



**Final Report: UNAIDS PAF**  
**For the period June 2003 – March 2006**

**UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office, New Delhi**

## **A. Background and Justification**

India has an estimated 5.2 million people affected by HIV/AIDS, with prevalence amongst adults reaching as high as 0.9% of the general population. Over 35% of all reported HIV-infections in India occur among young people in the age group of 15 to 24 years<sup>1</sup>. Although overall prevalence remains low, even relatively minor increases in HIV infection rates could translate into very large numbers of people becoming infected<sup>2</sup>.

### **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. In recent years, there has been considerable rise in the number of HIV infections among women and girls in the country. Women now account for 40% of total HIV infected population in India. A significant proportion of new infections is occurring in women who are married and who have been infected by their husbands. Other factors such as early marriage, illiteracy, limited access to information and services and high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections play an important role in increasing their vulnerability to HIV. Women in most cases find it very difficult to negotiate safe sex and on contracting HIV/AIDS the consequences are severe – women face homelessness, increased violence, and increased burden of care, loss of jobs or taking up unskilled and underpaid work and lack the access to treatment and care.

A recent study was commissioned by UNIFEM in 5 cities across the country to assess the economic impact of HIV on women who were either infected or directly affected by HIV/AIDS and were also acting as care givers. The study highlighted the impact of HIV/AIDS entering the home and its burden on the lives and livelihoods of women care givers in situations of poverty. The study is attentive to short and long term policy initiatives needed to reduce the burden of care.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 "Responding to HIV & AIDS under the Leadership of Elected Representatives", NACO

<sup>2</sup> 2 <http://web.worldbank.org>

In terms of national response to the increasing feminization and addressing the gender dimensions of the HIV epidemic, the larger social & political environment in India has been conducive and committed to use the multi dimensional approach for HIV programming. The National AIDS Control Organization has completed a historic participatory process in designing the Phase III of the National AIDS Control Programme for 2007-11. 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. There has been emphasis that 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. The programme has worked through existing organizations/agencies providing services to women, including support groups of women living with HIV. Increased efforts will be made to reach out to the unorganized sector, particularly girls, women and other gendered identities (GIs).

In addition, the approach to HIV programming now is strongly embedded in the principles of three ones (One national plan, one coordinating authority and one M& E framework) has HIV mainstreaming as one of its key strategies.

UNIFEM has been responding to the feminization of the epidemic through a multi pronged approach. Through this project UNIFEM aimed to strengthen the approaches and deepening the processes of empowerment of women, in particular young girls, through Human Rights based approach to HIV/AIDS. Partnerships were forged with positive women's networks throughout India, as well as self-help groups and organizations active in combating the spread of the virus.

The UNIFEM- PAF project was unique, not only because of the creation of a pool of gender resources & Advocacy also because of its role as catalyst for innovative responses to community-based interventions and advocacy strategies with both state and civil society. The overarching aim was to enhance the knowledge of young girls and women of HIV/AIDS and strengthen their capacity to respond to the epidemic, for instance by impacting policy and overall socio –political environment. This required a holistic approach that addresses crosscutting issues throughout the life cycle of the woman and promotes her autonomy, safety and security. The project was executed in the broader context of UNIFEM's Multi-Year Funding Framework (2004- 2007), which converges the goals of ending gender-based violence, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst women and girls and reversing the feminization of poverty and social exclusion.

UNIFEM is an active member of the Joint UN team on HIV/AIDS in India. UNIFEM has provided technical support to NACO for engendering the national response. It has facilitated and provided technical inputs for setting up of the Gender Desk in NACO to advocate at multiple levels on the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS and ensure the rights of positive women.

## **B. Beneficiaries**

HIV affected women and girls, as well as their partners; positive women leaders and networks of positive people; women working in unorganized sector, women's organizations,

community based groups, government and non-government organizations working on issues of gender and/or HIV/AIDS.

