

PEHCHAN 2010 – 2016

Pehchān project funded by the Global Fund under Round 9 from October 2010 to May 2016 and was their largest single-country grant focused on the HIV response for vulnerable and underserved sexual minorities. Pehchān means ‘identity’, ‘recognition’ in Hindi, and by 2016, the programme strengthened and built capacities of 207 community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide HIV prevention programming for 453,750 men who have sex with men (MSM), Transgender and hijras in 17 Indian states.

Pehchān was implemented by regional sub recipients (The Humsafar Trust, Pehchān North Region Unit (PNRO), SAATHII, Sangama, Alliance India Andhra Pradesh and SIAAP).

From October 2010, Pehchān was launched in 17 Indian states with support from National AIDS Control Society. The programme evolved over years and made significant impact in empowering MTH community in remote areas, reaching hard to reach population and supporting State AIDS Control Societies in strengthening MTH Targeted Interventions in states.

The programme was more focused around establishment and capacity building of the SSRs / CBOs and service delivery, impact on MTH community and influencing health policies towards MTH.

There has been dearth of experience in implementing MTH programme at that scale globally like Pehchān. Hence, implementing the programme of mammoth scale and coverage was challenge in itself. However, the experience of the six consortium partners under Pehchān in implementing MTH programmes regionally were instrumental in evolving innovative strategies, activities to implement Pehchān with A1 Global Fund rating in Phase I.

The programme managed to successfully formulate a strong three tier governance structure which balanced governance responsibility at three levels; Donor, implementing partners and MTH community. Programme Advisory Body (PAB) was instrumental in getting inputs from the NACO, UNAIDS, UNDP, DFID and other partners for keeping the programme in sync with the NACP guideline. The State Oversight Committees (SOCs) formed in the 17 states helped gain the ownership from the state stakeholders and synergize with the existing government programmes with the MTH community. At the same time Community Advisory Bodies were created and worked wonders for the programme by providing technical assistance on dealing with the community.

In May 2015, the process of transition of the project began. The 207 Community based organizations were assessed by State AIDS Control Societies in India and the performing CBOs were transitioned under SACS with NACO support. The internal assessments and handing over continued till the project was finally wrapped up in 2016.