Launching of
Unified Budget, Results & Accountability Framework (UBRAF)
on HIV/AIDS in Gujarat

Date : 11th May 2018
GMERS Auditorium, Gandhinagar

Gujarat State AIDS Control Society
Ahmedabad
Website: www.gsacsonline.org
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Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (GSACS)

Established in December 1998, under Societies Registration Act 1860, the Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (GSACS) works on multiple fronts to prevent the further spread of HIV infection and to ensure that every person living with HIV has access to quality care and is treated with dignity. The major components and strategies of the GSACS are as under:

- **Partnership with Civil Society Organizations (Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)).**
  - Total 89 prevention programmes (TI) in urban and semi urban areas and 9 programmes in rural areas with High Risk Groups & Bridge Population are being implemented through CSOs/NGOs/CBOs.

- **Blood Safety and Blood Transfusion Services**
  - Blood Component Separation Units
  - Major Blood Banks
  - District level blood banks
  - Regional Blood Transfusion Centre

- **Basic Service Division**
  - HIV testing facilities through 314 stand alone & 3 mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs).
  - 1440 Facility integrated ICTCs are established at sub-district, block level to expand the reach of the HIV testing facility.
  - Around 574 FICTCs are under Public Private Partnerships to further expand the reach of the HIV testing services.

- **Suraksha Clinics**
  - Treatments for Sexually Transmitted Infections are rendered through these clinics, established at district and few sub-district hospitals (66 Suraksha clinics are functional).

- **Laboratory Service Division**
  - 5 State Reference Laboratories for ensuring HIV testing quality.
  - 4 Viral Load Testing facilities are proposed to further update the service provision.

- **Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA)**
  - Ensure active and enhanced involvement of the people living with HIV/AIDS in policy making for reducing stigma and discrimination faced by PLHIVs.
• **Information Education & Communication Division**
  - IEC works to spread the correct messages on HIV/AIDS to sensitize the general population and thereby decrease the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.
  - Mainstreaming is done with bigger corporate and government organizations to integrate training and sensitization on HIV/AIDS as the integral part of their ongoing training and induction.

• **Care Support and Treatment Division**
  - ART is the backbone of CST programme. As on today, 30 ART centres are functional in Gujarat.
  - In order to expand the reach of ART services Link ART centres (LAC) are also established at district/ sub-district and block levels.
  - Second line ART is provided through ART+ Centres and Centre of Excellence (CoE).
  - Third line ART is provided through CoE.
Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)

Background

The Government of India is committed to work towards providing universal access to comprehensive, equitable, stigma free, quality care support and treatment services to all PLHIV with an integrated approach for people living with HIV. The India is home to third biggest population of people living with HIV in world, an estimated 2.1 million. While in the Gujarat estimated PLHIV are 1.66 Lakh.

Having already succeeded in achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) is now building on lessons learnt to revise the national approach to reach ‘the last mile.

- By 2020, the focus of the national programme will be on achieving the following fast track targets of UNAIDS:
  - 75% reduction in new HIV infections,
  - 90-90-90: 90% of those who are HIV positive in the country know their status, 90% of those who know their status are on treatment and 90% of those who are on treatment experience effective viral load suppression,
  - Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis, and
  - Elimination of stigma and discrimination
  - The end of AIDS as an epidemic by 2030

Introduction: Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)

For the first time in the history of responding to HIV/AIDS in India the United Nations has developed a concerted plan of action to focus on one State. The UNAIDS through the United Nations Joint Team on AIDS (UNJTA) identified the State of Gujarat because of good governance, political commitment and potential to improve the HIV/AIDS epidemiological situation within the next two years. The State has good infrastructure and Programme management skills and capacity. Incidentally the Care, Support and Treatment activities of the GSACS were adjudged to be the best in the country in a national review held in January, 2018.
UNAIDS have selected the state of Gujarat for initiation of UBRAF support for 2 years, with a budgetary provision of 1 million USD per year for strengthening the ongoing AIDS control activities under the NACP implemented by the GSACS and the myriad partners to work together in supporting Gujarat State to fast track the response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in an unprecedented manner.

The Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) is a two-year (2018-19) plan of action and a strong mechanism to bring the United Nations Agencies to work together on HIV/AIDS and achieve results.

