



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



EQUALITY - INCLUSIVITY - DIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT

01.04.22 – 31.03.23

PARTNERS





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ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023

We present The Humsafar Trust (HST) Annual Report 2022 – 2023 with the details of our projects implemented, activities, achievements and challenges faced during the year.

Finally, the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, and once again, our work has started moving from virtual to physical spaces. Any organization that works at the grassroots level cannot remain online forever, as it is rooted in its community on the ground. The physical connection with the community is crucial for community-based work, but COVID-19 also introduced us to hybrid models of connecting with our communities in both online and offline modes. Many management, administrative, and project-related meetings were much easier to conduct online. Global-level advocacy became possible with the new online model. There were lessons learned during the pandemic, and we adapted our work accordingly to ensure the best of both the online and offline worlds.

The Advocacy unit prepared itself to put together a petition in Supreme Court and support the LGBTQ+ rights in the country. This petition came up for hearing in early 2023. We also worked on the second edition of SAKSHAM job fair which is community led. Around 19 corporates joined us to show their keenness to employ LGBTQ+ persons. Upskilling and career counselling were introduced, and investments in social enterprises through the 'Dolphin Tank' initiative were made stronger. The flagship events of Advocacy went back to physical spaces and met with unprecedented success as communities thronged back in the spirit of solidarity and togetherness.

The Research unit added many new feathers to its cap. The prestigious 'Accelerating the access and uptake of HIV self-testing (HIV-ST) in India': a demonstration Project completed its ambitious findings and national dissemination was organized in the capital. This study

explores new pathways for India to introduce self-testing as an acceptable alternative to HIV testing services in the country. The ongoing R01 Study CHALO 2.0 promises to be a significant study to inform the National Programme of the country on taking online interventions to the next level of maturity. HST added 7 new studies to its research endeavours.

The GFATM supported virtual intervention model of NETREACH moved into the second and crucial implementation year of the project. NETREACH is a community based online initiative that reaches to hard-to-reach populations (MSM and Female Sex Workers) through communication messages and community system strengthening processes. The approach has started giving results and all stakeholders engaged in the process are convinced about the need to strengthen virtual interventions in the coming years. For us, it is now the core of our health programs and serves as a model for Targeted Interventions, providing a futuristic approach to health services for communities across the country.

New challenges continue to emerge in the way of our work, but as we move forward, we need to strengthen our conversations with policy makers and government agencies, explore the emerging health needs of the community, and finalize our next Strategic Plan for the year 2024- 2028.

We look forward to 2023 - 2024 as we continue to share our stories with all our friends and partners. We remain indebted to all our agencies and stakeholders for their unflinching support and faith in us that motivates us to give our best, and serve our communities. But more than anyone else, the organization remains committed towards demonstrating a rare model of community ownership, and working towards a better and happier tomorrow for the LGBTQ+ communities in the country.

VIVEK ANAND

CEO – The Humsafar Trust – Mumbai (India)



ABOUT US

The Humsafar Trust (HST) was founded in April 1994 to reach out to LGBTQ+ communities in the Mumbai Metro and surrounding areas. After sustained networking and advocacy with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, it became the first openly LGBTQ+ Community Based Organization to operate from a Municipal building in Mumbai. The Trust began its activities by inviting gay men and lesbian

women to attend its workshops on Fridays at its drop-in center. What started primarily as a support system for sexual minority members and for gay men and their health challenges related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the organization eventually became a pioneering entity dedicated to fostering the health and human rights of the community.

Learn more at www.humsafar.org.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

Strive for the human rights and social wellbeing of sexual minorities, and provide them with 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 the acceptance and equality of sexual minorities and a healthier community.

OUR CORE VALUES

Equality: We treat all human beings as equal

Respect: We respect values, cultural diversity and opinions, parameters of equality, dignity of people, human rights, and child rights.

Empathy: We empathize with the issues of marginalized communities through lived experiences, accounts, and ground level realities.

Inclusivity: We endorse inclusion of people on all the parameters of equality in decisions, processes, consultations, and events.

Integrity: We emphasize adherence to core values, vision, and mission.

Accountability: We are accountable to the community, funders, and stakeholders.

Transparency: We believe and engage in transparency.



