

Enhancing Human Security through Gender Equality in the Context of HIV/AIDS

BACKGROUND

India accounts for almost 10 per cent of the 40.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS globally and over 60% of the 7.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the Asia and Pacific region¹. The rates of HIV infection amongst women are rising steadily.

The number of people infected with HIV, based on annual sentinel surveillance, has risen from an estimated 3.5 million in the year 1998 to 5.134 million in 2004. Women constitute nearly 40 percent of the approximate 5.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in India

Table - 1 – **The spread of HIV in India 1998 – 2004**

Estimated population infected with HIV/AIDS (millions)						
1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
3.5	3.7	3.86	3.97	4.58	5.106	5.134

These estimates indicate that there has been no dramatic upsurge in the spread of HIV infection across the country. However, the absolute numbers involved make the epidemic a cause of increasing concern. Based on the surveillance data six states in the country have been categorized as high prevalence states consisting of about 70% of the total infection. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland, Manipur, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The HIV prevalence rates among women attending antenatal clinics in these six states is 1 percent and above. The UNIFEM - Railways project is in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 2: Distribution of HIV infection in States according to prevalence.

Epidemic Stage	Infected Population ('000)	Per cent
High Prevalence	3,562	69.38
Moderate Prevalence	1,467	28.57
Low Prevalence	105	2.05
Total	5,134	100.00

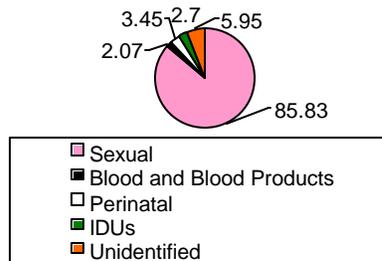
Next to these are Gujarat, Pondicherry and Goa categorized as states with moderate HIV prevalence. In fact based on HIV sentinel surveillance data from 1998-2004, states have been re-classified into 4 broad categories 1). High prevalence states (exceeds 5% Among HRG and 1% among ANC), 2). Moderate prevalence states (exceeds 5% in HRG and less than 1% among ANC), 3). High vulnerable states are those where migration, illiteracy, and weak health infrastructure 4). Vulnerable are the rest of the states and Union Territories.

Routes of transmission

¹ UNDP- Youandaids- HIV/AIDS Portal for Asia Pacific

The predominant route of transmission of the HIV virus continues to be sexual (86%). Incidentally, about half of India's 1 billion + population falls into the sexually active age group (i.e.15-49 years).

Mode of Transmission among AIDS cases in India: December 2004 (n=96978)

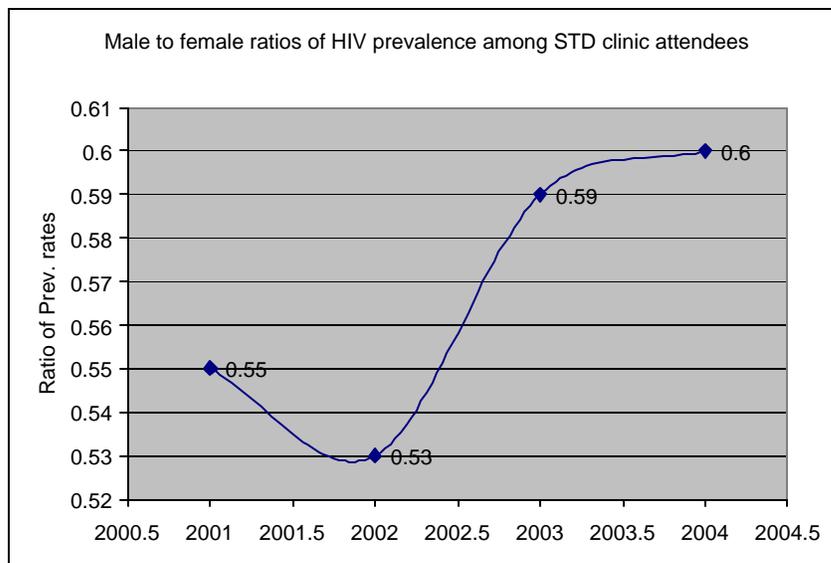


Changing Face of the Epidemic: Increasing feminization

The changing face of the epidemic in India shows that HIV infection is now found among India's general population in all states and across urban and rural areas. ***It also reveals an increasing number of women and young people being infected.*** The rural / urban profiles indicate that a majority of the people infected with HIV are in rural areas, underlining the critical need for attention to the rural epidemic.