The UBRAF is structured on the 8 result areas in the UNAIDS 2016-2021 strategy and the 5 sustainable development goals (SDGs) that are most relevant to the AIDS response. The results framework of the UBRAF consists of 20 country-level outputs, which captures the contribution of the Joint Programme to specific result areas in the UNAIDS 2016-21 strategy, and core organizational functions of the UNAIDS Secretariat and Co-sponsors. The main support is for 33 fast track countries, to name a few- Zambia, Belarus, Iran, India, Peru,.. Fast-track is defined as countries with high number of new infections and number of people on treatment.

There are seven UN agencies, viz. United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), working under UNAIDS coordination with Gujarat State AIDS Control Society in the following areas:

- Elimination of Parent-to-Child Transmission of HIV & syphilis
- Fast tracking the 90-90-90 targets
- Reduction of new HIV infections
- Integrated SRH/HIV
- HIV/AIDS and the work place
- HIV/AIDS education in schools
- Elimination of discrimination through rollout of the HIV/AIDS Act 2017

The UN Joint Team on AIDS and the UN Country Team selected the state of Gujarat because of the strong political will and the managerial and technical capabilities for HIV/AIDS prevention and control available in the state. This is the first time the UN has agreed to go this way so that success stories coming from Gujarat could be replicated in other states and countries.
The First UBRAF Meeting between UNAIDS Delegation & GSACS

The First UBRAF Meeting between the members of UNJTA and GSACS officers was held on 31st January and 1st February 2018 at the Centre of Excellence, ART Centre, Ahmedabad, during which deliberations were held on GSACS progress under NACP and expectations regarding UNAIDS interventions.

Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS and Ms Nandini Kapoor, Adviser, UNAIDS, held consultations with various stake-holders in NGO, public and private sectors, paving the way for development of UBRAF roadmap in Gujarat.

The Second UBRAF Meeting between UNAIDS Delegation & GSACS

The 2nd Meeting for UBRAF between the members of UNJTA and GSACS officers was organized at the Centre of Excellence, ART Centre, Ahmedabad, from on 6th March 2018.
Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, led the high level delegation consisting of Dr Asheber Gaym, Health Specialist, UNICEF, Dr Kirti Iyengar, NPO, Rural Health, UNFPA, Dr Jyotiee Mehraa, Programme Manager, UNODC, Dr Vimlesh Purohit, NPO, WHO, and Mr Haresh Patel, Data Analyst, WHO, Dr Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, Dr S M Baqar, Project Coordinator, ILO, and Dr Sarita Jadav, UNESCO, who made presentations on the financial and technical support to be provided for UBRAF by their respective organization. GSACS expectations were further discussed.

**Workshop for Strengthening TIs for Interventions for Transgender**

Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, with the help of Voluntary Health Services organization, organized training for the TI team members of Transgender TI Intervention project, implemented by Lakshya Trust, Surat. This training was organized from 15 to 17 March 2018 at Hotel Revival Lords Inn, Vadodara, and was attended by 23 participants from across the Gujarat, comprising of selected PMs and ORWs from other MSM TIs, also, where TG populations are covered, with a view to help them to develop effective outreach and communication strategy for TG/Hijra community in their areas. Main objectives of this training programme were:

1. To improve understanding on knowledge of planning and monitoring outreach tools.
2. To improve the delivery of HIV prevention, care and treatment services among TG population.
3. To systematize the outreach program for the TG by developing innovative strategies.
4. To increase the level of sensitivity and understanding of this marginalized group.
5. To increase their knowledge about NALSA mechanism.
Observance of Transgender Day

In the backdrop of the judgment given by the Hon. Supreme Court of India as well as the NALSA judgment, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, with the support from VHS under DIVA Project, organized the observance of the Transgender Day and State Level Advocacy Meeting on 20 April 2018 in coordination with Lakshya Trust, Vadodara. As special guests, it was attended by Dr Rajesh Gopal, Additional Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, Shri Manavendra Gohil, Chairperson, Lakshya Trust, Shri N K Parmar, Deputy Director, Social Defence department, Shri Indrajeet Chauhan, Project Officer, Child Protection Scheme, Social Defence department, and around 133 participants comprising of community members and representatives of Targeted Intervention projects. The programme was aimed at advocating with State Government for announcing Transgender Day and establishing separate welfare board and welfare schemes for Transgender /Hijra population in Gujarat. The highlight of the event was a special message from Shri Nitin Patel, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat.