OUR STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS

A RAINBOW PLEDGE

We, the Humsafar Trust, hereby solemnly affirm our country and the laws of the land. We pledge to uphold the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India, which guarantees fundamental rights and freedom to all citizens irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, or identity. We recognise that the union of India's laws and regulations serve as the bedrock of our society, providing a framework that ensures justice, equality, and inclusivity to every individual. In our pursuit of advocating for the rights of the LGBTQ+, we affirm our dedication to work with the legal framework of the nation. We understand that positive change is best achieved through lawful means, respectful dialogue, and collaboration. We are committed to contributing positively to the social fabric of the country by fostering understanding, awareness and acceptance of diverse identities and orientations.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The Humsafar Trust supports and respects the rights of a child as stated in the convention on the rights of the child which was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations, General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49. HST supports measures as enunciated in India's Child Protection Act, 2012, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO), and Section 67B of The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, which, specifically provides protection to children in the electronic medium. Our commitment to children's rights is translated into our organizational policies.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Humsafar Trust is committed to upholding the UN's vision of enhancing lives by fostering social progress and sustainable development. In pursuit of this shared objective of creating a fair and inclusive future, we harness the strength of The Humsafar Trust's project and leverage our influence within our capacity to champion initiatives that are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



EXECUTIVE TEAM LIST

Suhail Abbasi
Co-founder & Chairperson

Vivek Raj Anand
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD MEMBERS

Shibu Thomas
Board Member

Dr. Subhojit Sen
Board Member

Pradipta Ray
Board Member

VERTICAL HEADS

Alpana Dange
Consultant Director – Research

Murugesan Sivasubramanian
Director - Programs

Sandeep Mane
Director - Health & Technical

Hemant Thakkar
Associate Director - Finance

Sumita Mehta
HR - Head

Tinesh Chopade
Associate Director - Advocacy

Shruta Rawat
Associate Director - Research

Ramesh Jagtap
Finance Manager



THE HUMSAFAR TRUST (HST) HEAD OFFICE				
Sr. No.	Location	Address	Contact Person	Email ID
1	The Humsafar Trust	3rd Floor, Manthan Plaza, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (East), Mumbai – 400 055 India.	Vivek Raj Anand	info@humsafar.org
THE HUMSAFAR TRUST (HST) – REGIONAL OFFICES				
2	The Humsafar Trust, NETREACH Office	601, Gujral House, 167, CST Road, Kolivery Village, MMRDA Area, Kalina, Santacruz East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400098	Murugesan Sivasubramanian	info.netreach@humsafar.org
3	The Humsafar Trust, Delhi Office	1st Floor, Sant Nagar, #75 Back Side, Next to MCD Primary School East of Kailash, New Delhi – 110065 India.	Sandeep Mane	info@humsafar.org
4	The Humsafar Trust, Guwahati Office	House no: - 47, Ground Floor, Near Hrishaan Suzuki, Bora Service, NKB Building, Guwahati, Assam 781007.	Pinki Singha	sahyog.guwahati@humsafar.org
HST TARGETED INTERVENTIONS FOR HIV CONTROL – MDACS				
4	Aarambh (Targeted Interventions)	406 - Vardhaman Chambers, Kalyan Street, Dana Bunder, Masjid Bunder (East), Mumbai – 400009.	Aarohi Walunj	aarambh@humsafar.org
5	Dostaana (Targeted Interventions)	1st Floor, Radha Krishna Niwas, Above Canara bar, Opposite Vijay Sales, S.V. Road Goregaon West, Mumbai – 400104.	Yatin Mhatre	dostaana@humsafar.org
6	Yaarana (Targeted Intervention)	Sonwane Chawl No: - 3, Gudekar Maidan, Komdi Gali, Vikhroli East, Mumbai – 400083.	Akshay Keluskar	yaarana@humsafar.org
HST – SAHYOG HEALTH CLINICS				
7	Mumbai Clinic	3rd Floor, Manthan Plaza, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (East), Mumbai – 400055.	Sujesh Mayilamkunnath	sahyog.mumbai@humsafar.org
8	Nagpur Clinic	136, M Roy Villa, Behind VIMS Hospital, Near Ambika Bakery, Mohan Nagar, Nagpur – 440001.	Nikunj K Joshi	sahyog.nagpur@humsafar.org
9	Guwahati Clinic	House no: - 47, Ground Floor, Near Hrishaan Suzuki, Bora Service, NKB Building, Guwahati, Assam 781007.	Pinki Singha	sahyog.guwahati@humsafar.org
10	Delhi Clinic	B61, Block 1, Sitapuri, Part-1, New Delhi, 110045.	Bella Sharma	sahyog.delhi@humsafar.org