### **C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE**

To reduce women's multiple vulnerabilities rooted in gender inequality, poverty and violence that serve as a condition for sexual exploitation and subordination of girls and women, and as a vector for the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

### **D. Immediate Objectives of the project:**

1. To strengthen knowledge base and capacities of women's organizations, including positive women's organizations so as to impact their outreach and effectiveness with respect to gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS
2. To enhance the use of human rights framework/CEDAW by women's/AIDS organizations in the country to ensure implementation of policies that promote and protect women's human rights and reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

### **E. Key Accomplishments**

UNIFEM supported the setting up of the Gender and Rights Desk in NACO in 2005-06 to advocate with multiple stakeholders on the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS, legislative framework, rights of positive women & with State AIDS Control Societies for mainstreaming gender in HIV.

In partnership with UNIFEM's line ministry - Ministry of Women and Child Development, a training module and community booklet on Gender Dimensions of HIV/AIDS for master trainers and SHG members of the Swayamsidha programme of the Ministry has been pilot tested. It's proposed that this module and booklet will be integrated into the ongoing training programmes of the Ministry and is expected to reach out to 63,000 SHGs across the country. (Approximately benefiting 11,34,000 men and women –in Swayamsidha implemented states)

UNIFEM carried out a gender responsive budgeting exercise for six key departments of the GoI - health, education, WCD, Registration and Stamps and Social Welfare and Agriculture. Since there was a very strong link between the gender responsive budgeting initiative carried out in the Department of Health and WCD and the capacity building programmes undertaken by UNIFEM for the MoWCD for prevention of HIV among women and girls, UNIFEM supported the printing of reports of Gender responsive budgeting of the departments of Health and Women and Child Development.

UNIFEM established direct partnerships with 12 women's groups, positive women's network, gender training and research organisations and community based groups across the country. Five of which were new partnerships with organisations based in Maharashtra( Point of View) , Delhi (New Concept), Rajasthan( Doosra Dashak and BGVS), Punjab( Cheema Foundation trust) and West Bengal( Swayam). Through these partner organizations, UNIFEM reached out to another 100 organisations. These partnerships have used various creative mediums such as films, puppets, posters, theatre and other audiovisual tools and methodologies of experiential workshops, participatory action

research for developing new messages and reiterating the underlying principles of gender based equality for women's empowerment.

There has been a phenomenal outreach by partners to newer constituencies working for women's human rights in areas of health, violence, economic empowerment, women's mobilization and life skills education for young girls and adolescents and addressing human rights re. care, support and representation of HIV positive and affected women.

One new partnership which was formed was with Bhartiya Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) Rajasthan, which has nationwide networks for mobilizing people around issues of right based education and right to information. 22 Kala jathas and six health melas were conducted by BGVS in cities of Kota and Jaipur which addressed women's vulnerabilities and health problems. More than 10,000 men and women received information and messages concerning gender based violence, vulnerability to HIV and its prevention.

UNIFEM's unique role in nurturing the positive women's network and supporting its vision and strategic development has furthermore resulted in leadership development and as well as enhanced advocacy with the government and international bodies. PWN was able to reach out to more than 300 positive women and men through the project activities. UNIFEM has leveraged participation of PWN at high-level advocacy initiatives, including that with UN Secretary General as part of the joint UN programme. UNIFEM documented a case study on Positive Women Network as part of as part of the UN Inter-agency Lessons Learnt Project. The case study was presented at the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Lessons Learned Project at Bangkok in September 2005.

Four legal literacy workshops were held for HIV/AIDS positive women and HIV/AIDS workers, reaching a total of 120 men and women. Topics included social and economic rights, ranging from dowry, trafficking and rape legislation to personal laws and CEDAW. Positive women are increasingly able to recognize the linkages between violence and HIV/AIDS and the value of Human Rights in combating both. A handbook on legal rights for positive people has been brought out by UNIFEM and MARG.

In this phase, convergence with partners working on gender based violence, anti trafficking HIV and other women's issues were strengthened. Learning sessions on CEDAW in the context of HIV and violence against women were organized for 15 partners working on diverse issues of anti trafficking, concerns of WLHA, media advocacy, women's human rights, violence against women etc.

UNIFEM provided partial support for a three day consultation in Manipur which was organized by North East Network (NEN) with more than 60 stakeholders for sensitizing the state and civil society on issues concerning gender based violence, vulnerability to HIV and human rights of women. The consultation report was published by NEN.

UNIFEM provided support for a 21 day national campaign against gender based violence and the production of media publicity and advocacy spots to the nodal organization Swayam, which worked with more than 70 national women's groups. Inclusion of HIV issues in their outreach with young people was advocated as part of the campaign.

