



# THE HUMSAFAR TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



### ***Vision Statement***

Holistic approach to the rights and health of sexual minorities and promoting rational attitudes towards sexuality.

### ***Mission Statement***

Strive for the human rights, social wellbeing of sexual minorities and provide them comprehensive health services.

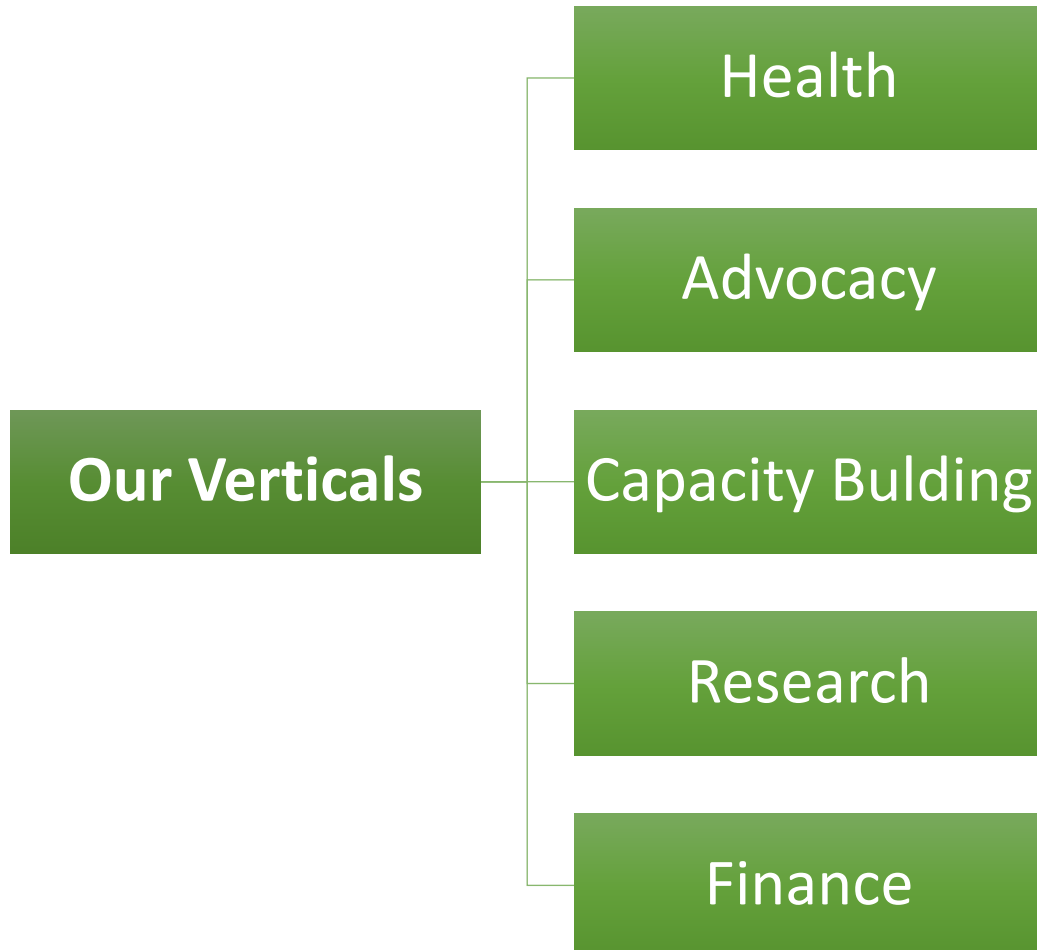
### ***Theory of Change***

If we work for the human rights and health of sexual minorities who are LGBTQ+ and provide holistic services, then this work will lead to acceptance and equality of sexual minorities and a healthier community

---

## *Our Verticals*

---



---

## Who we are

---

The Humsafar Trust (HST) was founded in April 1994 to reach out to LGBTQ+ communities in Mumbai Metro and surrounding areas. After much networking and advocacy with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, it became the first openly LGBTQ+ Community Based Organization to be allotted space in a Municipal building in Mumbai. The Trust began its activities by inviting gay men and lesbians to attend its workshops on Fridays at its drop-in centre. The drop-in centre saw various workshops on issues of HIV and AIDS and the human rights of LGBTQ+ and it soon became evident that the trust will have to work aggressively on the health and human rights of the community.

HST began its health initiative with the free distribution of condoms at two Gay men and Other Men Having Sex with Men (MSM) cruising sites in Mumbai in June 1995. Later in the year 1998, HST with its first grant from the Directorate of Health Services conducted a mapping study in Mumbai and identified 77 sites where Gay men and MSM met regularly either to seek partners or socialize and exchange information.

The HST was awarded the first pilot project to 'Motivate Safer Sex among Gay men and Other MSM at Selected Sites in Mumbai Metro' supported by MDACS in April 1999. Since February 2001, USAID/ FHI under its IMPACT project supported HST, which scaled up the MDACS project. This project upgraded the VCCTC infrastructure, and doctors working honorary on the project were hired to work part-time. The HST implemented four phases of the intervention project, extending its services to 127 MSM and transgender sites in Mumbai and its surrounding areas. This project resulted in setting up a 'HUB' within HST that took a holistic approach toward the needs of the MSM and TGW communities in Mumbai Metro.