HOW WE WORK

The Humsafar Trust is committed to its vision and the LGBTQ+ communities and towards that end, it aims to build one Integrated Organization that will serve the communities in the coming year with vigour and passion. HST has competent and qualified teams that include, the Chair, CEO, Technical Directors for Health, Advocacy, Capacity Building, Research, Finance, Human Resources (HR), Information Technology (IT), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Communications, and an excellent team of outreach workers and peer educators. This team of 124 individuals working on over 20 projects spread Pan-India have experience and expertise to deliver high quality projects and strive for excellence in service delivery to its communities.

GOVERNANCE

Governance structure of The Humsafar Trust (HST), designed by the board and senior management to direct organizational strategy, operations, finance, and compliances, is rooted in its principles of transparency, responsibility, and accountability.

HST has institutionalized its various capacities by developing a Human Resources Policy, Finance, Procurement, Risk and Fraud Policy, Child Protection Policy, Organizational M&E framework, Strategic Plan, Media Policy, and Resource Mobilization Strategy.

HST has developed and adopted a gender-neutral Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) policy and guidelines. It has developed two manuals for corporates and educational institutions for inclusion of Transgender communities and various SOPs to strengthen its systems. The organization has also developed a manual to support counselors to work with parents of LGBTQ+ communities.

SNAPSHOT OF OUR VERTICALS

HEALTH – The Health vertical at The Humsafar Trust places significant emphasis on sexual

and mental health, acknowledging its vital importance within the LGBTQ+ community. It offers an array of sexual health services that encompass screenings for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV testing, HIV treatment, counselling, guidance on safer sex practices in the context of PrEP, PEP, and U=U (Undetectable = Untransmissible) for the positive communities.

ADVOCACY – The Advocacy vertical at The Humsafar Trust is committed to driving social change, influencing policies, and creating a more inclusive society via advocacy. We create an enabling environment for our community's rights.

CAPACITY BUILDING – In 2003, HST felt that it was important to build capacities of Community Based Organizations and thus the Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM) was convened by HST. NETREACH is a groundbreaking virtual project initiated in India in 2021, with support from the Global Fund to Fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM). The project aims to reach the 'missing millions' and connect them to HIV-related services across the country as well as strengthen the community systems in the country and continue its mandate of building capacities of CBOs to respond to the challenge of HIV.

RESEARCH – The Humsafar Trust's Research unit contributes to evidence planning and implementation of our programs and policies. We have a team of trained and qualified community-based researchers. The Humsafar Trust has a DHR (GOI) and NIH-FWA registered Institutional Ethics Committee.

FINANCE – Finance vertical also plays a pivotal role in financial planning and forecasting. It supports closely works with other departments within the organization to provide financial guidance and fiscal management support.



VERTICALS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN DETAIL

HEALTH

Targeted Intervention – Under the National AIDS Control Program, the focused prevention program offering comprehensive prevention services to Transgender and Men Having Sex with Men (MSM) is known as the Targeted Intervention (TI). Supported by the Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) under the national program, HST continued outreach services to MSM and TG/Hijra communities in Mumbai through its 3 Targeted Intervention projects: Dostaana, Yaarana, and Aarambh.

Through these projects, we have served 779 transgender individuals and 2,084 MSM individuals in 2022-23, thereby meeting our set targets. Condom distribution is an integral part of the prevention strategy. In line with this we distributed 5,86,999 condoms among our clients.

Our TI clinics offered services like Regular Medical Check-ups (RMC), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) treatment and pre- and post-counselling through the year 2022-2023. A total of 10,091 clients availed these services; of these 45% of the clients

volunteered to undergo Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) test and another 1% underwent Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) testing.