Message from Shri Nitin Patel, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

NITIN PATEL
Deputy Chief Minister,
Gujarat State

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to send you a very sincere message of support and good wishes for the celebration of this Transgender day event. I send this blessing message to especially for Transgender community who is vulnerable in this society.

The Government of Gujarat has been initiating various welfare activities of Transgender in the state. The Gujarat state SED officials are taking necessary steps for forming the Transgender Welfare Board and other social welfare schemes for Transgender. I hope that, Government of Gujarat may focus 360 degree approach to empower Transgender people.

I would like to thank the VHS organization from Chennai and other Transgender organization in Gujarat & organizers of today’s this Transgender Day celebration event for inviting me as the Chief Guest and for giving me an opportunity to share my blessings with you.

Wishing you all a very fruitful and rewarding event.

(Nitin Patel)
GSACS Team’s Study Tour to Punjab IDU TI Programme and Prison Intervention

Under the UBRAF project, United Nation’s Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) has shown commitment to provide all necessary technical and financial support to strengthen the ongoing prevention programme amongst Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and also to help GSACS to effectively initiate and implement prison intervention, which is going to be started very soon in the state.

The exposure visit for TSU and GSACS officials to Punjab was organized by UNODC from 16th to 20th April, 2018, with view to facilitate their learning from the good practices under IDU TI programme and Prison Intervention under Punjab State AIDS Control Society. The Gujarat team visited IDU TIs & OST centers in Amritsar city as well as Prison Intervention programme in Ludhiyana central Prison. The objectives of this study tour were:

- To have onsite overview of the initiatives undertaken by Punjab state for prevention of the HIV among IDUs.
- To learn the innovative approach under OST and IDU TIs initiated by Punjab
- To learn the TI level intervention strategies to provide the quality services to IDU community
- To learn the Prison intervention strategies
- To share the experiences of Gujarat state related to IDU interventions (challenges and innovative strategies) with Punjab team.
The pilot project of Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) was formally launched by Shri Nitin Patel, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat, on 11th May 2018 in Gandhinagar, in the presence of Shri Punamchand Parmar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare and Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training and the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, and Dr Gaurav Dahiya, Mission Director, National Health Mission. All the senior officers from the Department of Health & Family Welfare participated in the programme, viz. Additional Director (Medical Services), Additional Director (Public Health) and Additional Director (Medical Education) and other officers from Health & Medical Services.

Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, led the high level delegation consisting of senior officers representing the constituent UN organizations sponsoring the UBRAF project, viz. United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), who will be supporting various interventions with financial as well as technical resources. After successful implementation the Gujarat Model may be replicated in other states/countries.

During the function a total of 1121 persons registered as participants including 250 from key population/community (Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, MSM, and Female Sex Workers) from different districts of Gujarat. The 1200-seat GMERS Auditorium was full to its capacity.

The report on the programme is presented as under:
1. Welcome by Dr Rajesh Gopal, APD, GSACS

Dr Rajesh Gopal, APD, GSACS, welcomed all the distinguished guests and all the participants who had come in large numbers to attend the inauguration ceremony for the launch of Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) in Gujarat.

He welcomed the distinguished guests and dignitaries on the dias, viz. Shri Nitin Patel, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Punamchand Parmar, ACS, Health & Family Welfare, Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training & the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, Dr Gaurav Dahiya, MD, NHM, Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, Dr Nicole Seguy, WHO, Dr Asheber Gaym and Dr Laxmi Bhawani from UNICEF, Dr Madhu Sharma, UNODC, Dr Kirti Iyengar, UNFPA, Mr S M Baqar, ILO, Dr Paresh Dave, Additional Director (Public Health) and State TB Officer, Dr. M. N. Prabhakar, Additional Director, Medical Education & Research, Dr. N. B. Dholakiya, Additional Director, Medical Services, Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Additional Project Director, GSACS, Dr. Divyang Oza, Project Director, AMACS, and Mrs Daksha Patel, Secretary, GSNP+.