Rural-urban distribution of HIV-infected population (2003)

Residence	Male	Female	Infected Population (Lakhs)	Per cent
Urban	13.29	7.98	21.27	41.43
Rural	18.03	12.04	30.07	58.57
Total	31.32	20.02	51.34	100.00



India has established the National Council on AIDS headed by the Prime Minister of India marking its high level commitment. NACO is in the process of working out the mainstreaming of HIV with 31 Ministries. UNIFEM is

working closely with NACO in supporting the work with the Department of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Railways.

NACO has also completed a historic participatory process in designing the Phase III of the National AIDS Control Programme for 2007-11. UNIFEM played a crucial role in preparing a technical paper on gender issues, facilitating the voices of women's organisations and positive women as well as providing inputs into the working group on Gender, Youth, Adolescents and Children as an input into the development of the Strategic Framework of NACP III. UNIFEM also participated in the Partners Review and Pre-Appraisal Joint mission coordinated by NACO and the joint UN system, including the World Bank for review of the draft strategic framework.

Key highlights of the NACP III:

- The proposed programme has identified men and women as equal stakeholders in the response and has committed to Gender sensitive programming as a central and cross cutting theme at all levels of implementation. Indicators are being developed and disaggregated data (by age and sex) analyzed to provide a basis for evaluating trends and progress on key issues. Women are being seen as an important constituency.
- All HIV related services such as VCTC, PPTCT, STI clinics and ART would be reviewed and suitably modified so as to address special needs of women. Demonstration sites will be set up for this purpose. The programme will work through existing organisations/agencies providing services to women, including support groups of women living with HIV. These organisations/agencies would be persuaded through advocacy to incorporate HIV prevention and control into their activities and provide technical support to do so.
- Synergies of existing programmes under the RCH and ICDS will be strengthened. Strategies to reduce infections among the women will include peer education through existing structures, accessible and culturally appropriate counselling for prevention and infection management, couple counselling, referrals, testing, aftercare for the mother and child, family support, empowerment and skill building of women SHGs for income generation programs. The CSOs working on women's issues will also be sensitised and supported to address issues related to trafficking.
- A gender disaggregated database at national, state and district levels will be generated with information about women's status i.e. widows, single women, woman-headed households, women living with HIV/AIDS and STIs etc.
- Increased efforts will be made to reach out to the unorganised sector, particularly girls, women and other gendered identities (GIs). Social sector ministries will be encouraged to incorporate HIV/AIDS in their women specific plans. Correspondingly, through advocacy there will be an increase in the proportion of overall health and development budget spent on women and other gendered groups in the context of HIV. Greater coordination will be achieved among groups working on issues of violence against women, trafficking, sex work, early marriage, conflict situation, and migration in the setting of HIV/AIDS.

Source: **Draft strategic framework, 2006-11, prepared by National Planning Team, NACO Nov. 2005**

NACO has demonstrated a high level commitment to gender issues by establishing a Gender and Rights Division/desk within NACO in collaboration with UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNAIDS. The Joint UN system as well as the Expanded Theme Group on HIV/AIDS continues to work together on a range of issues including gender.

UNIFEM continues to invest into enhancing the advocacy and implementation capacities of the Positive Women Network and some women's organizations in the field. UNIFEM recently supported a participatory review of the work of PWN so as to further strengthen its strategic and operational directions. UNIFEM participation of positive women at a media interaction with the Secretary General Kofi Annan and Mrs Annan in India organized by the

UNCT and NACO and their representation of issues at the Kobe Conference.