The HIV interventions of HST are supported by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and the Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) to provide health services to 8500 Men who have sex with men and Transgender communities every year through Public Health Care delivery systems and its In-house clinics. In the last two decades the outreach program has reached out to more than 110,000 Gay, Men having Sex with Men and Transgender and distributed over 700,000 condoms every year at more than 129 physical sites in Mumbai and nearly 40000 HIV tests and 70000 STIs screened, and treatments provided. HST reaches out to over 10,000 gay men and men who have sex with men and transgender communities every year through its social media and online outreach programs. HST Collaborations with Public health delivery systems of Mumbai like LTMG, Nair, KEM, and JJ Hospitals.

In 2018 with support from NACO /MDACS and USAID FHI360 supported project LINKAGES Humsafar set up a first-of-its-kind integrated HIV clinic in its premises serving as a LINK ART centre for Gay men/ MSM / TGW and other marginalized communities. The project also strengthened its capacity to include FSWs and IDUs under its umbrella of services and technical assistance.

In April 2021, HST was awarded a Global Fund Grant (GFATM) to implement a virtual outreach Project that would reach young, adolescents, hard to reach Gay men and MSM, and Female Sex Workers through online dating apps and social media. The project will also strengthen community systems of marginalized groups in India.

In-house clinics remain open five days a week with three qualified Doctors and two Lab Technicians attending to clients. A clinical psychologist works full-time along with a team of 4 community counsellors and 2 health facilitators and a nutritionist working on the program providing nutritional counselling assistance. HST organizes advocacy workshops for health care providers, law enforcement agencies, judiciary, legislators, politicians and political parties, Government bodies, media, and the student community to sensitize them on Gay, MSM, and TG issues.

HST has institutionalized its various capacities by developing a Human Resources Policy, Finance, Procurement, Risk and Fraud policy, Child Protection Policy, Credit Society Policy, Organizational M & E framework, Strategic Plan, Mission Azadi Document (MAD) - A reference Manual for LGBTQ+ rights in India, Sanchar – A language recommendation manual for Media on reporting LGBTQ+ issues, SHAKTI- A Hijra health care manual for health care providers, AROGYA- Community health workers training manual, Onward granting manual, National Advocacy Plan for MTH groups, Institutional Review Board (IRB) Policy and procedures for research projects. It has developed four guidebooks to provide ongoing support to community-based organizations.

HST has nurtured support groups YAARIYAN for young LGBTQ+, UMANG for LBT persons, and SANJEEVANI for persons living with HIV. HST also provides legal support, crisis management, mental health, and nutrition counselling to its communities. The Humsafar Trust (HST) was founded in April 1994 by a group of self-identified gay men to reach out to LGBTQ+ communities in Mumbai and Thane District. After much networking and advocacy with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, it became the first openly Gay Community Based Organisation (CBO) to be allotted space in a Municipal building in Mumbai in 1995.

---

## **HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022**

---

- Emergency relief campaign #humsafarfightscovid19 provided support to over 45,000 LGBTQ+ community members in 19 states with emergency aid/services. This was a voluntary initiative, and no admin costs were incurred in this campaign.
- HST recognized the need for COVID19 vaccination camps for LGBTQ+ communities and organized dedicated vaccination camps in collaboration with different hospitals (Easaar Foundation & KJ Somaiya Research Centre and Hospital). The Humsafar Trust in collaboration with C-SHaRP developed a framework for conceptualizing, designing, and implementing Welfare and Well-being measures for Transgender People in India.
- HST teams celebrated International Pride Month on virtual platforms. The pride month witnessed different activities spread over on weekends making sure community visibility aspect and raising the issues
- The Humsafar Trust organized series of events in collaboration with different community partners to mark the anniversary of Hon'ble Supreme Court's historic ruling on IPC section 377 that de-criminalized sexual acts in private between two consenting same-sex adults.
- Dolphin Tank is an initiative of The Humsafar Trust where underprivileged communities are provided entrepreneurial funds for small start up businesses
- SAKSHAM is India's first Community-led Job fair for the LGBTQ+ Community initiated by The Humsafar Trust.
- NETREACH and online interventions to provide support and access to health services to the communities initiated on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and the website [www.netreach.co.in](http://www.netreach.co.in) was published on 15 Feb 2022.
- LGBTQ+ Symposium was attended by 137 persons. The participants included representatives from the National AIDS Control Organization, UNDP, UNAIDS, USAID, ICMR, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, State AIDS Control Societies, National Health Mission, DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, and SAATHII. Over 1000 people watched livestreaming of the Symposium proceedings.

---

## HEALTH

---

The Humsafar Trust runs three Targeted Interventions (TIs) supported by NACO-MDACS with an aim to reduce HIV/STI prevalence among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and TG/ Hijra communities through its health vertical. These projects aim at promoting safer sex practices among MSM and TG groups, improve access to government health care facilities and create enabling environment for MSM/TGs on selected sites of Mumbai district. The focus is on reducing the transmission rates and promoting access to health care and reducing stigma against MSM and TG communities. A total of 7500 MSM and TG clients were reached through TIs. All three TI projects have initiated virtual outreach to tap into the social and sexual networks of clients using mobile based apps and other online platforms.