8 key training and advocacy tools were produced with support of the partners and technical inputs provided under PAF project (some of the knowledge products were fully supported

under PAF; others received partial support from the project). The details have been provided in the main text of the report and the complete list of the knowledge tools is annexed with the report.

## **Key Results:**

### **I. Advocacy & Policy dialogue:**

- 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 endeavors including, UNIFEM's support to national advocacy processes and consensus building amongst women's groups.
- To ensure that the HIV/AIDS bill takes into account the concerns and issues of positive women and addresses the gender dimensions impacting the epidemic, UNIFEM supported a national consultation of the women's groups, gender training advocacy, and research organizations, and positive women networks to discuss the issues to be incorporated in the proposed HIV/AIDS bill which has been prepared by Lawyer's collective.
- The National AIDS Control organization has set up a Gender and Rights Desk and placed a Gender Expert with technical and financial support of UNIFEM, displaying a high commitment to institutionalizing gender issues within the system.
- Representative of the positive women's participated at International AIDS Conference on gender and HIV held in Bangkok in 2004 and in Kobe in 2005.
- At a National Consultation held in 2004, 120 women living with HIV/AIDS came together & spelt out the commitment required at the national policy and programmatic level to address the issues of women living with HIV/AIDS. Representatives from National Commission for Women, National AIDS Control Organization, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Education, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Planning Commission, KSAPCS, TNSACS, APSACS, and other participants from national and international organizations reiterated their commitment to integrate concerns of WLHA into government programs.
- UNIFEM supported Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) to host a National level consultation with key stakeholders - representatives from Statutory bodies such as the National Commission for Women as well as various official departments and Ministries such as National AIDS Control Organization, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Education, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Planning Commission, KSAPCS, TNSACS, APSACS, and national and international organizations. A multi media CD ROM on the key concerns of the positive women's groups was developed as an advocacy tool which was shared with the policy makers.

### **II. Building sustainable knowledge and action networks**

- Situational assessment studies were carried out by **Bhartiya Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) and Alarippu** in certain villages of 3 most deprived districts of UP and Rajasthan, which served as basis for devising community oriented approaches to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDS. The studies provided a thorough

understanding of vulnerabilities faced by women working in the unorganised sector, and lay the base for a more nuanced and effective response to their situation.

- In order to expand the whole process of community involvement and participation, a dialogue-centered module has been developed for women facilitating women's collectives, raising awareness among members of Self-Help Groups (SHG), elected women representatives and grass root women workers taking care of programmes such as Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) or health workers associated with primary health centres. The module titled Women and HIV/AIDS – A module for SHGs has been developed by **Centre for Advocacy and research (CFAR)** to strengthen women's engagement with HIV-AIDS
- **Action India** organised an exposure visit for a group of 20 community health workers from Delhi to UP and Jharkhand. The quality of service provision to marginalized women living with HIV/AIDS improved as result of the exposure trip where the health workers learnt from each other and developed greater awareness of the gender dimensions in HIV/AIDS. Particular emphasis was placed on utilizing local resources for treatment to reach women living in communities and the options available to them.
- UNIFEM has provided technical support to include issues of gender, HIV and human rights in their on going programmes of an organization, **Doosra Dashak** on life skills education for out of school young boys and girls in the tribal belts of Rajasthan.

### **III. Capacity-building**

- In collaboration with the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, UNIFEM has developed a training module for master trainers on Gender dimensions of HIV which would be integrated into the ongoing capacity building programmes of the Ministry. UNIFEM organised capacity building programmes for master trainers, SHG leaders and state level officials from 6 states were trained on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS during which the module and booklet were field tested.
- An estimated 800 women obtained information on gender, violence and HIV/AIDS by attending one of the six health melas in Rajasthan and UP. Kala Jatha shows on gender and HIV/AIDS were staged, attracting a total audience of 10000, half of which was female. Consequently, awareness of gender issues, violence and HIV/AIDS has been successfully spread amongst vulnerable populations, especially women working in the unorganised sector. Careful use has been made of less conventional training materials and strategies, including theatre and dance workshops, board games and comic books.
- Linkages were renewed with partners from the earlier phase. eg: Alarippu was supported by UNIFEM for capacity building of a cadre of women and young boys from the Bedin community. A 12 day theatre workshop was held with 8 Bedin women and 2 men from Banda and Karwi districts. These women were trained to use their traditional skills of dance and music for imparting messages on women's empowerment and earn an alternative source of livelihood. This enhanced the value of their skill and helped them to reach out to a cross section of audiences in 10 different schools and colleges of Delhi, Banda and Karwi. Through its outreach

activities and legal and health advocacy with youth and women, Alarippu reached out to more than 150 young boys, girls and community women.

