

HIV & YOU

AN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME AMONG MIGRANT INDUSTRIAL
WORKERS AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

BY
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS



United Nations Development Programme



Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS

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FOREWORD

This document features "HIV & YOU," an innovative and easily replicable programme targeted at raising awareness of HIV among migrant workers and communities through the involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The programme also aims at mobilising the support of the private sector and promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the region.

"HIV & YOU," developed and facilitated by the UNDP Regional HIV and Development Programme, South and North East Asia, in partnership with the Indian Network for People Living with HIV (INP+), acquires particular significance in Asia Pacific because the region witnesses large scale migration of people. Poverty, diminishing choices, denial of rights, and lack of access to information and services make migrant populations particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. This initia-

tive is an effort to address it through innovative partnerships.

The key partners in this effort are various groups of people working with medium and small scale industries, particularly migrant and contractual labourers and their communities; the corporate sector; and people living with HIV/AIDS. The key goal is to reach out, not only to the mainstream industrial workforce populations, which are primarily migrants, in these industries, but also to populations that are peripheral to the industry, such as contract labourers, truck drivers and suppliers.

A critical aspect of the initiative is that it provides a platform for operationalisation of GIPA (Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS), which calls for meaningful involvement of PLWHA in all aspects of the response to the epidemic, while addressing

the needs of migrant industrial workforce populations. For the first time, under this initiative, PLWHA have begun to conduct training workshops for industrial workers, serving the dual purposes of training and making people more aware of the broader issues regarding the epidemic. The PLWHA involvement also helps demolish the existing stereotypes of positive persons and creates avenues for income generation.

The programme has been piloted in two plants of the medium scale industrial manufacturer, Jubilant Organosys Limited - at

Gajraula, Uttar Pradesh and Nira, Maharashtra in India. The partners in the pilots were Jubilant Organosys, and INP+ with UNDP as the facilitator. The response to the programme has been encouraging and has shown immense promise of scalability across the region.



Dr. Maxine Olson
*UNDP Resident Representative &
UN Resident Coordinator*

THE RATIONALE

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In the Asia Pacific region, migrants are among the groups who are most vulnerable to HIV. Close to 80 percent¹ PLWHA respondents, in a UNDP survey in Asia Pacific, cited migration as the main factor that led to their vulnerability to HIV. Migration and mobility of people are widespread within and between the countries of the region, and are intrinsic to the changing patterns of economic life. In South Asia alone, there are currently over 200 million people² on the move.

However, it is important to note that migration by itself is not a vulnerability factor but creates conditions that make people sus-

place to other trade or sell sex for goods, services and cash in order to survive and/or continue their travel. Many migrants work in low paid, unskilled jobs in hostile environments. Their vulnerability also arises from their human need for company, intimacy, and sex. Being away from their families, their home communities, and familiar socio-cultural norms can lead to isolation and loneliness, and ignorance about available services. Cultural and linguistic barriers heighten their lack of access to the services that exist. These factors increase their vulnerability to HIV, as well as the difficulties of living with HIV/AIDS. Addressing the vulnerabilities of this group in the region is crucial to any integrated

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