- **Targeted Interventions (TI)**

HST continued outreach services to MSM and TG communities in Mumbai through its 3 projects, Dostaana, Yaarana and Aarambh. In the reporting year, Targeted Interventions served 822 transgender individuals and 1593 MSM individuals out of the target of 800 and 2000 active population respectively. A total of 8461 clients attended the TI's clinic (including RMC, STI and PT) in 2021-2022 and 2958 are tested for HIV. The HIV prevalence was reported as 1.38% and 95.12% of new positive clients were linked to ART. It was also observed that index testing increased by approx. 25% in the reporting year.

Out of the total 2074 VDRL tests conducted, the STI prevalence was reported as 1.78% and a total of 75.67% new clients detected VDRL positive were put on treatment. Additionally, a total of 92.5% registered clients were also referred for TB screening. As a prevention strategy, TIs catered to 81.48% of the condom demand of the clients distributing a total of 535984 condoms in the year 2021-2022.

- **SAHYOG LGBTQ+ Integrated HIV Clinic and F-ICTC**

In the reporting year 2021-22 out of 596 clients tested for HIV positive 51 new clients were found confirmed positive. Hence, the reported HIV prevalence among new clients for the year 2021-22 is found to be 8.55% which is around 3.2% higher than the previous reporting year. This may be because of differentiating outreach strategies to reaching out to at risk populations for HIV testing awareness and enhanced index testing. The reporting year witnessed an approximate 20% increase in spouse and index testing.

Out of the 646 individuals who accessed services at the Humsafar Trust Clinic in Mumbai, the F-ICTC saw a total of 594 self-walk-in clients through the Comm Care Entry App, representing a 1% increase through app this year.

In October 2021, HST received support from Sony Picture Network of India to provide holistic HIV related (prevention and treatment) services to LGBTQ+ communities in Mumbai metropolitan region through Integrated HIV clinic (IHC). The clinic is offering services to LGBTQ+ individuals which includes - HIV/STI testing, mental health counselling, nutrition support + counselling and legal Aid support at the HUB, continuum of care and support services for People living with HIV AIDS.

As an affirmative success, this year we were able to link 98.99% confirmed HIV positive clients to ART treatment, as compared to just 85.36% in the year 2020-21.

This year a total of 52 clients were referred to RNTCP out of which 3 were diagnosed TB positive. No HIV-TB con-infection was reported.

In 2021-22, a total of 8 clients were found to have HIV-syphilis co-infection out of total 58 clients tested VDRL positive. This indicated a STI prevalence of 15.38% in HIV positive clients tested and 9.2% in HIV negative clients tested for VDRL. The overall STI prevalence in 2021-22 was reported to be 9.7% which was found to be 4.2% higher than the previous year.

- **LINK ART center**

In the year 2021-22, a total of 82 clients accessed services from Link ART Centre of the Humsafar Trust resulting in a 30.48% increase in ART linkage. The COVID warriors from the Sanjeevani group became the forefront in delivering a total of 497 ART and around thrice the general medications in the restricted zones. Almost 100% of the linked clients were supported with the COVID hygiene kits and Ration-Nutrition kits during the period.

Both physical as well as virtual ART adherence counselling were provided 703 times along with 165 subsidized Regular Medical Checkups for the linked clients. The HIV-Syphilis co-infection was found in 0.66% of the total registered clients. The group also supported 94 CD-4 testing and 75 Viral Load testing out of which 98.66% noted target not detected. Around 34.14% were referred to and supported along to other secondary and tertiary care OPD's.



## Advocacy

India was one of the most affected countries during the COVID19 pandemic, facing an unprecedented challenge to public health, low socio-economic conditions, food systems, livelihood and life in general. Over the last year, much of our work was aimed at fighting against COVID-19.

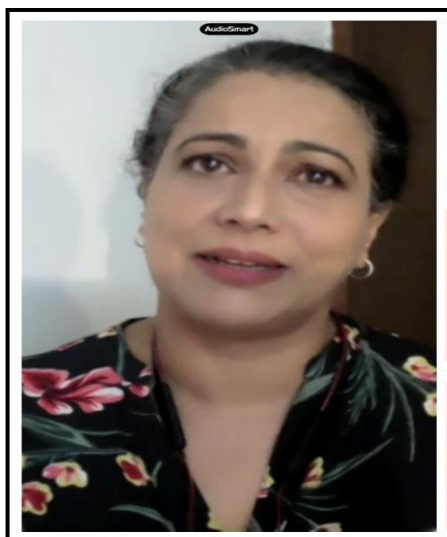
The LGBTQ+ community in India was one of the vulnerable sections when pandemic wreaked havoc, who were pushed to deeper poverty and insecurity amidst this disastrous pandemic wave. While every attempt was made to protect the community from the detrimental effects of Covid-19 and the lockdowns. However, HST's advocacy teams continued their efforts in supporting the communities during the pandemic as well as bringing visibility to community issues

- **Sensitization Workshops:**

Being an oldest community-based organization, HST facilitate and conduct community led sensitization workshops with different stakeholders (Police, Government officials, lawyers, policy makers), educational institutions, universities, health care providers, mental health counselors etc. In FY 2021-22, HST advocacy teams continued their efforts in facilitating these discussions and increase the awareness about LGBTQ+ identities and promote the social acceptance through these workshops. In the last calendar years, the team facilitated over 72 sensitization workshops targeting 3200 individuals attending these workshops.