He appreciated the decision of UNJTA to select Gujarat for implementing the pilot project for prevention, care and support of HIV/AIDS and achieve the 90-90-90 targets of NACP in the state in the next two years, and assured the UNAIDS delegation that GSACS will leave no stone unturned to ensure that concrete results are achieved under UBRAF as expected under the able guidance and support of each of the seven organizations, viz. WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNESCO and ILO.
All the delegates from UNAIDS were warmly welcomed with a bouquet of flowers and mementos by members of GSNP+ and female staff from GSACS.

2. Inauguration with Lighting of Lamps

The UBRAF launching ceremony was formally started with the lighting of lamps by Shri Nitin Patel, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat, who was joined by Shri Punamchand Parmar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare and Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training and the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, and Dr Gaurav Dahiya, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Gujarat. The UNAIDS delegation also joined in the ceremony.
3. Address by Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS

In his address, Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, stated that, in view of the robust political will and managerial as well as technical capabilities for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS available in the state, the United Nations Joint Team on AIDS (UNJTA) has selected Gujarat for implementation of this pilot project which will have a 2-year duration. After completion of the project, the Gujarat Model will be replicated in other states to fast-track the ambitious 90-90-90 goals of the centrally sponsored National AIDS Control Programme under the aegis of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

Dr Camara reassured that all the seven global agencies that have come together for UBRAF, will provide all the support to ensure that GSACS achieves the objectives of elimination of Parent-to-Child Transmission of HIV and syphilis, fast tracking the 90-90-90 targets, reduction of new HIV infections, integrated SRH/HIV, HIV/AIDS and the work place, HIV/AIDS education in schools and elimination of discrimination through rollout of the HIV/AIDS Act 2017 in the state.

4. Address by Ms Laxmi Bhawani, Chief of Staff, UNICEF, Gujarat

Dr Laxmi Bhawani congratulated GSACS, UNJTA and all the stake-holders on the successful launching of UBRAF in Gujarat. In view of effective implementation of National AIDS Control Programme being done by Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, she felt that all the project goals by 2020 will surely be achieved in the state. Gujarat has a history of pioneering great interventions. It has proved to be a successful laboratory of national innovations.
With its vast industrial expanse attracting single male migrants from other states and large adolescent population, Gujarat reflects perfect HIV epidemiological profile for selection as a state for pilot of UBRAF. The Gujarat State Network of People living with HIV/AIDS has a strong presence across the state. She stated that during her visit to Jananidhaam, a special childcare home for HIV positive children in Surat, she had been impressed with the facilities and maintenance of healthy environment by the network. She appreciated the mainstreaming interventions undertaken with the help of corporates. She was confident that Gujarat will provide a good model for replication of UBRAF interventions across India to achieve the national 90-90-90 goals. UNICEF would like to collaborate for achieving the targets for PPTCT and HIV issues among the adolescents in Gujarat.

5. **Address by Dr Nicole Seguy, CD Team Leader, WHO, New Delhi**

In her address, Dr. Nicole Seguy said that, under the aegis of NACO, the National AIDS Control Programme has been very successful in India. The state of Gujarat has shown tremendous potential for achieving the UBRAF goals.
She said that, under UBRAF, the key focus areas for WHO will be HIV care, support and treatment, testing and strategic implementation for improving health sector response. Technical and financial support will be provided for working out innovative testing strategies, especially community based testing, improving access to treatment cascade, establishing differentiated care models and developing e-module on new ART Guidelines and Viral Load testing scale-up in Gujarat. She was sure that UBRAF will be a success and Gujarat and pave the way for creating a model that will be good for replication in all the states of India.

6. **Address by Dr Madhu Sharma, NPO, UNODC, New Delhi**

Dr Madhu Sharma, NPO, UNODC, in her address, said that Gujarat had indeed shown that any intervention that starts in the state invariably succeeds and achieves 100 % results. In view of the past record of success, Gujarat is certain to achieve the UBRAF targets within the set timeline of two years, and lessons learnt during the pilot, will help NACO to develop effective strategies and plans to achieve the 90-90-90 goals across the country.