Partnerships :

NGOs: Women's Feature Service, Positive Women's Network, Metamorphosis, Comfirst, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Sanhita, Population Council, New Concept, Human Development Resource Network (HDRN)

Government: National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Department of Road Transport and Highways, South Central Railways, REAPS, Department of Education – Women's Studies Unit, Swasti Resource Centre

UN Agencies: UNODC, UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNAIDS; UNRC system

3. CHALLENGES

- It was quite a struggle to keep the women's and gender agenda going during the NACP III planning, as it was constantly clubbed with children, youth and adolescents. It requires concerted efforts and almost a lone voice amidst so many other stakeholders vying for their agendas. Therefore the institutionalisation of gender within the NACO structure is a huge achievement as it will ensure that the agenda is kept alive.
- UNIFEM with limited funds has managed to ensure sustainability by providing close support to NACO and DWCD and the agenda of mainstreaming will be a huge challenge. Through these partnerships outreach is enormous.
- The positive women network is also facing marginalisation by the national network of positive people and the fact that much funds flow from the UN and other donors to this body. There is a new reluctance being shown in collaborating with the women's network as they would like it to be unified under their leadership. This is indeed a backlash as it will marginalise the CEDAW framework with which the PWN works by the male leaders in working on women's issues with a rights.

4. LESSONS LEARNED:

- In the process of the documentation of the case study and review of UNIFEM partnership with PWN, it has been noted that they significant support on management issues, collective functioning and fund raising in order to make them sustainable and effective. UNIFEM will have to play a key role with other Un agencies to nurture rather than to set up competitive forces amongst the many networks of people which are driven by funds
- UNIFEM needs to work closely with other UN agencies to leverage resources and opportunities at country level, given the three ones.

**Matrix for Preparation of Donor Report
Progress towards achieving results Jan – Dec 2005**

<p>Project Goal: To enhance human security through ensuring that gender equality and human rights are integrated into the key policies, programmes and activities that address HIV/AIDS at the local, national and regional level.</p> <p>Project Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To strengthen legal and policy frameworks that promote gender equality, women’s empowerment and stigma reduction in communities infected, affected or at risk of HIV/AIDS. 2. To enhance awareness of key change makers, particularly the policy makers of national AIDS programmes, of the need for gender equality in order to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS from a human rights perspective. 3. To demonstrate that focused, integrated community approaches to reaching gender equality based on enabling legislation and policies, can contribute to lowering HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, reducing stigma and discrimination and mitigating the epidemic’s social and economic impact 		
<p>Project Budget: USD</p>		
<p>Long-term Results/Impact:</p> <p>Reduction in AIDS related infection and mortality rates of women and girls</p> <p>Transformation of unequal gender relations</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversal of prevalence rates in women • Widespread understanding of the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS • Impact mitigation for women and girls • Women in decision making positions at the household, community and local level 	<p>Progress towards achieving results/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trends of feminization of the epidemic has been widely acknowledged and is now being centrally factored into policy and programme planning of the government, UN and other stakeholders. High level advocacy by UNIFEM including the high level mission of UNIFEM Executive Director has given a big boost to gender and HIV/AIDS issues. NACO has established of a Gender and Rights Division and placed a Gender Expert within NACO with technical and financial support by UNIFEM, displaying a high commitment to institutionalising gender issues within the system and programme. (TORS Desk) • Further, in an effort to reverse prevalence rates, the National AIDS Control Programme Phase III has envisioned and incorporated women’s concerns and gender issues for the first time in a significant manner. The draft Strategic Framework as well as the Aide Memoire submitted to the Secretary Health on behalf of the joint mission reflected gender concerns. UNIFEM contributed substantively to incorporating and advocating for gender issues at all fora and with several stakeholders in the preparatory processes. The technical review paper prepared by UNIFEM on Gender inputs with inputs by key partners fed into the planning process. The document has included gender sensitive indicators and has indicated

