

## FHI FOCUS ON

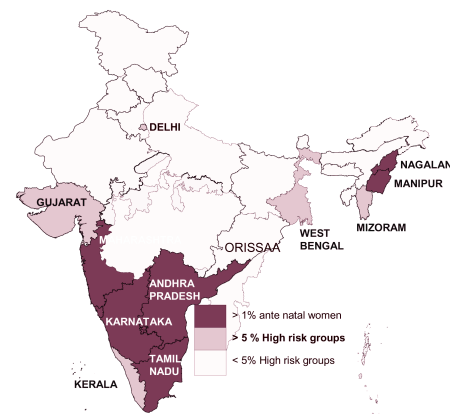
# INDIA

### Background

India is a country of more than one billion people, seventeen official languages, and hundreds of ethnic groups. The first case of HIV was reported in 1986 in Chennai. The National government launched the National AIDS Control Program in 1987. After the establishment of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in 1993, India implemented the National AIDS Control Project (NACP) Phase 1, ending in March 1999, and is currently running Phase 2 with significant contribution from the World Bank, UNAIDS, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies. NACO estimates that 3.86 million people are living with HIV. The current HIV infection rate is estimated at 0.7% of the adult population. However, different states face different stages of the epidemic. According to sentinel surveillance results, NACO estimates that the infection has crossed 1% among ante-natal clinic attendees in six states. All the states, union territories, and three large cities have set up AIDS Control Societies for managing the HIV/AIDS Control programs. FHI's current activities in India are being implemented through support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). FHI also manages and coordinates small grants from the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF). FHI has recently completed a project with funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

### CURRENT STATUS OF HIV EPIDEMIC - 2000 3.86 MILLION INFECTED

Source: Surveillance data from National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), 2000



### USAID - Funded FHI/IMPACT Program

**Strategy:** FHI/IMPACT in India has developed a framework to support USAID/India's priorities in keeping with NACO's strategic plan.

**Accomplishments:** IMPACT/India supports research, capacity building, and direct intervention programs, and provides technical assistance to USAID's programs in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. IMPACT has supported 5 major studies to provide baseline information to USAID's bilateral AVERT project in Maharashtra. In addition, IMPACT is building capacity of local NGOs, provides support to NACO and State AIDS societies for staff development, and has funded development of direct interventions with men who have sex with men (MSM) and trade unions. IMPACT also funds 6 agencies to develop and implement interventions among children affected by AIDS.

**Challenges:** Capacity building is urgently needed. There is also a lack of committed and technically up-to-date resource persons to support field-based groups and providers in the public sector.

**Future Plans:** IMPACT will continue to provide financial and high-quality technical support to organizations to demonstrate and implement creative approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention and care and support programs. Both capacity building and support for research organizations will continue to be major areas of emphasis for IMPACT.

**Partners:** Key partners are state and national governments, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions.

## DFID-Funded Program

**Background and Strategy:** In 1998, DFID awarded FHI a contract to design a project for assessing the impact of sexual health and HIV/STD prevention programs in 5 states. The area also included national highways on which DFID supported a prevention project among people working in the trucking industry, called the Healthy Highway Project (HHP). The methodologies designed by FHI complemented the NACO-supported HIV sentinel surveillance and consisted of HIV risk behavior surveillance survey (BSS), surveys of Health Care Providers on STD case management, and STD prevalence surveys. The work was completed in 2001.

**Program Accomplishments:** Twenty pieces of research were completed by mid 2001. The findings were disseminated locally at the state level, as well as being used by program managers.

**Challenges and Future Direction:** The challenge is to ensure that the data is disseminated widely and used appropriately to better inform HIV prevention strategies.

**Partners:** FHI has collaborated with the AIDS Control Societies of Ahmedabad, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal; BJ Medical College; CGRAF-University of Kerala; PSM Departments of Jamnagar; Surat Medical Colleges; Rangaraya Medical College; ACS, BPWT; CHANGES; CSRD; Jyoti Sangh; PREPARE; SOMA; VOICE; ARMS; Biocare Lab; AIMS Research; Blackstone Market Facts; Indian Market Research Bureau; Operations Research Group; TNS MODE; PSU in Gujarat; and SMAs in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

## Elton John AIDS Foundation-Funded Program: FHI Rapid Response Fund (EJAF/FHI/RRF)

**Background and Strategy:** The RRF is intended to provide a quick response mechanism for funding community-based HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities through local NGOs or CBOs. The activities include education of the general public, interventions with high risk groups, youth interventions, care and support, and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

**Accomplishments and Partners:** An NGO called Jyoti Sangh is doing outreach activities among female sex workers and their children and families, and MSM in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. YRG Care in Chennai, Tamilnadu has used the funds to upgrade the facilities at its pharmacy for PLHA. NARC in Mumbai, Maharashtra, has been working to reduce the vulnerability of bar girls to HIV infection. DART, an NGO in Delhi, works among MSM, and PREPARE works among HIV positive people in rural Andhra Pradesh.

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Implementing AIDS  
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