The HIV prevalence was reported at 0.90% and 100% of clients newly tested positive for HIV were linked to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART). It was also observed that index testing increased by approximately 25% in the reporting year. Out of the total 1,079 VDRL tests conducted, the Syphilis positivity was reported to be as 7.32% and a total of 84.2% of new clients detected VDRL positive were put on treatment.

LINK ART CENTER – The Humsafar Trust was supported by MDACS in establishing a link ART centre in March 2019. According to the national program guidelines, persons living with HIV (PLHIV) who are stable with >350 CD4 count, virally suppressed and are 90 percent adhering to their ART medication, can receive their medicine from the HST Link ART Center. In the year 2022-23, a total of 96 clients accessed services from the Link ART Centre of the Humsafar Trust resulting in a 14.58% increase in ART linkage.

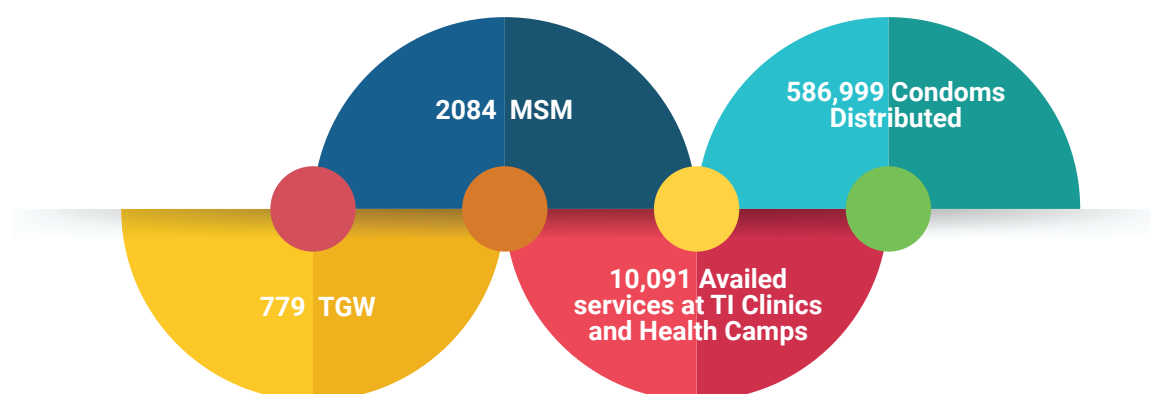


CHART 1: OUR SERVICE REACH



WORLD AIDS DAY 2022



Inauguration of the Guwahati Sahayog Clinic by ASACS



TRANSCend Police Advocacy



HST TI 'Dostana' World AIDS Day Sensitisation programme



The Sanjeevani group of the Humsafar Trust provides support to the PLHIV in terms of counselling, social and peer support, nutrition and health via meetings, health camp and nutrition distribution. In the reporting year, all the activities were accomplished successfully. Link ART Center and Sanjeevani support group work in coordination. The Sanjeevani group conducted 14 support group meetings in the last year and distributed nutrition support to 204 individuals. Almost 100% of the linked clients were supported with Health Camp. Each member of the Sanjeevani support group has their viral load fully suppressed. Adherence counselling is also provided to all members at every meeting.

HIV-Syphilis coinfection was found in 11.45 % of the total registered clients of which everyone was given benzathine penicillin once a week in a month. The group was also supported with 35 CD-4 testing and 77 Viral Load testing out of which 100% had status as target-not-detected.

Its primary objective is to increase access to HIV testing services, ensuring that these vital resources are readily available to LGBTQ+ individuals in need. Moreover, the services offered by the SAHYOG clinics are wide ranging such as counselling, testing, referral, and linkage pertaining to HIV/STI, mental health counselling, specialised consultations, regular medical check-ups, health camps, socio-legal support, and condom distribution. ***The SAHYOG Clinics are in Mumbai, Nagpur, Delhi, and Guwahati.***

SAHYOG clinics are particularly proud of their mega annual Health Check-up camps which were organized in different batches for PLHIV and non-PLHIV LGBTQ+ individuals in March 2023. This was done in collaboration with corporate diagnostic chains and doctors at each of the four SAHYOG Clinics. The camps had the presence of experienced and specialist doctors, laboratory technicians & phlebotomists. Routine check-ups of PLHIV