		<p>increased resources for gender issues and women's constituencies (Strategic framework NACP III; Aide Memoire; UNIFEM document)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACO has moved significantly into 'the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS' into 31 Ministries; UNIFEM has been supporting the preparatory processes along with NACO and other UN partners. It is hoped that through this process resource allocation will significantly factor in outreach and capacity building for women, including positive women. This process is to lead to sustainable interventions and (mainstreaming letters) • UNIFEM signed a MOU with UNAIDS along with 9 other UN agencies for "Joint Programme on HIV /AIDS Prevention and Care in North East States of India". Being supported by AUSAID. UNIFEM contributed to ensuring that gender and women's rights issues were incorporated through out the process (MOU/document) • UNIFEM is partnering UNODC into integrating women's concerns onto the issue of drug use demonstrating the maximal use of UNIFEM technical competence • UNIFEM continued to leverage the PWN for highlighting further cutting edge issues of positive women through their vision document, leveraging their learning at the regional level, new research studies, policy advocacy at state levels, upward policy advocacy both on CEDAW shadow report with respect to their concerns at national and international levels including with Secretary General of UN. • The best practice documentation showcasing UNIFEM and its partnership with PWN and CFAR was published by the UNOHCR in Bangkok and shared widely • The policy review paper prepared by UNIFEM in DWCD has resulted in them incorporating gender and HIV/AIDS into their next phase of planning of their major schemes and programmes and has also led into increased collaboration with NACO. The mainstreaming exercise initiated by NACO has significantly factored in the prevention outreach to SHGs and women's groups. • UNIFEM supported Railways projects show that over the period of three years, awareness has increased and resulted in women's increased access to VCTC services. (We shall send you the comparative data from the sentinel surveillance as soon as the railways submit it)
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OBJECTIVE ONE: STRENGTHEN LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Medium-Term Results:	Indicators:	Progress towards achieving results/outputs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focused attention to the human rights and specific concerns of women and girls in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and HIV/AIDS cited publicly as a priority by leaders and decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has printed the draft HIV/AIDS bill, specifically prohibiting discrimination related to HIV/AIDS in both the public and private spheres. The bill explicitly recognizes certain rights for women, children and persons in the care and custody of the State, who due to social, economic, legal and other factors find

