

# e-NEWS LETTER

1st QUARTER OF 2024-25

APRIL 2024-JUNE 2025



**TELANGANA STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY**

**DM & HS CAMPUS, KOTI, HYDERABAD**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF PROJECT DIRECTOR



### Dear Readers

I welcome you to this edition of TGSACS News letter

In our collective fight against HIV/AIDS, the role of information, education, and communication (IEC) and behavior change communication (BCC) activities cannot be overstated. These efforts are the cornerstone of our mission to spread awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage healthy practices among communities. The launch of our quarterly newsletter represents a significant step forward in this endeavor, serving as a crucial platform to disseminate vital information and updates on our ongoing initiatives.

The intersection of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) continues to pose a significant public health challenge. Understanding and addressing the co-incidence of these diseases is vital for the effective management and prevention of both. Our newsletter will regularly feature insights and updates on the progress we are making in this area, highlighting best practices and success stories that can serve as models for others.

We also pay tribute to the solemn occasion of the AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day, an event that serves as a poignant reminder of the lives lost to AIDS and the ongoing battle to prevent further loss. This day holds a special place in our hearts, as it reinforces our commitment to the cause and strengthens our resolve to continue working towards an AIDS-free society.

In addition to these key focus areas, our newsletter will also cover updates on the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) program and the operational aspects of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centers. These are critical components of our strategy to control the spread of HIV and provide care and support to those affected..

I am confident that this newsletter will serve as an essential resource for all stakeholders involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Telangana. It will not only keep us informed but also inspire collective action towards achieving our shared goals.

**Mrs.K.Hymavathi**  
**Project Director**  
**Telangana AIDS Control Society**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR MS& IEC



### **Dear Readers**

Effective communication lies at the heart of our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. The importance of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities cannot be overstated. These initiatives are vital in raising awareness, reducing stigma, and promoting safer practices within our communities. Our quarterly newsletter will serve as a key platform to highlight these efforts, ensuring that accurate and impactful messages reach every corner of Telangana.

As we continue to confront the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, it is essential to keep our stakeholders informed and engaged. This newsletter will provide updates on our ongoing IEC/BCC campaigns, share success stories, and offer insights into emerging trends and strategies. By fostering a deeper understanding of our work, we aim to inspire collective action and strengthen our response to the epidemic.

We believe that this newsletter will be a valuable resource for all who are committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS. It will not only keep us informed but also motivate us to continue our efforts with renewed vigour and dedication. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by HIV/AIDS in Telangana.

**V. Ravi Kumar**  
**Deputy Director, MS & IEC**  
**Telangana AIDS Control Society**

# CME on HIV Management in Clinical Practice & Private Sector Engagement

CME on HIV Management in Clinical Practice & Private Sector Engagement was organized for private practitioners and govt ART Centre Medical Officers who are treating HIV positive clients. Purpose of the meeting was to actively engage the private practitioners in NACP; informing them on the reporting of the number of HIV positive clients accessing services in the private sector to TGSACS, in the quarterly reporting template developed by NACO and to bridge the gap of 95-95-95.

the benefits of index testing, thereby advancing comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts.



**Date: 6th April 2024:**

## Virtual Launch of Index testing on 15th April

The National AIDS Control Programme (NACO) launched its Index Testing Campaign on 15th April 2024 to increase to bridge the gap of first 95 of NACO goals. The campaign is voluntary and will run for next 6 months until October 15, 2024.