CHART 2: ACHIEVEMENTS OF LINK ART CENTER

SAHYOG INTEGRATED HIV CLINIC

SAHYOG clinic is an inclusive initiative that aims to address the specific needs of the gay, bisexual, transgender, and hijra communities, as well as people living with HIV and their families.

and LGBTQ+ clients were conducted along with screening for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Some of the other tests conducted were CBC, ESR, Liver and Kidney Function Tests (LFT/KFT), Lipid Profile, HbsAg, Uric Acid, Calcium, Urine routine tests, Vitamin Profiling. In this camp screening



for Thyroidism, HCV and HBV screening and vaccination, cancer screening, oral and eye health screening, screening for HIV and STI, were also conducted. In this mega camp consultation with specialist doctors like endocrinologists, gynaecologists, dermatologists, and surgeons. were provided to the clients. Overall, the clients across the four clinics utilised multiple services as indicated in Chart: 4.

► **HIV & STI Testing among New Clients:** A total of 78.12% of the 4,406 newly registered LGBTQ+ clients at the clinics were tested for HIV & STI (Total HIV tests: 1497 and STI tests: 1945). A total of 79 individuals were screened and found to be HIV positive (prevalence=4.54%), and 30 individuals were found to be STI (including Syphilis) positive (prevalence=7.30%).



CHART 3: SERVICES OF SAHYOG CLINICS

OUR SERVICES AND REACH

- **Overall Reach:** A total of 6,672 individuals of People living with HIV (PLHIV) and LGBTQ+ community accessed services from the 4 integrated clinics in India till March 2023.
- **Non-communicable Diseases:** A total of 3,071 clients above 30 years of age were screened for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and given appropriate referrals if diagnosed with any NCD.
- **Condom Distribution:** A total of 37,682 condoms were distributed and all the clients were counselled on safe sex practices.

► The Guwahati clinic reported the highest screened positive cases with HIV prevalence of 26.47%, Syphilis prevalence of 38.88%, and Hepatitis B prevalence of 6.81%.

- **Reaching the Hard to Reach:** A total of 373 such persons were reached out to. Among the hard-to-reach population, 25 out of 373 (6.7%) were screened positive for HIV at the four locations. During the Health Camp at Guwahati, 28 out of 58 (34.4%) persons were screened and found to be HIV positive, and 41 out of 88 (46.5%) were screened to be STI positive. This data is inclusive of the trans-men community.



- ◆ **Mental Health Services:** A total of 2,115 LGBTQ+ clients availed counselling services and 573 were given professional mental health support. These included cases of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), suicidal ideations, and insomnia.
- ◆ **Nutrition Support:** A total of 935 PLHIV and LGBTQ+ clients availed nutrition support services.
- ◆ **Socio-legal Aid:** A total of 41 LGBTQ+ Clients availed socio-legal assistance.

in India (High Commission in India) organized a two-day leadership training workshop in Mumbai for 25 young LGBTQ+ and Female Sex Workers (FSW) community leaders' as part of various initiatives and organizations across India that focused on nurturing leadership from a sustainability approach of their respective organizations. This workshop covered management, technical and financial skills, such as understanding their needs and scope of improvement, proposal & grant writing, budget making, developing implementation and visibility strategies, communications and linkage skills, and a brief social media training.