<p>relation to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New or revised policies and legislation addressing women's human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS ▪ Improved laws and policies that have been informed by gender sensitive HIV/AIDS research analysis and findings ▪ Increase in resource allocation by governments for gender-focused approaches in HIV/AIDS programmes ▪ Inclusion of women and PLWHAs in decision-making processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women and PLWHAs in critical decision making processes 	<p>themselves more vulnerable to HIV and are disproportionately affected by the epidemic. UNIFEM had earlier (1994) supported inputs by positive women and women's organisations across the country into the draft Bill. As part of the NACP III process the positive women network has been advocating at all fora on their rights issues, using their learnings from CEDAW.</p> <p>http://www.lawyerscollective.org/updates/HIVAIDS-bill-2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIFEM is a member of the Task Force on Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) constituted by DWCD and UNICEF to incorporate child and gender sensitive issues in the draft legislative framework. UNIFEM's earlier work with PWN and UNICEF resulted in UNICEF making the President of PWN as ambassador for their programme • The Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) was passed by Parliament in August 2005, making it the 3rd country in the Asia Pacific Region to have such legislation. This was preceded by numerous civil society endeavours including, UNIFEM's support to national advocacy processes and consensus building amongst women's groups. The Act incorporates pro-women residence rights, protection, child custody, monetary relief and interim relief provisions. Members of Positive women have participated in some of the meetings earlier as well and have been advocating on these issues. The Bill provides positive women an enabling environment for addressing their specific issues and they have recently been awarded a grant by the UN Trust Fund on VAW for addressing issues of violence in the context of HIV/AIDS in South India. • UNIFEM partnered its nodal Ministry - DWCD to widen its effective outreach to HIV related work to its major constituencies of women – the Self Help Groups, through a policy review process and capacity building of DWCD partners, in partnership with NACO and PWN • UNIFEM is ensuring that gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS will be effectively incorporated with regard to the finalisation of the Approach Paper for the National 11th five year plan to be held. It has ensured the representation of PWN as a member of the Think Tank that will interact with the Planning Commission and bring in women's voices to the policy levels. • With UNIFEM support, PWN has gender sensitized members of the Indian Network of Positive People, held policy training workshops using CEDAW as a framework with reach out to more than 150 women UNIFEM has facilitated the linkages pf PWN to livelihood concepts and practices organised by SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre, which in turn has resulted in them accessing schemes in 3 districts and in 3 states along with focused advocacy with state and local level governments. 90 positive women from four taluks in Namakkul and 30 positive women benefited from the widow's pension scheme & SC/ST loans respectively and have accessed loans from the rural development schemes, - in one district upto 2 lakhs. A resource directory of schemes and service is also being compiled by PWN.
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<p>Short-term Immediate Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engendered National AIDS plans and other policies relating to the curtailment of HIV/AIDS • National AIDS Council and/or other relevant national machineries members skilled in mainstreaming gender • Buy-in by high level leadership <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Sensitive National AIDS plans, policies and legislation for 10 countries • Three regional workshops to train trainers and develop a 	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of National AIDS policies and plans that have mainstreamed gender • Policies that have been informed by gender sensitive HIV/AIDS research, facts and data • Number of debates in legislative bodies using positive language for sexuality and its gender construction • Sex disaggregated data on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment issues. 	<p>Progress towards achieving results/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of high level UNIFEM advocacy and technical expertise, NACO has issued a government order for setting up Gender and Human Rights desks/divisions with support from UNIFEM and UNFPA and a gender expert placed within NACO with financial support from UNIFEM. (Scanned copy of the orders) • The Gender and Rights desk in NACO supported by UNIFEM in partnership with UNFPA and UNAIDS has been advocating with multiple stakeholders of NACO on the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS legislative framework, rights of positive women, advocacy with the State Aids Society for mainstreaming gender in HIV, including within the Red Ribbon Express project covering the entire country in India. • UNIFEM partnered NACO in widening the mainstreaming process with its Nodal Ministry – DWCD and the Ministry of Railways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the policy review paper prepared by UNIFEM and DWCD, UNIFEM organized two rounds of trainings for key partners, trainers and officials of DWCD from 22 states and has prepared the draft modules for trainers and community women that will be incorporated into the ongoing training programmes of Swayam Sidha with a wide outreach to 63,000 Self Help Groups and approximately 11,37,500 women would be covered under this programme. This was undertaken through partnership with training institutions as well as the UN family (WHO, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, MAMTA, PWN, New Concept) (Policy Review paper; module draft; training reports) • UNIFEM is in the process of setting up a training group from the DWCD partners at select state levels for wider outreach, under the guidance of the Steering Committee.