She said that UNODC will collaborate with GSACS to address the HIV issues amongst the Injectable Drug Users (IDUs) and prison inmates in Gujarat. Efforts will be made to improve the service uptake amongst IDU TIs, especially, the Opioid Substitution Therapy. She wished success to one and all involved in UBRAF implementation in Gujarat.
Speaking on the occasion, Dr Asheber Gaym, Maternal Health Specialist, UNICEF, New Delhi, emphasized that the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) must be totally eliminated from the face of the earth as it was more dangerous than any other virus or bacteria because of its ability to constantly mutate according to the changing environment. He said that the 38-year old HIV epidemic is the longest ever in the history of mankind. He acknowledged that the performance of NACO, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has been quite extra-ordinary in containment of HIV in the country. Dr Asheber Gaym was highly impressed by the HIV response in Gujarat and hoped that UBRAF will ensure elimination of parent-to-child transmission of HIV.

8. Address by Dr Gaurav Dahiya, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Gujarat

Dr. Gaurav Dahiya, IAS and Mission Director, NHM, Gujarat, in his address, discussed the HIV scenario in Gujarat. He expressed grave concern for containment of
HIV epidemic in the state, in view of its prevalence rate of 0.42 which is higher than the national prevalence of 0.26. He stated that, every year, about 10509 individuals are found to be HIV positive in Gujarat, which shows that we need to work on priority basis to focus on reduction of new infections so that it can be brought down to about 5000 by the end of this year, so that it can be brought down further next year.

He emphasized that parent-to-child-transmission must be minimized and prevention interventions should be up-scaled with a view to generate awareness about HIV issues as well as safe sex behaviour amongst the High Risk Groups, Bridge Population as well as the youth and adolescents in the state. He appealed to all the stake-holders to do their best to ensure achievement of 90-90-90 goals in Gujarat, and provide a model that can be replicated in other states.

9. Address by Dr Kirti Iyengar, NPO, Rural Health, UNFPA, New Delhi

Dr Kirti Iyengar, NPO, Rural Health, UNFPA, acknowledged the strong HIV response by GSACS under National AIDS control Programme, and said that effective implementation of UBRAF in the state will be crucial for replication of the model in other states. She felt that all agencies under UNAIDS, GSACS and government of Gujarat have to mount concerted efforts to bring about positive attitudinal changes about HIV in the society.

Under UBRAF, she said that UNFPA will focus on integration with women’s reproductive health services for people centred HIV interventions and capacity building of health care providers on integrated SRH & HIV services in government as well as private sectors in Gujarat.
10. Address by Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training & the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society

Dr Jayanti Ravi, made a detailed presentation on Gujarat’s HIV response, highlighting interventions by various GSACS divisions, viz. Basic Services, Care, Support and Treatment, Targeted Interventions (TI) and Information, Education & Communication (IEC). She stated that Gujarat State Network of Positive People (GSNP+), which was doing a wonderful work, needed to upscale their efforts to ensure maximum service uptake and adherence to ART by people living with HIV, so that there are no deaths due to HIV/AIDS.

Dr Jayanti Ravi exhorted all the officials and stake-holders to ensure that 100% screening is done for HIV, TB and Syphilis at ANC. The high death rate due to opportunistic infections must be brought down immediately for which all the efforts should be undertaken in the state.

She informed the august gathering that Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, was deeply moved by the story of Rahul, an orphaned HIV positive boy, whom he met in Surat, who vividly reminded him about his own childhood experiences.

She assured that the government of Gujarat was fully committed to contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We will ensure that Gujarat achieves all the targets under UBRAF and creates a model precedent to be followed by all the states to become HIV free. While we campaign, in a mission mode, to achieve the 90-90-90 in Gujarat, we will ensure 100% screening of HIV, TB & syphilis. We will strive to halve the number of new HIV infection this year itself. With the support and guidance of the seven UN agencies coming together
for UBRAF, she was confident that government of Gujarat will definitely develop a good model that can be adopted by NACO to ensure achievement of 90-90-90 goals in all the states under the National AIDS Control Programme. Appealing all the stake-holders, she said that, just as Mahatma Gandhi had helped the country achieve freedom, let us all work together to free Gujarat and India from HIV.

11. Address by Shri Punamchand Parmar, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare

Shri Punamchand Parmar, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, in his address, declared that it is time to kick the HIV out of Gujarat by ensuring its total elimination from the state. He said that, with the support of the seven UN agencies, all the stake-holders in government and NGOs as well as the Gujarat State Network of Positive People, need to join hands to make Gujarat free from the HIV/AIDS.