- **Ek Madhav Baug:**

As an advocacy tool to promote the social acceptance of LGBTQ+ community. Ek Madhav Baug, written by Late Chetan Datar and is one of the pioneering plays written on homosexuality and acceptance of the community. In FY 2021-22 the play was performed virtually in educational institutions, corporate houses and various other forums and advocated health and human rights of LGBTQ+ community. Through virtual performances of Ek Madhav Baug we reached out to approximately 5000+ individuals.



## • Facilitating Access for Transgender Identity Cards:

HST's advocacy team has been supporting the Trans persons to file their application on National Transgender Portal to get Transgender/Non-Binary identity certificates. Our Advocacy Team members Nandini Sabban and Raj Kanujiya are key persons mobilizing the community members and creating awareness about the importance of certificates according to The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. Through this initiative, we also intend to sensitize and create awareness among government officials by eliminating misconceptions, creating bottlenecks in the document acquisition process for the community.



## • Upskilling and Education Support Initiative:

Learnings few lessons from COVID19 pandemic, HST understood the community needs In FY 2021-22 HST has garnered support from different agencies and initiated the upskilling and education support program for LGBTQ+ community in India. The intervention aims to enhance the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in education as well as promote skilling programs and education opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals. Under this initiative economically disenfranchised LGBTQ+ individuals get support to complete their education and upskilling themselves on 21st-century skills. In FY 2021-22, the skilling initiative was supported by TRANSend and BMC Software.

WANTED TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION. BUT COULDN'T?

**UPSKILL WITH US**

Apply for a scholarship for any upskilling or educational courses. This scholarship is applicable to any full time or part-time degree/ diploma or upskilling course.

**CRITERIA**

- Identify as LGBTQ+ community member.
- Financially challenged applicants will be given priority.
- Previous Academic Records need to be 50% and above.
- Share relevant documents and course details.

## • Crisis and Solidarity Support:

**Incident that took place in Agartala with 4 Transgender Women:** HST provided its technical support to our community partner based in Agartala, Tripura during the crisis where 4 transgender women were harassed by the law enforcement authorities. HST's crisis response team led by our Advocacy Manager – Tinesh Chopade continued his interaction and guidance to local community members and volunteers. The Humasafar Trust issued solidarity statement and strongly condemned the series of human rights violations that took place on the 8th of January 2022 at Agartala and expressed the support towards the victims and entire LGBTQ+ community members in Tripura.

[https://www.facebook.com/TheHumasafarTrustOfficial/photos/pb.100064661412596\\_-2207520000./10158953410284565/?type=3](https://www.facebook.com/TheHumasafarTrustOfficial/photos/pb.100064661412596_-2207520000./10158953410284565/?type=3)

- **Yaariyan's Virtual Pride Month Celebration: January 2021**

Yaariyan, in January 2022 with the support of the Consulate General of Canada and NOREC: Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation organized its Virtual Pride Month. After the gap year of 2021 due to COVID-19, it became necessary for the LGBTQ+ Youth to come back and celebrate Pride. Mumbai City celebrates its Pride in the month of January and the same followed this year. The virtual pride month witnessed different events which were organized in online and offline mode by Yaariyan core team. The event began with Yaariyan's signature event Q-Games scheduled on January 16<sup>th</sup> the weekend of Makar Sankranti, revamped to COVID-19 protocols. While keeping the nostalgic element alive, Yaariyan played some Virtual Friendly Games. The event started with a Ludo Tournament, Housie - Indian Tombola.



### **Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui Screening:**

This event was organized on January 26th, 2022, at Cinepolis, Fun Republic Mall, Andheri West, Mumbai by Guy in The Sky Pictures and T-Series Films for the LGBTQ+ Community in Mumbai. This was the first Humsafar Trust-backed offline event since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. The energy at the theatres had a pinch of Nostalgia towards the ambiance of Pride Month events. More than 90+ individuals participated in the event.



### **Yaariyan's Got Talent:**

Yaariyan's Got Talent was a Talent display activity that continued for a week. The Yaariyan Facebook Secret Group was opened for the members to post their talent and promote themselves. In addition to showcasing Talent, Yaariyan with the support of the Consulate General of Canada indulged in another activity that aimed at equipping Queer enterprises and Queer Entrepreneurs with marketing tools for better visibility and support to their functioning. This included curation of 30-second advertisement videos for 8 Queer Enterprises.

**You can watch glimpse of virtual pride celebration:** <https://fb.watch/hr3q3bLtNt/>  
**Report:** [Yaariyan's Virtual Pride Month Celebration](#)



### Yaariyan LGBTQ Flash mob 2021 (Virtual):

In June 2021, Yaariyan Flash mob went Virtual and it's the First LGBTQ+ Virtual Flash mob of the country. Due to COVID19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions, the choreographers decided to perform virtually. The flash mob was video recorded and live streamed on YouTube. The flash mob video has already crossed 18K views on YouTube.