<p>core team of 10 trainers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-member core team of trainers: 10 Africa, 5 Asia and Pacific, 5 Latin America and the Caribbean. • 3-day workshops conducted for National AIDS Councils and other policy makers per year in 5 countries in Africa. • Guidelines and mainstreaming tools for engendering National AIDS Plans developed compiled into publication. • Policy makers trained in gender mainstreaming in all AIDS work 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level advocacy surrounding the study tour of the Chinese Railways to the joint UNIFEM and Indian Railways project resulted in increased partnership between NACO, Railways and UNIFEM for further upscaling and mainstreaming and deepened cross learning among the two projects. UNIFEM and the Indian Railways have submitted a draft costed work plan for upscaling the initiative to 16 divisions to be supported by NACO and to using the existing resource in the project as a laboratory for learning –training • UNIFEM used the example of UNFPA partnership with the Chinese Railways to bring on board UNFPA to partner UNIFEM for upscaling and mainstreaming the Indian Railways project. (http://www.unifem.org.in/Final%20Report%20June%202005.pdf) • As part of its earlier mainstreaming work with the Dept of Education, UNIFEM undertook a gender scan of papers prepared by 21 National Focus Groups in an effort to contribute to the engendering of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education as was requested by the Secretary Education and submitted them to the Women’s Studies Unit of the Department of Education. (paper attached) • UNIFEM contributed to the planning of the Red Ribbon Express campaign led by NACO and UNICEF and provided technical inputs to the members of the Nehru Yuvak Kendra on gender as well as facilitating linkages with our partners in the Railways project. • UNIFEM with support from UNICEF and UNAIDS supported the vision document of the Positive Women Network which has been extensively used for advocacy purposes at all levels. • UNIFEM supported path breaking study on “The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women Care Givers in Situations of Poverty: Policy Issues” undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) has received critical acclaim by several scholars and practitioners at a National Conference held by IIPA. <i>The findings were presented to Secretary Health, Finance Minister’s meeting with economists, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Principal Advisor Planning Commission.</i> The report has also featured on the website of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre at University of Manchester as part of the outcomes of the seminar and two case studies have been used by UNIFEM NY for the media campaign on 16 days of Activism to End Violence against Women for UNIFEM website. The findings are being used to advocate for shifting resource allocations towards interventions that make a difference in the lives of care givers and positive women. hat can make http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/voices_from_the_field/story.php?StoryID=367 http://www.chronicpoverty.org/pdfs/IIPA-CPRC2005Seminar/Mehta_Gupta(HIV-AIDS).pdf • The Training Module for Policy Makers on Gender Mainstreaming in the Context of HIV/AIDS supported by UNIFEM has been completed providing narratives and good
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		<p>practices from the country at the grassroots level and exploring how gender specific interventions can be undertaken. Following a peer review it is proposed to be used for national and state level training processes. (Draft module attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi- media kit on Gender and HIV/AIDS for advocacy; CEDAW translated materials into Hindi and UNIFEM booklet have been widely used for advocating on women's rights • 50,000 booklets for truck drivers and 500 training modules for driving instructors have been produced and distributed to all partners of the Department of Road Transport and Highways. The gender content of the booklets have received wide appreciation and also used by the UN peace keeping force in India
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OBJECTIVE TWO: ADVOCACY		
<p>Medium-Term Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased understanding and awareness of gender dimensions of the epidemic by policy makers, national leadership, and the public ▪ Increased knowledge and skills in analysis of the gender and human rights dimensions of HIV/AIDS of policy makers. ▪ Expanded partnerships in addressing HIV/AIDS between women's NGOs, government and UN agencies. 	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public information about and awareness of gender and HIV/AIDS reflected in media reporting • Increase in the amount of media coverage and public debate of human rights and gender aspects of HIV/AIDS • Joint programming involving NGOs, government, and UN agencies 	<p>Progress towards achieving results/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIFEM partner Women's Feature Service continued to enhance and publicise the Media Web Centre for journalists, which received a total of 47 requests for different documents. The hit count of WFS website, and the Media Centre, went up from an average of 50,000 per month in 2004 to an average of 70,000 per month in 2005(web center wfs.org) • UNIFEM supported toolkit on Gender sensitive media coverage of HIV/AIDS was reprinted and widely distributed as an advocacy tool • Advocacy with DWCD has resulted in the coverage of the UNIFEM Railways project as well as the PWN into the Country report prepared by DWCD as part of the B+10 report • UNIFEM has expanded its partnership with UN and other agencies to advance gender issues in the context of HIV/AIDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNODC, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is partnering UNIFEM and has jointly raised PAF funds from UNAIDS on "<i>Reducing substance abuse related HIV vulnerabilities in female drug users</i>". UNIFEM is a member of the Project Advisory Committee and is providing technical expertise and leveraging its partners and materials in the process. This has been a follow up to the round table held by UNIFEM with UNODC and MSJE thereby making the process sustainable. • UNIFEM is partnering Horizons/Population Council and UNICEF in undertaking a first ever diagnostic operations research in three high prevalence states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Manipur to understand the needs of HIV-positive pregnant and postpartum women and their families pertaining to HIV treatment care and support. About 300 positive pregnant and postpartum women are being enrolled and the findings will inform the development of guidelines for a comprehensive package of HIV care for women and their families