- More than 600 women workers and entrepreneurs from the agricultural sector in Punjab were reached out through an orientation programme on gender based multiple vulnerabilities and empowerment approaches for working women by a new partner, **Cheema Foundation Trust, Chandigarh**

#### **IV. Media Advocacy**

- A three-day “Consultative Workshop on Integrating Gender Perspective into Mass communication and Journalism Curriculum” was organized by UNIFEM partners **CFAR** at the University of Hyderabad in collaboration with the Department of Communication in September 2004. The workshop brought together 25 senior faculty members from universities, institutions and colleges offering courses in journalism and mass communications. This Consultation led to the creation of a Module on “Gender, HIV/AIDS and the Media” for Schools of Journalism.

#### **V. Leadership development & Capacity Building of positive women’s groups:**

- UNIFEM has supported the development of strong positive women’s network boasting of 5,000 members across the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Manipur, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. Through the project activities, PWN leveraged increased participation and leadership of positive women in state, national, international processes & fora, in itself a way of conquering stigma and discrimination and highlighting women’s rights in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Using their learning’s from CEDAW, the positive women network has been advocating at all fora for their rights.
- A National workshop on gender was organized for the key members ( 25) of PWN+ and INP+ with focus on mainstreaming gender issues of equity and empowerment in networks of people living with HIV. One of the key objectives was engendering the GIPA process and building leadership of women living with HIV/AIDS. Key people from positive networks from 11 states participated in the workshop
- PWN+, in collaboration with NACO, UNIFEM, UNAIDS, UNICEF, INP+, CFAR, and support from UNDP and UNODC organized a second National Consultation in December 2004. This was an opportune moment for the Network to use the high-profile event to formalize such a Network with a leadership representing as many States as possible. To strengthen the organizational cohesion of the Network, the Consultation was preceded by a “Visioning Exercise” where 120 members representing 15 States re-visited and re-formulated their core objectives, arrived at strategic goals and agreed on practical objectives and activities for the future in partnership with UNIFEM, UNAIDS and UNICEF. The process culminated in a **Vision Document and a Statement of Declaration.**

#### **Objective 1:**

To strengthen knowledge base and capacities of women's organisations, including positive women's organisations so as to impact their outreach and effectiveness with respect to gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS

### **1.1 Three Visioning Workshops of Positive Women's Network (PWN+)**

Three visioning workshops of Positive Women's Network (PWN+) were conducted in New Delhi, Guwahati and Chennai. More than 60 positive women ( 27 from Northern region, 16 from Southern and 18 from North East region) from 13 states have been reached out through the training programmes and visioning exercises conducted by Positive Women's Network and INP+ who helped in the facilitation process. The participants represented state and district level networks and support groups /NGOs run by PLWHAs. Presidents of the state level networks were also present in the visioning workshops along with college students in the southern region.

### **1.2 Scaling up Advocacy on Gender and HIV/AIDS – Sharing the learning from the ground to strengthen perspectives, processes and Partnerships- A National Consultation**

The consultation was a platform for over 120 women living with HIV/AIDS to showcase the future vision of the positive women network. The consultation platform also spelt out the commitment required at the national policy and programmatic level to address the issues of women living with HIV/AIDS. The recommendations made by the WLHA's during the national consultation were vital to the integration of concerns of WLHA into government programs, which would help them rise above their current situation

### **1.3 Workshop on “Masculinity and Male Responsibility”**

CFAR organized a workshop on Masculinity in December 2005. Representatives from organizations working on VAW, with sexual minorities, specifically with MSM community on the issue of HIV prevention, care and support and those implementing interventions with young people, especially from disadvantaged sections of society including leading civil society organizations, academicians, researchers, media practitioners-critics and filmmakers participated in the workshop. Based on the deliberations and exchange of views, the Network of Positive people realized the need to engage with this issue in a more pro-active manner. There was mutual sensitization and realization that in the context of HIV-AIDS, one needs to have a more expanded discourse on gender and constantly facilitate an interface on groups working on different dimensions of gender sexuality and HIV-AIDS. A workshop report was brought out.