You can watch the Flash Mob Video Here: <https://youtu.be/atKmmSafOts>

Delegations and Networking Visits:	Delegations and Networking Visits: Pictures
Diedrah Kelly, Canada's Consul General in Mumbai, Michael Vonk, Consul Political, Economic and Public Affairs & Jayita Phulsunge visited The Humsafar Trust. The delegation interacted with our CEO, Vivek Raj Anand & Advocacy teams to understand the work at Humsafar and discussed the LGBTQ+ movement in India.	
Visit from Deputy Consul General <b>Dahlia Neuman</b> and Public-Diplomacy Representative <b>Michelle Joseph</b> from the <b>Consulate General Israel in Mumbai</b> .	
HST workplace Mental Health Counsellor, Ms. Laxmi Lobo's visit to our Mumbai office. She has been our pillar of support throughout the pandemic, and it was a joy to finally meet her offline.	

## OUR ACTIVITIES



**#humsafarfightscovid19:** An Emergency Relief Initiative for Indian LGBTQ+ community



**Launch - A Framework document for Transgender Welfare in India**

**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
For an **Information Sharing Session on Emergency Covid-19 Relief Work for LGBTQ+ Community in India**

**Monday, May 17, 2021 | 4:30 PM onwards**  
**zoom [tinyurl.com/Idahobit21](https://tinyurl.com/Idahobit21)**  
**#humsafarfightscovid19**

Virtual IDAHOTB 2021 and COVID19 Work Dissemination:

**PRIDE 2021 CALENDAR**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
JUNE 5	5:00 PM	Pride Month Opening - Message of Hope Launch of Yearlong Roadmaps 2021
JUNE 6	5:00 PM	To Job or Not To Job - Panel Discussion Dr. Ramesh Gangadhar and Dr. Alka Gupta
JUNE 9	6:30 PM	Instagram Live with India's First Trans Women Entrepreneur Dr. Alka Gupta & SMC Cosmetics
JUNE 18-20	ALL DAY	One World International Queer Film Festival

Logos for HUMSAFAR, YAARIYAN, UMANG, CONNECT, TRANSCEND, and SANJEEVANI are shown at the bottom.

Virtual IDAHOTB 2021 and COVID19 Work Dissemination:

**ONE WORLD INTERNATIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL**

**18 19 20 JUNE 2021**

Organized by HUMSAFAR, Supported by USAID, in collaboration with Roshni Foundation.

**ONE WORLD International Queer Film Festival**

**WISE LOCAL TELEVISION**

**COVID19 Vaccination Camp**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**AUGUST 15, 2021**  
 5PM ONWARDS ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

**the acceptance meet**  
 accepting the differences

Join by yourself or with your parents, siblings, relatives, friends, teachers, colleagues, bosses, or anyone who has accepted, or who need help to accept you as you are.

Logos: THE HUMSAFAR TRUST, YAI, YAARIYAN, UMANG, CENTRIO, Virah, QueerAdda

The Acceptance Meet (TAM)

**PROJECT samajh**  
**EDITION 2 LAUNCH**  
**20 AUG, 2021 | 5 PM**  
**JOIN US LIVE ON FACEBOOK**

Logos: THE HUMSAFAR TRUST, CONNECT, UNAIDS

**Project Samajh - Social Media Campaign**  
 (Communication related to Novel Coronavirus and Pandemic):

**LIKHO**  
 LIKHO CITIZEN JOURNALISM WORKSHOP 2021

**ARE YOU AN ASPIRING WRITER/JOURNALIST?**

Likho is inviting applications for its 7th Likho Citizen Journalism Workshop (Virtual) to be held over 3 weekends in September 2021

Submit an Original article/video/audio on LGBTQIA+ theme and get a chance to be selected for:

- Likho Citizen Journalism Fellowship
- Internship with LikhoWithPride.com

Details and Submission Link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/likho2021>

Submission End Date: **September 10, 2021**

Logos: THE HUMSAFAR TRUST, CONNECT, LIKHOWITHPRIDE.COM, @LikhoWithPride

**LIKHO** citizen journalist workshop fellowship 2021

**STUDIO DHANAK**  
 A SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP

**STUDIO DHANAK: A Screen writing Workshop**

**END INEQUALITIES AIDS PANDEMICS** **WORLD AIDS DAY**

**AA MUSKURA**  
 (Come, Smile)

**Screening and Meet Cast & Crew**  
 Sunday, Dec 5 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Live on YouTube & Facebook

Logos: THE HUMSAFAR TRUST, Sweekar

Release of Aa Muskura (Come, Smile...)

**PRABAL**  
 A Platform to Support & Guide Parents of LGBTQ+ community

March 27	Sex, Gender Sexuality - Catch up with new terminologies
April 10	Mental Health Self Care for Rainbow parents
April 24	Sexual Health of LGBTQ+
May 08	How to deal with Ignorance & Homophobia at workplace
May 22	Understanding LGBTQ+ rights & your rights
June 05	Acceptance of a Rainbow Offspring & embracing the Families of Choice

Venue for Workshop: Zoom meet  
 Read caption for details.