He stated that, with increased usage of condoms and adoption of safe sex practices, there has been a significant reduction in new HIV infections, but its current rate has to be reduced drastically, which is possible in Gujarat with the help of strong campaigns for awareness aimed at prevention of HIV. He reiterated that government of Gujarat will leave no stone unturned to ensure achievement of 90-90-90 goals under UBRAF.


Shri Nitin Patel, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Mister, Gujarat, formally released the three books, viz. (1) UBRAF Plan for Gujarat, (2) GSNP+ Strategic Plan for 5 Years, and (3) Stars of the Crown (“Dharatina Taralaoni Vankahi Vaat”).
In the release of the books, he was joined by Shri Punamchand Parmar, ACS, Health & Family Welfare, Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training & the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, Dr Gaurav Dahiya, MD, NHM, Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, Dr Nicole Seguy, WHO, Dr Asheber Gaym and Dr Laxmi Bhawani from UNICEF, Dr Madhu Sharma, UNODC, Dr Kirti Iyengar, UNFPA, Mr S M Baqar, ILO, Dr Paresh Dave, Additional Director (Public Health) and State TB Officer, Dr. M. N. Prabhakar, Additional Director, Medical Education & Research, Dr. N. B. Dholakiya, Additional Director, Medical Services, Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Additional Project Director, GSACS, Dr. Divyang Oza, Project Director, AMACS, and Mrs Daksha Patel, Secretary, GSNP+.

The UBRAF Plan is a formal document that provides the details of all the various interventions to be carried out by Gujarat State AIDS Control Society in collaboration with the seven UBN agencies under UBRAF.

The Strategic Plan of GSNP+ is a document describing the 5-year plan of Gujarat State Network of Positive People in the state.

The Stars of the Crown ( "Dharatina Taralaoni Vankahi Vaat") is a very special compilation of 53 case-studies of HIV positive women, chronicling their life experiences, which is brought out with the objective of creating public awareness about the struggles and contributions made by HIV positive people and motivating the society to jointly address their issues with warmth, compassion and acceptance.
Mr Nitin Patel, Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat, stated that, while there has been a large reduction in stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS in Gujarat, we need to continue our efforts to ensure that it is totally removed from the society so that every HIV infected or affected person is treated with respect and dignity. He said that the government of Gujarat will undertake a state-wide campaign to free Gujarat from HIV with the support of UNAIDS and its seven global institutions, viz. WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNESCO and ILO. We have already created a social environment in the state where HIV infected and affected people are not stigmatized or discriminated against. The government of Gujarat will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the 90-90-90 goals are achieved by 2020 in the state.

Reiterating the commitment of the state government, he said that we will strive to make Gujarat “HIV Free” and the HIV epidemic will become a history in Gujarat, with the support of the seven UN organizations under UBRAF.

14. Vote of Thanks by Dr Rajesh Gopal, APD, GSACS

Dr Rajesh Gopal, APD, GSACS, thanked Mr Nitin Patel, Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat, for launching of UBRAF in the state. He also thanked Shri Punamchand Parmar, ACS, Health & Family Welfare, Dr Jayanti Ravi, Principal Secretary, Public Health & Family Welfare, Commissioner of Health, Medical Services, Medical Education and Training and the Project Director, Gujarat State AIDS Control Society, Dr Gaurav Dahiya, MD, NHM, for their leadership and direction.
He expressed sincere gratitude to Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS, Dr Nicole Seguy, WHO, Dr Asheber Gaym and Dr Laxmi Bhawani from UNICEF, Dr Madhu Sharma, UNODC, Dr Kirti Iyengar, UNFPA, and Mr S M Baqar, ILO, for selecting Gujarat for UBRAF and extending support to help the state achieve the 90-90-90 goals. He thanked the GSNP+ network for the key role they played. He thanked all the stake-holders and participants present to make the programme such a huge success.

15. Media Interaction

At the end of the programme, Mr Nitin Patel, Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat, interacted freely with the large number of reporters from the press and electronic media. He declared the commitment of government of Gujarat to achieve the 90-90-90 goals under UBRAF so that Gujarat becomes totally HIV Free.

Dr Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS and Dr Rajesh Gopal, APD, GSACS also gave the national and state perspectives, respectively for implementation of UBRAF in Gujarat. The event was widely covered by all the major print and electronic media.