		<p>and will be shared with NACO and other stakeholders to ensure a gender sensitive response. UNIFEM has ensured the participation of the positive women network in the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level advocacy was undertaken at all fora of UNAIDS - national and regional (Asia Pacific) for inclusion of gender issues. The joint UN work plan for the region has reflected gender concerns due to UNIFEM inputs and UNDP and UNAIDS are exploring partnership on gender issues in the region for the next two years.
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<p>Short-term Immediate Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased interest in gender issues from policy decisions makers and the media • Collaboration between HIV/AIDS NGOs and women's NGO's in addressing the gender dimensions of the epidemic • Mass media demonstrating awareness of gender issues <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaigns (articles, stories, TV and radio spots) in 5 countries on findings of policy research. • Dialogue sessions in 5 countries (1 per country) between HIV/AIDS, human rights and women's 	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in various media, including TV, radio and print • Gender and HIV given prominence at national and local public events 	<p>Progress towards achieving results/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of positive women have received much media attention in the national press and the railways project too has been well covered by media. The high level mission of UNIFEM Executive Director to India provided much visibility to gender and HIV issues (Press clippings attached) • The joint UNIFEM-Railways project has also been effectively captured by the local and national press as well as by the UNDP bulletin. The visit of the Chinese Railways too was given prominence by the media nationally and locally. (Press clippings attached) • Advocacy efforts were advanced with several presentations with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Forum • In partnership with Women's Feature Service UNIFEM was able to reach out to more than 250 students from five colleges of journalism and mass communications in Delhi as part of the campaign on "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" and to disseminating a ready reckoner on gender and HIV/AIDS thereby bridging the gap between media reality and academic learning • Technical assistance was provided to Population Foundation of India in developing a media manual on the gender section • UNIFEM supported the development of a range of advocacy and communications materials for the Railways project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short advocacy film based on the photo documentation the Railways project released by UNIFEM Executive Director. (CD) • Communications materials, comic strips, posters and stickers with railways officials on gender and HIV/AIDS, promoting VCTC and ART services as well as safety in sexual relationships. The prototypes will be used by the Railways for wider outreach through their regular channels as well as the community in the division. (PPT on creatives attached)
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NGOs - including women living with HIV/AIDS)		
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OBJECTIVE THREE: PILOTING		
<p>Medium-Term Results:</p> <p>Women's economic capacities and rights are strengthened, women's human rights and eliminating violence against women are promoted; and women's governance and leadership is fostered</p> <p>Lowered risk of HIV infection</p> <p>Reduction of negative social and economic impact on communities</p> <p>Wide-scale integration of GEZ findings and lessons on the need to address gender equality issues into local and national plans, policies and strategies</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>Laws revised or new laws promulgated according to CEDAW articles</p> <p>Females enjoy increased status and entitlements in key areas</p> <p>Violence against women decreased</p> <p>Infection rates lowered in women and men.</p>	<p>Progress towards achieving results/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the GEZ project has deepened and efforts to take some aspects of it to 4 other sites (Bilaspur – South East Central Railways, Guntukul Division, Howrah and Vishakaptnam) are underway. The Divisional Railway Manager has provided gender sensitive leadership and the mission of the UNIFEM Executive Director provided them much recognition and confidence. A Steering Committee has been established to oversee the programme compromising key officials of the Vijayawada Division for increased accountability and monitoring. • Sustained advocacy has resulted in the Director General NACO visiting the project site and subsequently committing support to the Railways to scale up the project in 16 divisions and to using the counselling resources of the project effectively for other public sector learning. • Overall, there is more openness to talk about HIV/AIDS - especially in the field, compared to 2004. http://www.unifem.org.in/Final%20Report%20June%202005.pdf • The stock taking review of the Railways project was undertaken supported by NORAD and UNIFEM and findings presented to the Advisory Committee, NACO, UNAIDS and NORAD. The report has captured some signs of change in respect of advancement of gender issues – improved access to information and materials; confident and valued set of peer counselors, increasing number of women accessing HIV related services in the hospital and improved sensitivity and reduced stigma towards PLWHAS. This also includes the fact that the project contributed substantially to reducing the burden of disease as part of the socio-economic costs to the railways. (Appendix I) • Due to the creation of a gender sensitive enabling environment, more women than men have been accessing VTCT services. In 2004, the increased reporting was due to wives of HIV positive men coming forward for testing. Also the number of women accessing ART has doubled in the last one year. (Appendix II)
<p>Short-term Immediate Results:</p> <p>Women's greater control over their incomes and</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>More women can: Identify the factors that place them at risk of HIV/AIDS,</p>	<p>Progress towards achieving results/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewed focus on masculinity and male responsibility, sexual harassment, violence against women, safe working conditions for women, compassionate employment for families affected by HIV/AIDS