Logos: THE HUMSAFAR TRUST, CONNECT, Sweekar

**PRABAL: An Empowerment Initiative for Parents of LGBTQ+**



Consultations on Violence against Trans persons in India:



World AIDS Day 2021: End Inequalities, End AIDS, End Pandemics



SAKSHAM: Communities leading Inclusion



STUDIO DHANAK Fellowships

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

NETREACH project of The Humsafar Trust (HST), is a national level intervention to reach the hard-to-reach populations to achieve the first 95 of the NACP goals. HST is the Sub-Recipient (SR) to the Principal Recipient (PR) India HIV/AIDS Alliance. The primary aim of the Project is to identify persons at risk of HIV by providing HIV prevention information on internet dating apps & social media platforms, etc. and to motivate them to undergo HIV testing at the nearest ICTC or private lab. It furthers NACP strategies of BCC and Community Systems Strengthening to impact the vulnerability of KP or populations at risk through outreach for SRHR, wellbeing and community rights. The duration of the project is April 2021 to March 2024.

### **Our key objectives are: -**

- Reaching key and vulnerable populations on virtual platforms.
- Establishing linkage to screening.
- Community systems strengthening for key populations.

The recruiting process for NETREACH began in April 2021 and by May 2021 most positions were filled. The induction process was initiated in May and the first formal training was held online in the last week of the month. The virtual outreach process was initiated in a pilot mode on 9th June 2021. There are two budgeted events for training - Induction and Refresher, over the first 2 years. A residential Induction Training was held between 20th to 23rd Sept 2021 at Eros Hotel, New Delhi. A total of 49 participants attended including the Virtual Navigators, Project Officers (Regions), Fin/M&E Officers, Managers & Team Leads, NETREACH Directors, the CEO, Board members & Senior Research Consultants. The facilitators for the induction also included members from NACO, UNAIDS, India HIV/AIDS Alliance & HST. A Pre & post-test was conducted to assess change in skills and learnings.

### **Virtual outreach (VOR) operations**

These were done for few geographies that the VN were based in: Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Lucknow, Bangalore, Manipur, Dinajpur, Mumbai, Thane & Raigad, etc. estimates were recorded of the number of profiles in the locations, numbers that were live /active for different time slots through the day from June 2021 to March 2022 the VOR was conducted on dating apps as follows:

From June 2021 to March 2022 the VOR was conducted on dating apps as follows:

About 70 percent of MSM populations were reached through these virtual platforms. On the other hand, over a quarter of the clients (27%) did not identify under the gamut of traditional HRGs. The following target groups were reached on online platforms.

### **Capacity Building of CBO**

The first stage is conducting the needs assessment through participatory consultations with as many networks, CBO and community groups of MSM & FSW. These were held over 9 online meetings, regionally and culminated in national consultations for MSM in Delhi and FSW in Mumbai in September 2021. Reports of both KP types have been submitted to NACO and shared with other CSS partners. Details are in the table below



RFP for TA to CBO based on these needs assessment consultations are announced. A total of 13 CBOs has been selected for TA.

### **Innovative Seed Grant**

The RFP for selecting CBO of MSM & FSW KP was floated and 4 CBO were onboarded in March 2022.

- i. Lakshya Trust, Gujarat
- ii. Nadia Ranaghat Sampriti Society, West Bengal
- iii. Samanata Ka Samman Pranyas, Rajasthan
- iv. Mahila Jagruti Sevabhavi Sanstha, Maharashtra

### **Our Activities**



The Humsafar Trust and Alliance India signed a non-transactional memorandum of



HCP Training for Mental Health Professionals held in May 2022



HCP Training for Bengaluru doctors held in March 2022 –



HCP Training organized by the East Regional Team for Mental Health



HCP Training Siliguri

HCP Training organized by the East Regional Team for Mental Health Professionals



National SBCC consultation



## RESEARCH

The Humsafar Trust (HST) Research has played an important role in informing, designing and guiding interventions pertaining to the HIV related risk behaviors of men having sex with men (MSM). Research studies as an integral part of an intervention were in-built into the programs of the HST. In the field of Social Development, HST has carved its' niche by extensively studying and linking the clinical data to behavioral data to inform more about the progression of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among MSM. Mental health issues of MSM are extremely important but rarely addressed.

In 2006, the organization initiated a research study on mental health of MSM. Strategic alliance with the Sion Hospital and Medical College has not just resulted in exemplary public-NGO partnership, but also facilitated analysis and usage of epidemiological and clinical data for the benefit of larger spectrum of MSM. HST is the first community-based organization that set up its own Institutional Review Board in 2006 with National Institute of Health (NIH) with Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) certification in place. HST has collaborated with leading research agencies such as IAVI, ICMR, ICRW, FHI 360 as well as academic institutions such as TISS (Mumbai), University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston (Houston), University of Minnesota (Minnesota), UCSF (San Francisco), Northwestern University (Chicago), Einstein Medical School and Montefiore Medical Center (New York), Brown University (Providence), Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston), University of Toronto (Toronto), and Baldwin Wallace College (Cleveland) on numerous studies, and has presented abstracts at major HIV conference such as (AIDS, IAS, APHA, ICAAP) over the last eight years. The last three years have seen over fifteen papers published in peer-reviewed journals with HST research team as lead/co-authors.