### **1.4 Enhancing Capacities of Women in unorganized sector – Outreach**

UNIFEM partners, **BGVS and Alaripu** have reached out to more than 10,000 men and women in the unorganized sector including marginalized communities in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh through campaigns, use of folk media, trainings and linkages. A situational analysis was conducted in two districts of Rajasthan to assess the vulnerability of women in the unorganized sector.

A pool of 50 trainers in two particularly deprived districts of Rajasthan and UP was created by working closely with local self-help groups, with the aim of spreading knowledge on gender, HIV/AIDS and violence. The trainers are catalysts for gradual change and being locally sourced; enable the sustainability of efforts beyond the termination of the official project.

The situational assessment study conducted by BGVS for the women in the unorganised sector highlighted issues on gender based violence and other vulnerabilities that put women at risk to HIV. Some of the key findings have been listed below

- Women reported instances of domestic violence in both the districts. In most cases this was related to alcoholism
- Women who worked in mines often faced sexual harassment at their workplace.
- Level of awareness about HIV was very low among the women and they were myths and misconceptions about HIV
- Women suffered from common health ailments like malnutrition and anaemia and other gynaecological problems
- Most women marry young and have large families to take care of. In situations of sicknesses, its very difficult for the women to cope with the burden of care

A quick survey consisting of in-depth interviews was carried out by **Alarippu** with women in Karvi village in Uttar Pradesh. These women earned their livelihood through singing and dancing and some were involved in commercial sex work. These women have been exploited at their very core. They lived in vulnerable conditions and were deprived of basic human rights at all fronts. Health was the last priority and most of them had no information about HIV /AIDS. Most of them had faced atrocities by the police, who had instilled in them deep fear making their lives all the more unmanageable. Violence against women of this community was a very complex issue – it was not just physical but women faced sexual harassment & denied of practically all human rights.

Work with the Bedin women continues and conscious efforts were made to build their capacities for alternative source of livelihood which would provide them a life of dignity and self esteem. **Alarippu** organised a residential workshop for a group of 10 men and women on how to impart messages on women's empowerment by using their traditional skills of music and dance. 10 theatre performances were held in different schools and colleges of Delhi and in Banda and Karwi.

In an effort to increase understanding of community workers on women's health, Reproductive Rights and vulnerability of young women and girls, a team of 20 community Health workers from resettlement colonies of Delhi were taken by **Action India**, a women's organisation on an exchange visit to UP and Jharkhand to learn best practices & strategies of enhancing women's decision making in health and control over their body by use of alternative medicines. This exchange visit has enhanced community workers knowledge on cross cutting empowerment strategies to address women's vulnerability and disempowering social- cultural and economic dimensions impacting women's health and work.

More than 600 women workers and entrepreneurs from the agricultural sector were reached out with awareness information on gender based vulnerabilities and empowerment approaches for working women was conducted by **Cheema Foundation Trust**.

### **1.5 Working with Youth and Adolescents**

Youth camps in UP took place for two groups of adolescent boys and girls, which addressed amongst others issues of gender, Human Rights, health and life skills. These youth camps helped in raising personal awareness and knowledge of key issues.

**Doosra Dashak**, an NGO partner in Rajasthan has managed to reach out to 156 adolescents and 250 women in the 'Garasia Community. 85 women participated in the discussions on status of women. A curriculum framework has been developed based on life skill reach education approach, which encompasses gender equality and action tools for social transformation. In addition, two residential camps with 78 young boys and girls were held, & issues of gender, health, HIV and human rights were discussed in their on going programmes on life skills education