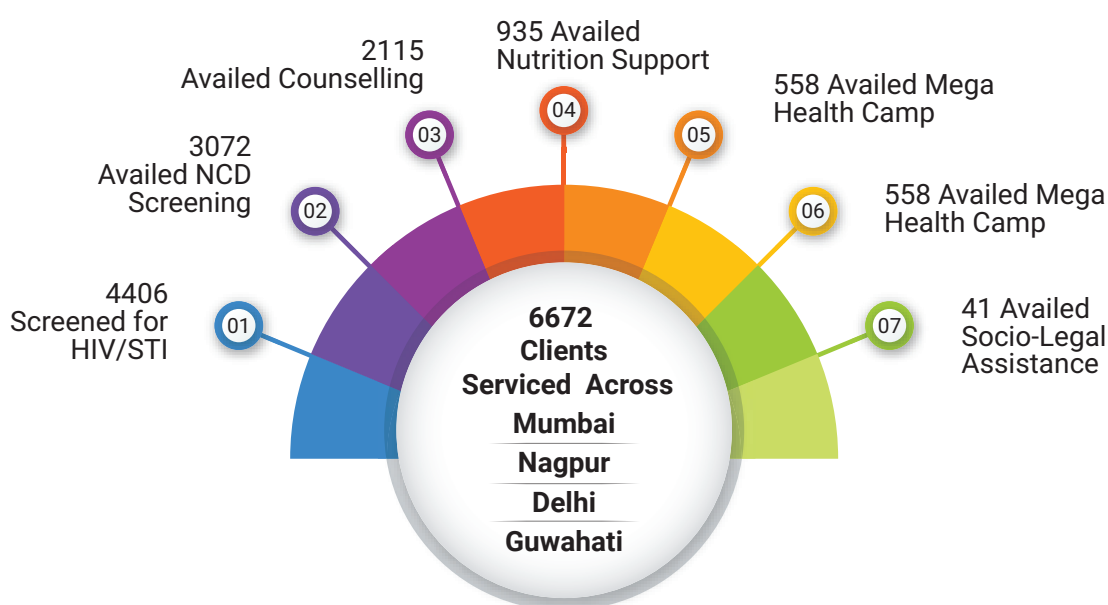


CHART 4: ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAHYOG CLINICS

ADVOCACY

Emerging Queer Leaders – The Humsafar Trust organized a two-day Emerging Queer Leaders (EqueL) workshop in Mumbai for LGBTQ+ young queer leaders. The 5th edition was supported by Amplify Change's CONNECT Project, where 18 young queer leaders from all over India participated in the workshop. The workshop covered various subjects ranging from Advocacy, Crisis Management, LGBTQ+-based laws and policies, HIV and STI awareness, LGBTQ+ inclusion in corporate, health, education, and more.

Youth Leadership Program – The Humsafar Trust under its newly received project from Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), Canada

PRABAL – Empowerment – A leadership Initiative for Parents of LGBTQ+ – Prabal is an empowerment program for the parents of LGBTQ+ community persons, designed meticulously after consultation with the core team of Sweekar: The Rainbow Parents and implemented in a hybrid manner with 120 parents over the period of three months on alternate Sundays. The meetings covered topics for parents to instil awareness about their child's health and rights and empowering them mentally and intellectually for being strong-sighted allies enabling an LGBTQ+ friendly environment around them.

INFOSEM Annual Meeting – COVID-19 Pandemic paused the onground activities of Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities



The Humsafar Trust at the AIDS 2022 Conference, Montreal, Canada



Melaniw Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada visited The Humsafar Trust Delhi Office



The Humsafar Trust in conversation with the cast of the film 'Maja Ma' and OTT platform, Amazon Prime.



The Humsafar Trust Advocacy team conducted a series of sensitisation workshops for TATA Steel Long Products Ltd.





(INFOSEM), which further delayed in changing of constituencies and supporting the redressal system within the community. To ensure the mechanism of a support network stays relevant, a Managing Committee and Governing Board meeting was conducted under which various community issues were brought forward by community representatives.

CONNECT Dissemination – HST organized a National Dissemination of CONNECT Project in New Delhi on 23rd June 2022. Approximately sixty-eight stakeholders participated in this event along with representation from NACO, NITI Aayog, UN Agencies, and partner organizations working on LGBTQ+ health and human rights. The dissemination also marked the official closure of the project in India and community partners/ leaders expressed their gratitude to Amplify Change for its six-year support in creating a platform that now needs to be taken forward.

Innovative Seed Grant – The seed grant initiative mainly aims to conduct innovative activities in response to the urgent and emerging needs of the community in different regions of India. Although priority was given to CBO partners from Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore, innovative proposals were considered based on evidence and best practices on advocacy & policy work at regional/ national level. Seed grants have seen overwhelming response and played a key role in supporting regional advocacy efforts. HST continued to engage with local community partners and supported advocacy efforts through seed capital. The Grant also supported ten trans-led organization in FY 2022-23.

