilities
- ◇ Ensured an uninterrupted supply of TB drugs for 200 TB positive children

## Project Sahay

During the lockdown period, the field workers followed up with the PLHIVs detected through community based screening for ensuring ARV drugs availability and ART adherence and any other support required. Till date, 237 PLHIVs were followed up over the phone and 534 PLHIVs were provided with ARV drugs. Apart from this, 931 families were provided with dry ration. Three clients of Telangana who were found to be single test reactive during the camps in the month of March 2020 were linked to confirmatory services and then to ART centre during the lockdown

## Project Vistara, Empower, Sangraha and Access

Based on needs identified in the field

- ◇ Counselling support provided to 12 LGBT persons facing violence and discrimination and linked to medical and legal services
- ◇ A total of 43 transmen, 166 transwomen and 18 lesbians were supported with cash to tide over the crisis through direct bank transfer
- ◇ 19 transwomen were supported applying for ration card
- ◇ Maa Majhigouri leadership linked 40 transwomen with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India for receiving INR 1500 each and 568 transwomen with dry ration
- ◇ A total of six transmen were linked to receive one-month ration each and 618 transgender persons supported with dry ration

## Project Samata

Organised a Zoom-based webinar and discussion on LGBTIQ+ issues in the context of the pandemic in India on 9th April and a total of 45 participants from different states participated who identified as bisexual, pansexual, gay, heterosexual, questioning my gender, lesbian, trans man, transgender, non-binary, queer and Ally

## Acknowledgement

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