An advocacy and training tool in the form of an **interactive board game** has been developed and tested with youth groups by **Point of View, a cultural and rights organisation working on women's issues** to explore issues of gender, sexuality, violence, and health including HIV. It has been tested in colleges and slums in Mumbai and in 6 other states. The evaluation has shown that it appeals greatly to young people because of its strategy of 'learn while having fun'. The tool has also been used in the UNIFEM- Railway project as well as in CHARCA programme. The board game has been developed in three languages- Hindi, English, & Telgu. The interactive game board is one of the innovative strategies evolved in under PAF and CHARCA. See annex on innovation box

## **Objective 2:**

To enhance the use of human rights framework/CEDAW by women's/AIDS organisations in the country to ensure implementation of policies that promote and protect women's human rights and reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

### **2.1 Citizen's Round Table in Imphal**

As part of its ongoing advocacy efforts to mainstream the concerns of the people of northeast India, especially the women, North East Network, (NEN) with support from UNIFEM organized a Citizens' Roundtable in Imphal in November 2004 which highlighted vulnerability of women to gender based violence and HIV. Women's groups, citizens' and human rights groups from all over the country attended the round table. Strategies were formulated regarding how to curb violence and the proliferation of HIV/AIDS amongst the community's girls and women. NEN brought out two publications – Tailoring Peace: The Citizens' Roundtable on Manipur and beyond examines the multi-faceted problems faced by the people of Manipur and outlines strategies to deal with them and the second publication is the outcome of a baseline study in northeast India. It uses CEDAW as a tool to analyze the fulfilment of state obligation to women's equality in the context of armed conflict.

### **2.2 Four Legal Literacy Workshops for People living with HIV/AIDS**

More than 120 people living with HIV benefit from the legal literacy workshops conducted in Delhi, Gujarat, Aizawl and Hyderabad by **Multiple Action Research Group (MARG)**. Representatives from Government, non-government organizations working with HIV affected people & Commercial Sex Workers and Intravenous Drug Users, Health care

providers, people affected and those living with HIV were sensitized about their legal rights. The workshops covered topics on social as well as economic rights, ranging from dowry, trafficking and rape legislation to personal laws and CEDAW. Positive women are increasingly able to recognize the linkages between violence and HIV/AIDS and the value of Human Rights in combating both.

As a result, a legal literacy handbook for people living with HIV/AIDS has been produced in two languages (English and Hindi), which has been disseminated widely and has been popular among the master trainers, lawyers, doctors, social workers, and those burdened with the consequences of the virus, for gaining full insight to the rights especially relevant to people living with HIV/ AIDS. The positive women have inputted into the legal literacy handbook.

### **2.3 Positive Networks, Women's organizations sensitized to women's Human Rights in HIV**

The process of encouraging positive women networks' ability to systematically articulate and negotiate their Human Rights concerns has been brought forward together with concerned stakeholders.

### **2.4 CEDAW as the guiding framework for building linkages between GBV, anti trafficking and HIV**

UNIFEM organized a learning session on CEDAW in the context of HIV and Ending Violence against Women, anti trafficking with several project partners in March 2006. The exercise aimed at deepening understanding of partners on effective use of CEDAW framework as a learning and advocacy tool to enhance women's rights within HIV/AIDS and also help to build linkages between partners working on similar issues.

More than 15 participants from 12 NGOs working in the field of Anti trafficking, HIV, Advocacy, VAW, Women's Health, Communications attended the learning session. Some of the key issues discussed were - Understanding Discrimination in the Context of HIV/AIDS Related Issues; The Role of gender and Sexuality in Determining Vulnerability. Some of the specific issues the group brainstormed on included Gender Based Violence, Human trafficking. Poverty, forced marriage.

The organizations shared experiences of implementing projects addressing issues of gender, and HIV/AIDS through effective use of human rights mechanisms particularly CEDAW and highlighted best practices, challenges and their own needs for better community action.

### **2.4 Advocacy tools developed and disseminated**

- Advocacy materials and tools on CEDAW, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS in two languages were developed and disseminated.
- A **Legal literacy Handbook for People Living with HIV/AIDS**, illustrating women's rights with regard to the epidemic has been produced in both English and Hindi.
- Training with self help groups in Madhya Pradesh and Panchayat representatives was undertaken and a tool developed for use in the community. The tool is titled **Women and HIV/AIDS – Module for SHGs**

- A multi-media kit titled “Trajectory of a Saga” - has been developed to trace the unique journey undertaken by the Positive Women Network. This multi-media kit can be used to sensitize policy/decision makers and service providers on gender and specifically on the programmatic approaches that can be adopted to give women an opportunity to combat the epidemic.
- The set of 5 posters depicting covert and overt forms of gender based violence and the pro active role of the Panchayats for addressing gender based violence and HIV have been reprinted due to a large demand coming from various programme partners.