### Virtual meeting with ART centers on data cleaning exercise on 10th April 2024:

TGSACS has taken up the process of cleaning the data generated at the ART centers. Virtual meeting with the staff was conducted to explain the data cleaning process and got few indicators verified during the meeting. Explained how it can be done before sharing the data to TSACS on monthly basis



# Release of Index Testing IEC Materials

**Date: April 25, 2024**

**Venue: TGSACS , Hyderabad.**

At the 360 Degree Review Meeting held on April 23, 2024, key officials including Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, along with NACO's Dr. Bhawani Singh and Mr. Benjamin, and TGSACS's Dr. P. Prasad, Dr. Karunasri, Dr. Ravi Kumar, Mr. K. Prasad, and Mr. Ravi Kumar, released the Translated Index Testing IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials. These materials, developed by NACO and designed to cater to diverse linguistic groups, aim to enhance the outreach and effectiveness of index testing initiatives. The event featured presentations on the importance and methodology of index testing, showcasing the materials' potential to educate and engage communities.



Feedback from TGSACS officials was incorporated, focusing on implementation strategies and regional challenges. This initiative is crucial for overcoming language barriers, fostering community engagement, and supporting healthcare workers in effectively communicating the benefits of index testing, thereby advancing comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts.

## NACO 360 review meeting on 23rd April 2024

NACO 360 review lead by Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, along with NACO's Dr. Bhawani Singh and Mr. Benjamin, and TGSACS's Dr. P. Prasad, Dr. Karunasri, Dr. Ravi Kumar, Mr. K. Prasad, and Mr. Ravi Kumar, were attended



# Sensitization Programme for Telangana District AIDS Control Officers

The Sensitization Programme for Telangana District AIDS Control Officers was held on April 25, 2024, in Hyderabad. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, accompanied by Dr. Bhawani Singh and other officials from the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and the Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSACS).



**Date: April 25, 2024**

The programme aimed to enhance the knowledge and effectiveness of District AIDS Control Officers through interactive sessions and discussions led by experts. Key topics included updates on HIV/AIDS prevention strategies, the importance of index testing, and new IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials. The participation of both NACO and TGSACS officials underscored the collaborative effort to strengthen the state's response to HIV/AIDS, ensuring that district-level officers are well-equipped to implement comprehensive control measures.

## Meeting with Ms. Sukhwinder from USAID on 25th April 2024

Mrs.K.Hymavathi, I.A.S., Project Director Meeting with Ms. Sukhwinder from USAID along with Dr Partha from ACCELRATE on data analysis of the three 95's of TGSACS



# HIV -TB coordination meeting

**DATE:7th May 2024**

A HIV -TB coordination meeting was conducted at the conference hall of TGSACSON 7th May 2024, The key functionaries of TGSACS and State TB cell participated in the meeting. The participants for the meeting were from TGSACS:

APD - Dr. Prasad,  
JD CST- Dr.Karunasri,  
JD STI - Dr. Ravi Kumar,  
DD CST- Ms. Mekala,  
AD BSD- Ms.Indira  
TB Division:  
STO- Dr.Rajesham,  
TB-HIV Coordinator - Dr. Adithya  
TB ALERT: Mr. Ramesh,  
ACCELERATE: Dr. Parthasarathy, Dr. Sreedhar  
and Dr. Shanthi



## Discussion points

- Reviewed the draft agenda for the proposed state-level HIV-TB coordination meeting-cum-review
- Reviewed the draft PPT template on the progress of HIV-TB activities in the state
- Mechanism of collecting and collating TB data from state and districts (HIV data from ART centres, ICTCs and TGSACS; and TB data from District and State TB cell)
- Discussion to address the current programmatic needs: INH stock updates, use of NIKSHAY software by ART centers, data templates and reporting across TGSACS and TB department, and on training of field level staffs on HIV-TB coordination
- Plans for conducting of regular state & district level HIV-TB coordination meetings



# Reorientation of the treatment buddies of Project ACCELERATE on ART protocols

**Date: 6th & 7th May**

The USAID-supported ACCELERATE project, providing technical support to TGSACS, conducted a reorientation of treatment buddies on NACP guidelines and protocols to be followed at the ARTC. The joint director (CST), TGSACS was part of the orientation and interacted with the staff on their responsibilities and discussed the areas to be focused at the ARTC



## Two-Day Annual Coordination Meeting of CSC and ART Centers

On 9th May 2024, Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, addressed the two-day annual coordination meeting of Care and Support Centers (CSC) and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centers at the Indian Institute of Health & Family Welfare (IIHFW) in Hyderabad. This important event gathered healthcare professionals, administrators, and key stakeholders to discuss and evaluate the ongoing efforts in HIV/AIDS treatment and support services. Hymavathi emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration between CSC and ART centers to enhance patient care and outcomes. The meeting provided a platform for sharing best practices, addressing challenges, and strategizing future initiatives to strengthen the HIV/AIDS response in Telangana.