<p>expenditure, ability to express their opinions, to make their own decisions, to seek or receive health care, to attend school, to understand their bodies, to learn their serostatus, to select their sex partners, to choose abstinence, or to insist on safer sex.</p> <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based participatory workshop that resulted in participant-identified needs and issues • Training Manuals and resource guides updated • Workshops on Negotiating Safe Sex • Youth led programme on addressing gender disparities • Microcredit scheme • Publication/book capturing the results • Meeting with advisory groups, 1 in person and 3 virtual. 	<p>recognize their risk factors as violations of human rights decide on the actions they will take to change those risk factors, and develop and implement a plan of action.:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revolving loans has been given for productive purposes to 70 women amounting to Rs 7 lakhs and has strengthened the women's collectives and their linkages to the divisions' sales • The life skills education (LSE) programme conducted in the Railway schools has lead to better understanding of issues like human rights, gender, understanding their bodies, sexuality, responsibility and safety etc amongst students. In many cases it has empowered students to take action on issues of gender discrimination at home, sexual harassment or abuse etc. The LSE programme has so far has benefited 1832 female and 2368 male students. • Issues like domestic violence, alcoholism, sexual harassment etc that stem from unequal gender relations and make women vulnerable are increasingly being discussed in women's groups and women's working situation. • Engagements with Trade Unions have helped deepen their understanding of Gender and HIV/AIDS and putting this issue on the agenda of the trade unions in the division. They have been instrumental in addressing issues of sexual harassment, and violence against women. • Women are out numbering men in accessing the services of the voluntary counselling and testing centres. In 2004, 408 women accessed the services compared to 332 men and in 2005 354 women accessed services compared to 323 men. • The formation of a positive people group has lead to formation of supportive structure where issue of concern to them are discussed ranging from stigma and discrimination to work problems to health status. Trained positive women and men speakers have helped motivate more positive people to join the group.
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Appendix I

Burden of disease excerpted from the stock taking report – SWASTI Health Resource Centre

Based on the information available, the Review team used the data from 131 HIV + persons who are living and 70 employees who had died of AIDS in Vijayawada and computed the economic costs, based on assumptions:

For persons living with HIV, the costs assumed were:

- Imputed value of absence from work – assumed at 20% of working days
- Imputed value of reduced efficiency - 20% of working time due to morbidity.
- Cost of managing Opportunistic Infection, conduct of tests and treatment of ART.

Persons who have died

- Imputed value of Pension cost - @ 20 % of value of balance service
- Replacement costs – 3 months gross (recruitment cost)
- Training of new person – 6 months gross (training cost)

Based on the above assumptions and computation mechanisms, the following economic arguments were made:

- a) The SC Railways spends Rs 55845 per annum per person living with HIV and has spent Rs 160912 for every person who has died. This includes imputed and actual costs.
- b) The overall economic cost to Railways is Rs 4.64 crores (assuming 250 persons living with HIV now and 200 who have passed away). Burden for Railways as a whole is in the region of 22 crores (assuming 4000 persons living with HIV – as per current Railways statistics).

The amount spent by the project till May 2005 is Rs. 43.92 lakhs. By averting 79 new infections, the project will break even (project cost to cost of one person living with HIV)

Appendix II

HIV infections in Divisional Railways hospital, Vijayawada Division - from Railways Divisional Hospital Vijayawada

	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
No. of men tested for HIV testing	380	332	323	1035
No. of women tested for HIV	293	408	354	1055
HIV positive Males	55	39	47	141
HIV positive Females	14	32	33	79

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No of men accessing ART from August 2003 -Jan 05 = 50
No. of women accessing ART from August 2003 -Jan 05 =15
No of men accessing ART from Jan 05 -Jan 06 = 80
No of women accessing ART from Jan 05 -Jan 06 =28