### **List of Knowledge Products & Reports :**

The following reports and publications have been produced by UNIFEM and its partners.

1. One minute spot on Eve –Teasing  
<http://www.unifem.org.in/images/spotclip1.jpg>
2. [An interactive Game board – To discuss issues around gender and sexuality](#)
3. Turning the Tide – CEDAW & the Gender Dimensions of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic  
Translated into Hindi and reprinted in English  
<http://www.unifem.org.in/pdf/Turning%20the%20tide%20Hindi.pdf>
4. Legal Literacy Handbook for people living with HIV/AIDS – English as well as Hindi (Handbooks as well as CDs)  
[http://www.unifem.org.in/pdf/HIV/HIV\\_English.pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/pdf/HIV/HIV_English.pdf) -  
[http://www.unifem.org.in/pdf/HIV/HIV\\_Hindi.pdf](http://www.unifem.org.in/pdf/HIV/HIV_Hindi.pdf)
5. [Women and HIV/AIDS – Module for SHG members](#)
6. [Status paper on Masculinity and Male responsibility](#)
7. Multimedia CD titled “Trajectory of a Saga”  
[http://www.unifem.org.in/clips/HIV\\_AIDS.mpg](http://www.unifem.org.in/clips/HIV_AIDS.mpg)
8. [Gender Dimensions of Work, Health, Social Relationships and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS – Training module for Master trainers](#)
9. [Gender Dimensions of Work, Health, Social Relationships and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS – Booklet for SHG leaders/ Community women](#)
10. [Masculinity and Male Responsibility – Workshop Report](#)
11. [Gender, HIV/AIDS and the Media – Module for Schools of Journalism 2005](#)
12. [Scaling up Advocacy on gender and HIV/AIDS – Consultation report](#)
13. [Reports of the legal literacy workshops – conducted by MARG and PWN+](#)
14. [Research report of women health, Vulnerability and Burden of Care in Jaipur and Kota](#)
15. [National Orientation workshop on Gender - Report PWN](#)
16. [Gender Responsive Budgeting for the Department of Health](#)
17. [Gender Responsive Budgeting for the Department of Women and Child Development](#)
18. Shaping a New Reality: A Vision Document of the Positive Women Network (PWN+), India – December 2004  
<http://www.unifem.org.in/Vision%20Book%20PWN+.pdf>
19. Final Reports of all partners

### **Innovations Good Practice:**



**Innovations:**

With support from UNIFEM, Point of View, a women’s communication agency has created a game board named ‘Golmaal’ an advocacy and training tool for use by groups of young men and women to explore issues of gender, sexuality, violence, and health including HIV. It has been tested in colleges and slums in Mumbai and in CHARCA districts and evaluations have shown that it appealed greatly to young people because of its strategy of ‘learn while having fun’. The board game has been developed in three languages- Hindi, English, & Telgu .

**FINAL**

**Accelerated by human living with HIV/AIDS in India, on 8th December 2004, New Delhi, India.**

**We will shape our reality.**

**Final Declaration of the Positive Women's Network (PWN) on 8th December 2004, New Delhi, India.**

**1. We, the undersigned, are women living with HIV/AIDS in India. We are united in our common goal of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India by 2010. We are committed to the principles of human rights, gender equality, and social justice. We are committed to the principles of non-discrimination, non-violence, and respect for the dignity of all people. We are committed to the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation. We are committed to the principles of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual support. We are committed to the principles of peace, justice, and reconciliation. We are committed to the principles of hope, optimism, and resilience. We are committed to the principles of love, compassion, and forgiveness. We are committed to the principles of faith, trust, and belief. We are committed to the principles of courage, strength, and determination. We are committed to the principles of perseverance, patience, and persistence. We are committed to the principles of humility, modesty, and simplicity. We are committed to the principles of honesty, integrity, and sincerity. We are committed to the principles of kindness, gentleness, and compassion. We are committed to the principles of respect, honor, and dignity. We are committed to the principles of peace, justice, and reconciliation. We are committed to the principles of hope, optimism, and resilience. We are committed to the principles of love, compassion, and forgiveness. We are committed to the principles of faith, trust, and belief. We are committed to the principles of courage, strength, and determination. We are committed to the principles of perseverance, patience, and persistence. We are committed to the principles of humility, modesty, and simplicity. We are committed to the principles of honesty, integrity, and sincerity. We are committed to the principles of kindness, gentleness, and compassion. We are committed to the principles of respect, honor, and dignity.**

