

DIVA (DIVERSITY IN ACTION)

Project DIVA is a GFATM Round 9 Multi Country South Asia (MSA) Regional HIV Program operating in 8 countries in South Asia. In India, The Humsafar Trust is Sub- recipient of the program along with Voluntary Health Services. The Humsafar trust is responsible for Men who have sex with men (MSM) component of the project. The project is operational in 10 states and 1 union territory of India viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh.

The overall goal of the project is to reduce the impact of and vulnerability to, HIV of men who have sex with men (MSM) through Community Systems strengthening (CSS). The project supports building the capacity of community based/ non-governmental organizations engaged in service provision (HIV prevention, care and support services), policy development and advocacy, partnership building with local governments and health departments, research related to MSM issues, and on creating stronger community systems to support and sustain this work.

Under capacity building component of the project, training programs are organized for community and health workers working in targeted interventions for MSM. Under policy development and advocacy component, sensitization workshops are conducted for key stakeholders such as government officers, law enforcement agencies and judicial members and media personnel. Media fellowship has been announced to engage with the media and reinforce their ability to be a positive force for improving the human rights and health of MSM, hijra, transgender people and other sexual minorities in India. Various advocacy events such as performance of play “Ek Madhav Baug”, panel discussions on IPC Sec.377 and NALSA judgement are organized at local level to create awareness about challenges and barriers faced by sexual minority populations.

One of the main components in the program is Advocacy Seed Grants which aims to provide support towards MSM lead organization on community driven initiatives in advocating related policy environment at local or national level.