LIKHO Citizen Journalism Workshop – HST organised a two-day residential workshop inviting 20 LGBTQ+ budding citizen journalists, strengthening their capacities on diverse forms of journalism – Podcasts, Interviews, Reports, etc.

LIKHO Awards – LIKHO Awards for Excellence in Media was organized on April 15th, coinciding with the 8th anniversary of the Supreme Court NALSA judgement, to recognize media personnel that have engaged in producing or contributing to the visibility of queer affirmative content in mainstream media. This activity turned into a grand mixer evening with representation from US Embassy, Sony CSR division, Transgender leadership of Mumbai, Sweekar: The Rainbow parents, key LGBTQ+ leaders, and communities.

Ek Madhav Baug – As an advocacy tool to promote the social acceptance of LGBTQ+ community, showcasings of Ek Madhav Baug, written by late playwright Chetan Datar, were conducted. In FY 2022-23, the play performed 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 were able to reach approximately 3,000+ individuals.

Sensitization Workshops –

– HST Delhi conducted a sensitization workshop at Police Training School at Mana, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Over 100 Police personnel attended this workshop which was also supported by community partner Mitwa Samiti and LGBTQ+ Chhattisgarh.

– The Advocacy team was invited by the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission to conduct a sensitization workshop and facilitate a dialogue on LGBTQ+ rights in India and its social challenges. It was attended by 25 members from the commission. HST collaborated with ActionAid Association to facilitate Queer Affirmative Sensitization Workshop with Bhopal Police (Crime Branch) at Commissioner Office in Bhopal.

– HST collaborated with community partner Mitwa Samiti from Raipur, Chhattisgarh to organise a one day sensitization workshop with Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) in Raipur on 9th January 2023.

Upskilling Support – Taking learnings from the first phase of BMC Software support upskilling project in FY 2022-23, HST scaled up its intervention with 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, and to promote skilling programs and education opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals.

In FY 2022-23, a total of 197 LGBTQ+ identified students were supported from 20 states across the country.

Employment and Livelihood – HST focused on employment and livelihood as a strategy to continue its groundwork of socio-economic inclusion of LGBTQ+ community. Two initiatives



'SAKSHAM: Communities leading inclusion' and 'Dolphin Tank' focused on recruitment linkage for 600+ queer individuals and capacity building and handholding of trans entrepreneurs.

Crisis and Technical Support – Social attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals are unfavourable and non-accepting, despite consensual same sex activities in private being decriminalized in September 2018. Hostile and stigmatizing socio-legal environments often render LGBTQ+ communities vulnerable to blackmail, threats, and extortion from perpetrators. The communities are more vulnerable to face crisis on different dating applications. In FY 2022-23, the HST crisis team addressed and supported 68 crisis interventions and provided technical guidance with the legal authorities.

Marriage Equality Petition – The Humsafar Trust initiated a conversation with Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM), India's largest network of LGBTQ+ Community

Based Organisations (CBOs), to challenge the marriage laws in India in the form of a Supreme Court petition; hearing of which is expected in the next financial year.

Social Entitlements – The year 2022-2023 also marked the initiation of a social entitlement project for the LGBTQ+ communities in partnership with SAATHII (Chennai) and GFATM - CRM19 fund. The project aims at providing 30,132 unique services of social entitlement to the communities in 12 months period. A total of 18 community-based organizations are being onboarded in the country to reach the desired targets.

CAPACITY BUILDING

NETREACH is a ground-breaking virtual project initiated in India in 2021, with support from the Global Fund to Fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM). The project aims to reach the 'missing millions' and connect them

Developing Leaders	Community Networking & Capacity Building	Media Engagement	Sensitization Programs	Skilling & Livelihood	Crisis & Technical Support	Legal Advocacy
18 Emerging Queer Leaders Trained under EQueL	INFOSEM Meeting Organized	20 Budding Journalists Trained in Likho Citizen Journalism Workshop	3000 Audience Members Reached Through Play 'Ek Madhav Baug'	197 LGBTQ+ Students Supported across 20 States		
25 Youth Leaders Trained under CFLI	CONNECT National Level Dissemination		100 Police Personnel Trained in Chattisgarh	SAKSHAM Recruitment Linkage Platform	68 Persons Provided Crisis Support	Supported by the Humsafar Trust, INFOSEM and 6 Individuals Filed Marriage Rights Petition
6 Prabal sessions with 120 Parents of LGBTQ+	10 Trans-led Organizations Receiving Seed Grant	10 Persons Awarded Likho Awards	25 Members of Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission Sensitized	DOLPHIN Tank Entrepreneurship Support		

CHART 5: ACHIEVEMENTS OF ADVOCACY



Meeting with Community members for SBCC workshop



AS&DG NACO, Shri Alok Saxena visited The Humsafar Trust Mumbai office in June 2022.