**Positive Women’s Network as an example of an organisation following Human Rights based approach:**

The transformative journey of the positive women’s network in the last 5-7 years from a small self help support group to a highly visible and most articulate advocate of the rights of the positive women is truly amazing and UNIFEM has been a very proud and most supportive partners in this journey. The network has been supported and nurtured by UNIFEM at the programmatic and policies level on the key and multiple national and international platforms for advocacy on mainstreaming gender issues in HIV/AIDS. UNIFEM, South Asia has documented a case study on Positive Women Network as part of as part of the UN Inter-agency Lessons Learnt Project. The study captures how a young group of women with support from UNIFEM, UNAIDS and NACO underwent a rights based journey to move “on from being ‘traumatized individuals’ to an empowered collective. It also highlights processes in which PWN+ has successfully forged several public-private partnerships, collaborated with diverse stakeholders including NACO, UN agencies, INP+ various government departments, district administrations, municipal corporations, faith based organizations, civil society groups and corporate bodies to bring their cause to the forefront and to launch a strong movement to influence public polices and programmes that reflect the cause of positive women in the country. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), Bangkok, will publish the case study as part of the series on best practices from across the globe. The study was presented in a conference in Bangkok in 2005, in which Kaushalya (PWN) and Akhila Sivadas (CFAR) and Vandana Mahajan from UNIFEM participated.

**Capacity building with Bedin women In Uttar Pradesh:** In the first phase of partnership of UNIFEM, an action research study along with initial level of awareness and capacity building activities and advocacy was undertaken with women of the Bedin Community in UP by Alarippu with support from UNIFEM. The study highlighted extreme form of exploitation and human right violations, vulnerability at every step in the lives of the Bedin women. At the end of previous phase, the Bedin women and youth from the community articulated the need for building collective space for women to address issues of sexual exploitation and harassment by police and the community members and accessing health, education and legal aid for themselves and their girl children. With the youth, there was a strong need to work on issues of self esteem, gender equality and understanding of gender identities. On these recommendations, UNIFEM has supported Alarippu for continuing the work in the second PAF cycle with the Bedin women to build their capacities for alternative source of livelihood which would provide them dignity and self esteem. These women are inheritors of very long tradition of folk dancing and singing, which now has degenerated to a large extent forcing many of these women to go for forced sex work as a source of livelihood since these women are the sole breadwinners in the family. In the second phase, as a pilot for understanding the gender based vulnerabilities of women in the unorganized sector- Alarippu has been supported by UNIFEM for capacity building of a cadre of women and young boys from the Bedin community. A 12 day theatre workshop was held with 8 Bedin women and 2 men from Banda and karwi districts. The women were trained to use their traditional skills of dance and music for imparting messages on women's empowerment and to earn an alternative source of livelihood and develop their skills and capacities as community leaders. This has given dignity and value to their traditional performing skills and helped them to reach out to new audiences. The newly trained group has completed 10 theatre performances in different schools and colleges of Delhi, Banda and Karwi.

### **List of Partner Organizations**

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development (Govt. Partner)
2. National AIDS Control Organization, NACO, (Govt. partner)
3. Action India, Delhi
4. Alarippu, Delhi
5. Centre for Advocacy and Research, Delhi
6. MARG, Delhi
7. North East Network, Assam
8. Positive Women's Network, Chennai
9. Doosra Dashak, Rajasthan
10. Cheema Foundation Trust, Chandigarh
11. Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS), Rajasthan
12. New Concept Information Systems, New Delhi
13. Point of View, Mumbai
14. Swayam, Kolkata