



EMPHASIS ENGAGEMENT on AIDS Day 2012

Getting to zero: Zero new HIV infections; zero discrimination; and zero AIDS related deaths



World AIDS Day is observed around the world on December 1st each year. It has been observed since 1988 and now has become an annual event in most of the countries. Every year the day is signified with a theme and this year's theme for World AIDS Day (WAD) 2012 as chosen by UNAIDS and its partners is; getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths." It advocates for universal access to prevention and treatment and fulfillment of

human rights.

Enhancing Mobile Populations' Access to HIV and AIDS Services, Information & Support (EMPHASIS) project implemented by CARE International is a 5 years initiative. Its main focus is to reduce the vulnerability of key mobile populations to HIV & AIDS along two mobility routes between Bangladesh/India and Nepal/India by delivering focused interventions at source, transit and destination points, jointly

implemented by CARE Nepal, CARE Bangladesh and CARE India. All three countries implementing the projects are regularly observing AIDS day each year from its inception. This year EMPHASIS took new initiatives for observing WAD, in a scenario when cross border migration and HIV and AIDS is emerging as one of the key issues in global AIDS response.

Getting to zero



Zero New HIV Infections

Zero Discrimination

Zero AIDS related Deaths

Major Events Highlights



SOURCE

Nepal-
participation in National AIDS conference

Bangladesh -
participation in National AIDS Congress

TRANSIT

Indo- Bangla Border-
banner exchange program at 'No Man's Land' – Petrapole

DESTINATION

India:
West Bengal-puppet and magic shows, rally

Delhi - street plays, film shows, quiz and information kiosk

Mumbai - Infotainment



Rally in Bangladesh



Dr. Krishna Kumar Rai, Director National Center for AIDS&STD Control (NCASC) in plenary session organized by EMPHASIS

In Nepal:



Ministry of Health and Population/National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC) along with its partners organized the 4th National AIDS Conference in December 1-4, 2012 in Pokhara. Prior to the conference there were a series of consultation meetings between CARE EMPHASIS and NCASC aimed at shaping the event from cross border migration point of view, given CARE's experience on migration. The theme was achieving Millennium Development Goal through Universal Access in Nepal. CARE's experience and learning in cross border migration was presented in the events by EMPHASIS along with other CARE projects in different sessions.

CARE Nepal and partners for HIV prevention

programs actively participated in the conference. A variety of sessions through round table discussion, guest speaker in plenary session, Dr. Ravi Verma on 2nd December, was organized and facilitated on issues of cross border migration. Similarly, CARE Nepal hosted a round table discussion which was chaired by NCASC Director, co-chaired by EMPHASIS Advisor Mr. Mahesh Sharma. There were seven panel members including three community representative from Achham and Kanchanpur, two for expert opinion, Dr. Ravi Verma, EMPHASIS Advisor and regional expert on migration and Dr. Natesa Hamsa, Executive Director, Women Power Connect (WPC), Delhi; There were technical presentations by Bharat

Raj Gautam, Regional Monitoring and Knowledge Manager and Arjun Aryal, HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisor. Other activities included knowledge booth exhibition as well as showcasing the achievement and the approaches followed by CARE Nepal in HIV & AIDS interventions. The platform provided opportunities for discussions and dialogues on migration issues. Participants of the round table discussion appreciated the efforts to bring both community voices and expert opinion on policy issues at different levels. In solidarity, along with other participating organizations CARE International was involved in finalizing the Pokhara Declaration, which was to unite in the fight against HIV & AIDS.



Dr. KK Rai visited EMPHASIS knowledge booth

In India:

Mumbai: On 2nd December 2012 World AIDS Day was observed at Maruti High School in Marol, Andheri (E) which is a favorite and well-known hub for organizing events for Nepali community. The information about the program to be organized was disseminated among the Nepali community through peer educators and advertisement in the Nepali newspaper.

The program was packed with information and entertainment. Songs on HIV and AIDS were sung by the peer educators. Famous comedian Suvarna Shrestha, originally from Kathmandu gave messages on HIV and AIDS with blend of comedy. More than a thousand people participated in the program including impact population, stakeholders, community and civil society members, and CBO representatives. Prominent stakeholders shared their views about HIV pandemic and EMPHASIS interventions.

Delhi: World AIDS Day was observed on 1st and 2nd December 2012 in different locations, at the EMPHASIS intervention sites of Kapashera, Sarhaul, Naraina and Kirti Nagar in New Delhi. The program attracted a total of 399 audiences from the Nepali Mobile Population (NMP) community.

Activities including street play, film show, counseling stall, quiz competition, drawing competition for children, poster exhibition and information kiosk were carried out encouraging the involvement and participation of NMP's. Two IEC camps were also organized in collaboration with the Mahila Vikas Sansthan and other NGOs.