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# Review Meeting of Index Testing Campaign

**Date: 10th May 2024**



On 10th May 2024, Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, conducted a comprehensive review meeting at Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TGSACS) Headquarters, Hyderabad with the District AIDS Prevention and Control Units (DAPCUs) staff to assess the progress of the ongoing Index Testing Campaign.

The meeting, attended by Dr. P. Prasad, Additional Project Director, along with Joint Directors (JDs) and Deputy Directors (DDs), focused on evaluating the campaign's progress, addressing challenges, and formulating an action plan. In her opening remarks, Smt. Hymavathi emphasized the critical role of the Index Testing Campaign in identifying and providing care for individuals living with HIV, acknowledging the efforts of the DAPCUs staff and the importance of accurate data collection. Dr. Prasad provided an overview of the campaign's progress, highlighting the number of index cases identified and subsequent testing of their contacts. JDs and DDs presented detailed reports on their respective areas, showcasing successes and identifying challenges, including reaching hard-to-access populations and addressing stigma associated with HIV testing. Proposed solutions included enhanced community outreach, collaboration with local NGOs, and additional training for field staff. Emphasis was placed on meticulous data management and the implementation of a centralized database for real-time data entry and analysis. The meeting concluded with the development of an action plan to address challenges, improve outreach strategies, and ensure the campaign's targets are met, assigning specific tasks to DAPCUs staff with clear timelines and responsibilities to ensure accountability and effective implementation.

# International AIDS Candle Light Memorial Day -2024



**Date: May 19, 2024**

**Venue: TGSACS , Koti, Hyderabad.**

The International AIDS Candle Light Memorial Day was commemorated on May 19, 2024, in Hyderabad, with the participation and address by Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS. The event, organized by the Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TGSACS), brought together officials from TGSACS, members of Positive Networks, representatives from Targeted Intervention (TI) NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), partners, and general youth.

The memorial served as a poignant reminder of the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS and honored those who have lost their lives to the epidemic. Smt. K. Hymavathi's address emphasized the importance of community involvement, support networks, and the continuous efforts needed to combat HIV/AIDS. The gathering fostered solidarity and reinforced the commitment to achieving an AIDS-free generation through collective action and awareness.



The District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit (DAPCU) Nalgonda observed the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day on 19th May 2024 in Nalgonda, Telangana. This poignant event was dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives to AIDS and supporting those living with HIV. Chief Guest V. Ravi Kumar, Deputy Director of IEC & MS, along with DAPCU staff and partners, participated in the event. The occasion featured a candlelight vigil, symbolizing hope and solidarity in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It served as a platform to raise awareness, combat stigma, and foster a sense of community and support for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.

# Early Infant Diagnosis for ICTC/PPTCT Lab Technicians, TGSACS.

**Date: 20-24 may 2024**

From May 20 to May 24, 2024, TGSACS (Telangana State AIDS Control Society) conducted a specialized training program on Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) for ICTC/PPTCT lab technicians at RCUES, Osmania University. The objective of the training was to enhance the skills and capabilities of lab technicians involved in Integrated Counseling and Testing Centers (ICTCs) and Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) centers across Telangana State. The inauguration of the training was attended by key officials including Smt. K Hymavathi I.AS., Project Director, Dr. P. Prasad, Additional Project Director, and Dr. Chandra Reddy, JD BSD from TGSACS.