HST implements research studies for LGBTQ+ communities in both Delhi and Mumbai. The Mumbai team is led by a consulting project director with over 20 years of experience in LGBTQ+ research and daily operations are led by a research manager, who has over 12 years of experience in working with LGBTQ+ research. In the last decade, HST has implemented over 20 national- and internationally funded research studies with reputed agencies. HST's team of researchers currently has two full-time study coordinators, one full-time statistician, two full-time research associates, three full-time research assistants along with six study interviewers, virtual outreach workers, and two health workers. We are among the only LGBTQ+ organizations with a DHR-registered IRB and an FWA certificate

HST holds research dissemination meetings every other year to which government officials, HIV program funding agencies, academia, policy and key decision makers, and community members are invited. During these meetings, HST shares results firsthand with these stakeholders, addresses any queries, builds rapport with agencies, and keeps the community informed to increase awareness of HIV issues. These meetings are open invitation to the community, and usually have about 150 participants, with half of the attendees' stakeholders and the other half community members. Over the last decade, findings from HST's research studies have contributed toward providing India-specific evidence for PrEP and HIV self-testing implementation; virtual outreach for hard-to-engage MSM and TGW; and influence of anti-LGBTQ+ laws on health and safety of LGBTQ+ communities.

## Achievements: Publications

Chakrapani V, Newman PA, Sebastian A, Rawat S, Shunmugam M, & Priyababu S. (2021). The Impact of COVID-19 on Economic Well-Being and Health Outcomes Among Transgender Women in India. *Transgender Health*, doi: 10.1089/trgh.2020.0131. Published ahead of print [online].

<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/trgh.2020.0131>

Bhambhani Y., Rawat S., Norton B.L., Patel V.V. Alcohol and Drug Use Surrounding Sex Among Men Who Have Sex with Men in India. *Sexuality & Culture* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-021-09814-z>

Pufahl, J., Rawat, S., Choudary, J., Shiff, N. Even Mists Have Silver Linings: Promoting LGBTQ+ solidarity and acceptance through community-based theatre in India. *Public Health*.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2021.02.027>

Chakrapani V, Scheim AI, Newman PA, Shunmugam M, Rawat S, Baruah D, Bhattar A, Nelson R, Jaya A, Kaur M. Affirming and negotiating gender in family and social spaces: Stigma, mental health and resilience among transmasculine people in India. *Cult Health Sex*. 2021 Apr 13:1-17. doi: 10.1080/13691058.2021.1901991. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33847243.

Safren, S., Thomas, B., Biello, K., Mayer, K., Rawat, S., Dange, A., Bedoya, C., Menon, S., Anand, V., Balu, V., O'Cleirigh, C., Klasko-Foster, L., Baruah, D., Swaminathan, S. and Mimiaga, M., (2021).

Strengthening resilience to reduce HIV risk in Indian MSM: a multicity, randomised, clinical efficacy trial. *The Lancet Global Health*, 9(4)-e377-e378 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30547-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30547-7)

Safren SA, Devaleenal B, Biello KB, Rawat S, Thomas BE, Regenauer KS, et al. Geographic and behavioral differences associated with sexually transmitted infection prevalence among Indian men who have sex with men in Chennai and Mumbai. *International Journal of STD and AIDS* 2021;32(2):144-51.

Chakrapani V, Newman PA, Shunmugam M, Rawat S, Baruah D, Nelson R, Rongkrakphon S, Tepjan S. (2021) PrEP eligibility, HIV risk perception, and willingness to use PrEP among high-risk men who have sex with men in India: A cross-sectional survey. *AIDS Care*. Feb 21:1-9. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2021.1887801. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33615903.

Chakrapani, V., Newman, P. A., Cameron, M., Shunmugam, M., Rongkrakphon, S., Rawat, S., . . . Scarpa, R. (2021). Willingness to Use Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Preferences Among Men Who have Sex with Men in Mumbai and Chennai, India: A Discrete Choice Experiment. *AIDS Behav* . doi: 10.1007/s10461-021-03253-5

Newman, P. A., Chakrapani, V., Williams, C., Massaquoi, N., Tepjan, S., Rongkrakphon, S., Akkakanjanasupar, P., Logie, C., & Rawat, S. (2021). An eHealth intervention for promoting COVID-19 knowledge and protective behaviors and reducing pandemic distress among sexual and gender minorities: Protocol for a randomized controlled trial (#safehandsafehearts). *JMIR Research Protocols*, 10(12). <https://doi.org/10.2196/34381>

## Achievements: LGBTQ+ Symposium



## FINANCE

The Humsafar Trust (HST) follows the Indian Accounting Standards prescribed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and international accounting standards systems, complies to all tax, liabilities and ensure the compliance of the statutory requirements of the FCRA act and other relevant laws as applicable from time to time.