World AIDS Day was also observed at Shah Auditorium wherein EMPHASIS partner NGO Anchal Charitable Trust (ACT) team participated. All peer educators and staff members of EMPHASIS project gathered at Shah Auditorium, Civil Lines where a big event was organized by Delhi State AIDS Control Society. EMPHASIS had also set up its information kiosk where EMPHASIS IEC materials were displayed for those attending the event. Various media activities on prevention of HIV and zero transmission were also held by professional teams.

West Bengal: Marking the WAD, on 31st November 2012 a banner exchange ceremony was held at the Zero point. Government representatives including civil society organizations from India and Bangladesh attended the ceremony.

AIDS Day on 1st December was observed at Petrapole border 'No Man's Land' with CARE Bangladesh and other NGOs. The event began with a rally by EMPHASIS West Bengal project team which started at Barasat field office and finished at HIV and AIDS information booth at Barasat railway station that was set up by NNP+ (North 24 Parganas Network of Positive People). Sharing of thoughts and exchange of banner was followed by an oath taking ceremony at Barasat EMPHASIS project office, to unite in the fight against HIV. Before the rally moved on to 'No Man's Land' making history, messages on HIV were given to a large audience through the information kiosk and magic and puppet shows.

"I am an HIV positive person. When I was diagnosed I was so scared but now I am more empowered and leading a decent life. HIV infected person can work effectively, so my message to all of you is that please do not discriminate against HIV positive people but love them. If you hate them their life will be short but if you love them they will live long"
Words from PLHIV



Different activities-street drama, film shows, counseling stall were organized in collaboration with EMPHASIS, Modicare and other org

On the 'No Man's Land'

At a time when cross border migration and HIV and AIDS is emerging as one of the key issues in global AIDS response, an initiative to organize World AIDS Day, 2012 event between Bangladesh and India border (No Man's Land) has been well appreciated across the region.

The procession with the delegation from both the countries India and Bangladesh met at 'No Man's Land' at Petrapole headed by government official and

organizations of the respective countries. The event was marked with the exchange of flowers, sweets and event banners among the representatives from the two countries. Being an international border and a highly sensitive political area, the event happening was restricted to a duration of 15 minutes and thus was so observed. Initiated by the Borukha Public Welfare Trust (BPWT), partners of CARE EMPHASIS in India, along with other organizations and partners from Bangladesh, the

15 minutes at 'No Man's Land' contributed significantly and imparted a strong message of collaboration regarding the issues of migrants to be addressed despite the high level of political sensitivity between India and Bangladesh. The initiative was appreciated across the region.

"This is an inspiring initiative to learn, share and take collective efforts for both the countries." – People involved in cross border migration initiative



In Bangladesh:

EMPHASIS team as part of the National AIDS/STD Program (NASP) organized a range of activities within the country to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS as well as to demonstrate international solidarity to fight against HIV and AIDS.

At National Level EMPHASIS country team members and CARE Bangladesh health staff members joined the rally organized by NASP. At district level two implementing partners (Ad-din and Right Jessore) chalked out a day long program to observe the World AIDS Day. Different activities

such as rally, discussion meeting, quiz competition, art competition and AIDS information booth were organized in EMPHASIS project areas. In both districts (Jessore and Satkhira) health departments of Government of Bangladesh and NGOs have jointly organized some activities. About 3000 people from Jessore and Satkhira districts representing Government officials, different NGOs, and common people participated in the rally. Along with this EMPHASIS displayed various Behavior Change Communication (BCC)



materials at information booth organized by District Health Department and a number of NGOs jointly at various places in Jessore and Satkhira district. NASP in Bangladesh organized two days long National AIDS Congress in 1-2 December 2012 and CARE Bangladesh EMPHASIS country team also participated in the congress. A total of seven technical sessions were carried out during the congress including (i) strategic information (ii) prevention, care and support (iii) emerging issues on PMTCT, most at risk Adolescent and young people (iv) emerging issues on migration, HIV-SRH linkage, ART access, TB-HIV co-infection (v) self-help group in national response (vi) legal, human rights, stigma, discrimination and policy issues (vii) capacity building for national response, coordination and multi-sector involvement. Dr. Tasnim Azim, Director, Centre for HIV and AIDS, ICDDR, Bangladesh and Regional Advisory Group member of EMPHASIS in her presentation on Bangladesh HIV scenario, she highlighted EMPHASIS project as an example of cross border migration project to reduce the vulnerability of mobile population. Dr. Samir Howlader, National Program Officer, IOM also gave a presentation on Migration and HIV; Bangladesh Perspectives. As part of his presentation he used relevant data from EMPHASIS baseline report. In partnership with the government CARE EMPHASIS events on AIDS day were conducted successfully in a spirit of solidarity.



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