Participants were organized into multiple batches to facilitate effective learning, with each batch consisting of 30-40 lab technicians. The training sessions were led by experienced trainers, emphasizing critical procedures and protocols essential for Early Infant Diagnosis. Special focus was placed on the timely and accurate testing for infants born to HIV-positive mothers, stressing the importance of early detection and intervention for improved health outcomes.

Upon completion of the training, participants gained essential skills and knowledge necessary for the effective implementation of EID within ICTCs and PPTCT centers. They departed equipped to apply their enhanced capabilities in their daily practices, thereby strengthening healthcare provisions and contributing to the reduction of HIV transmission among infants across Telangana State

# State Level Joint Working Group Meeting

**Date: 27th June 2024**

**Venue: Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TGSACS) Headquarters, Hyderabad**

The State Level Joint Working Group Meeting was held on 27th June 2024 at the TGSACS headquarters in Hyderabad. This meeting aimed to enhance inter-departmental collaboration and strategize on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support. The event witnessed the participation of Nineteen Departments' Nodal Officers along with all TGSACS component heads. The Chief Guest for the event was Hon'ble Project Director Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, who highlighted the significant achievements of TGSACS and outlined strategic goals for the upcoming year. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and addressing socio-economic determinants of HIV/AIDS.



## Key Participants:

Prominent attendees included Smt. K. Hymavathi, IAS, Project Director, TGSACS, Hyderabad; Dr. P. Prasad, Additional Project Director, TGSACS, Hyderabad; Dr. Karunasri, Joint Director-CST, TGSACS, Hyderabad; Dr. Ravi Kumar, Joint Director-STI, TGSACS, Hyderabad; Mr. K. Prasad, Joint Director-TI, TGSACS, Hyderabad; and Mr. Ravi Kumar, Deputy Director-IEC, TGSACS, Hyderabad. Other key participants were representatives from SCERT, Civil Supplies, SERP, WD & CWD, Tribal Welfare, Labour, Revenue, Mines & Geology, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Prisons, PR&RE, CCE, NSS, and the Department of Factories, among others. Each department presented their ongoing projects and initiatives related to HIV/AIDS, discussed integrated strategies to enhance program effectiveness, and developed a comprehensive action plan for the next quarter.

# Index Testing Campaign and SOCH for ICTC/PPTCT Counselors OF TGSACS

**DATE: 6 TH AND 7TH JUNE , 2024,**

TGSACS (Telangana State AIDS Control Society) organized a specialized training program on June 6 and 7, 2024, titled "Index Testing Campaign and SOCH" for ICTC/PPTCT counselors at the Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare, SR Nagar, Ameerpet. The objective of the training was to enhance the skills and knowledge of counselors involved in Integrated Counseling and Testing Centers (ICTCs) and Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) centers across Telangana State.



**Participants:** A total of 163 counselors participated in the training, organized into 2 batches.

**Venue:** Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare, SR Nagar, Ameerpet.

**Key Officials:** The training was reviewed by key officials from TGSACS, including Smt. K Hymavathi I.AS., Project Director, Dr. P. Prasad, Additional Project Director, and Dr. Chandra Reddy, JD BSD.

**Training Focus:** The program focused on two main components:

- Index Testing Campaign: Identifying and testing contacts of HIV-positive individuals to prevent further transmission.

SOCH (Strengthening of Covered HIV Cases): Enhancing follow-up and care for individuals already diagnosed with HIV.

Counselors received comprehensive training on effective counseling techniques, case management strategies, and the importance of confidentiality and sensitivity in HIV/AIDS care.

By the conclusion of the training, counselors had acquired advanced skills and strategies necessary to conduct successful index testing campaigns and improve the management of covered HIV cases within ICTCs and PPTCT centers across Telangana State. This initiative is expected to significantly contribute to reducing HIV transmission rates and improving health outcomes among affected individuals.



**National AIDS Control Organisation**

India's response to HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections  
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