**Audit:** HST has **Internal, External and Donor agencies auditor** that focuses on the organization's objectives followed by the Indian Accounting Standards and Statutory compliance for impediments to achieving those objectives.

**Accounting Software:** Tally Prime on Cloud based.

**Financial Management System:** HST is governed by the Financial Management System and other policies that weightages and strengthening our systems followed by: Finance Manual, HR Policy, Procurement Policy, Cost Sharing Policy, Risk and Fraud corruption policy, Onward Granting Manual, Conflict of Interest Policy, Safeguarding Policy,

### **Finance Report For the period of April 2021 to March 2022**

We are sincerely thankful to all our donors for their growing and continues commitment to our LGBTQI+ work. The annual turnover for the year is INR 10.80 crores (USD 1.35 Millions), supported by multiple donors.

The support which carried out and results the scale of implementation and interventions. Small funding supports innovations, skill buildings, education and COVID 19, while large scale funding supports Capacity building, Prevention Care and Support for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and Research studies which focuses on generating evidence for furthering LGBTQI+ health and rights via behavioral and bio-behavioral studies.

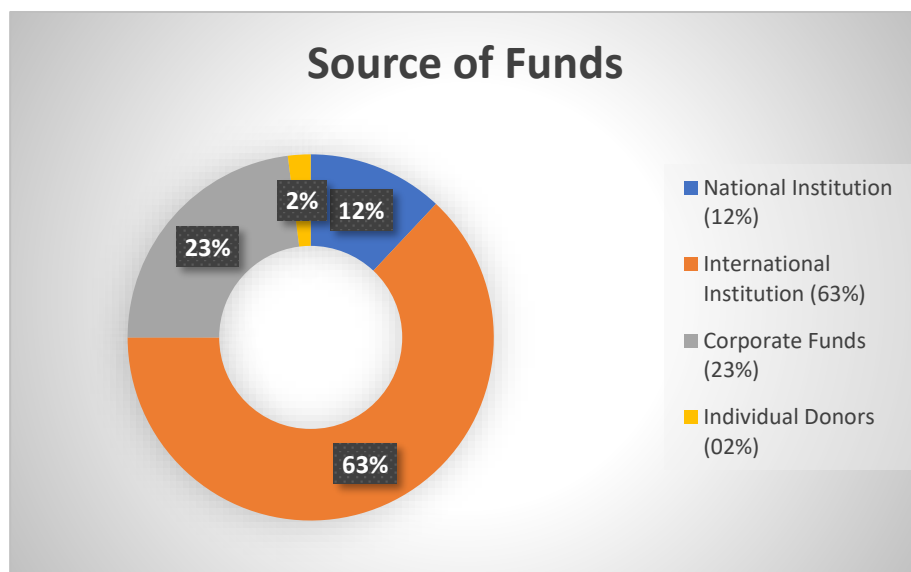
Both, small and large funding reflects pan-India operations with LGBTQI+ community-based organizations and individual groups at State and National levels.

The utilization of funds reflects that a major portion (62.90%) is being granted to implementation organizations and individual groups at grass root level across India. This reflects in our Vision, Mission, and Theory of Change approach.

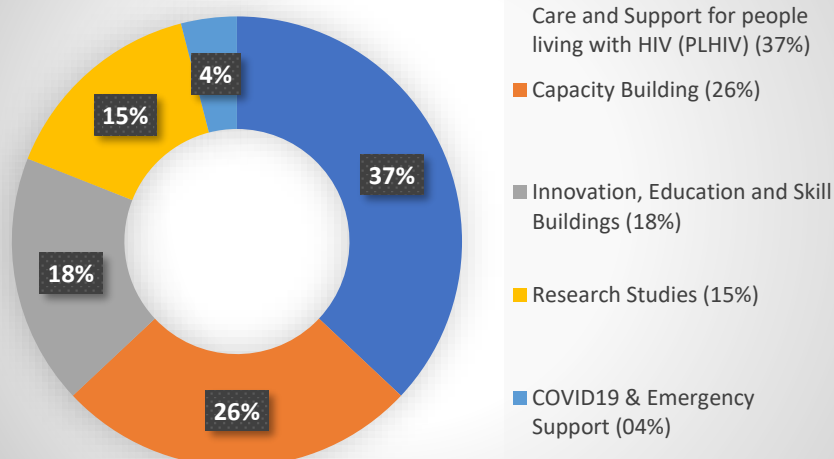
## Graphical Representation of Source of Funds

### Source of Funds:

- National Institution (12%)
- International Institution (63%)
- Corporate Funds (23%)
- Individual Donors (02%)



### **Fund Utilization**



### The distribution of fund utilization:

- Prevention of HIV/AIDS, and care and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV) (37%)
- Capacity Building (26%)
- Innovation, Education and Skill Buildings (18%)
- Research Studies (15%)
- COVID19 & Emergency Support (04%)

This Annual Report was completed with inputs Team Leaders representing Health, Advocacy, Research and NETREACH capacity building unit and compiled by Denis Anand ( Project Manager-TRANScend2. It was reviewed by the CEO of the organization and approved by the Board of HST