EMINENT VISITORS

The Humsafar Trust is a proud recipient of The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) 2022-23. In the month of December 2022, CFLI project head Stéfanie Bergeron, also the First Secretary (Political), High Commission of Canada visited HST to review the project progress. Additionally, HST also had an opportunity to host Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Hon. Melanie Joly at its Delhi office during this period where she interacted with the community representatives and the CFLI team.

OUR PRESENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE, MONTREAL JULY, 2022

A five member team represented the Humsafar Trust at the IAC, Montreal, 2022. We presented ourselves at the Global Village Networking Booth and shared learnings about our COVID-19 Campaign Samajh.

OUR PRESENCE AT THE SYDNEY WORLD PRIDE, FEBRUARY 2023

Two of our team members and a Board member represented the Humsafar Trust at the Sydney World Pride.

to HIV-related services across the country. It aims to provide comprehensive information to individuals at risk of HIV by conducting virtual interventions and leveraging virtual platforms such as internet-based dating apps, social media platforms, and other online channels including groups and networking platforms. The goal is to motivate these individuals to undergo HIV testing at the nearest Government run Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) or Private Labs across the country.

In the current year 2022–2023 – a total of 97,057 new profiles were approached online of which 21,471 underwent online risk assessment.

A total of 9,423 Key Population (KP) were linked to HIV related services (counselling, mental health, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis – PrEP & Post Exposure Prophylaxis - PEP, and referral services to TI Services, STI Services and HIV testing.)

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

NETREACH conducted a three day community consultation, under the guidance of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), to strengthen the Social Behavioural Change Communication

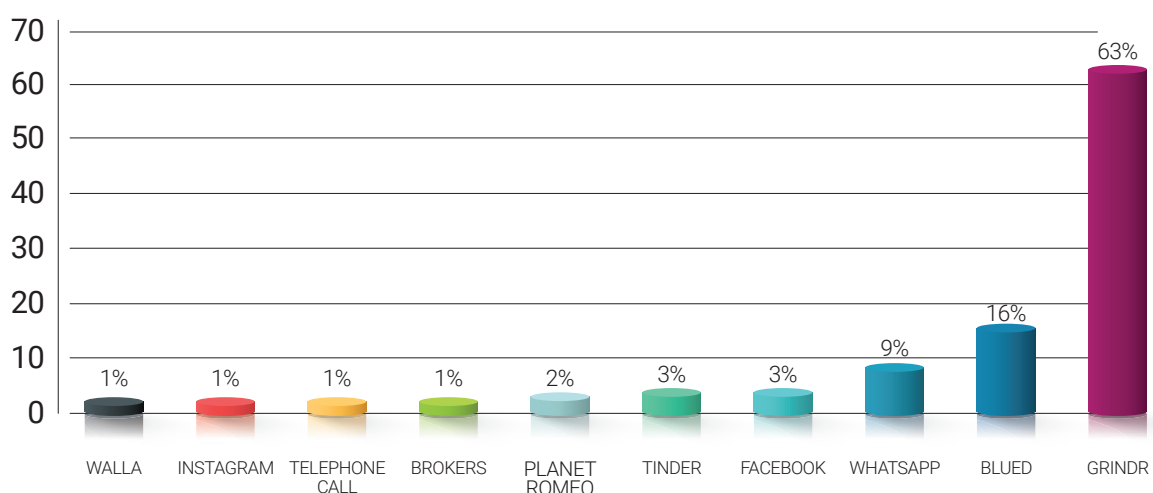


CHART 6: PLATFORM-WISE REACH OF NETREACH

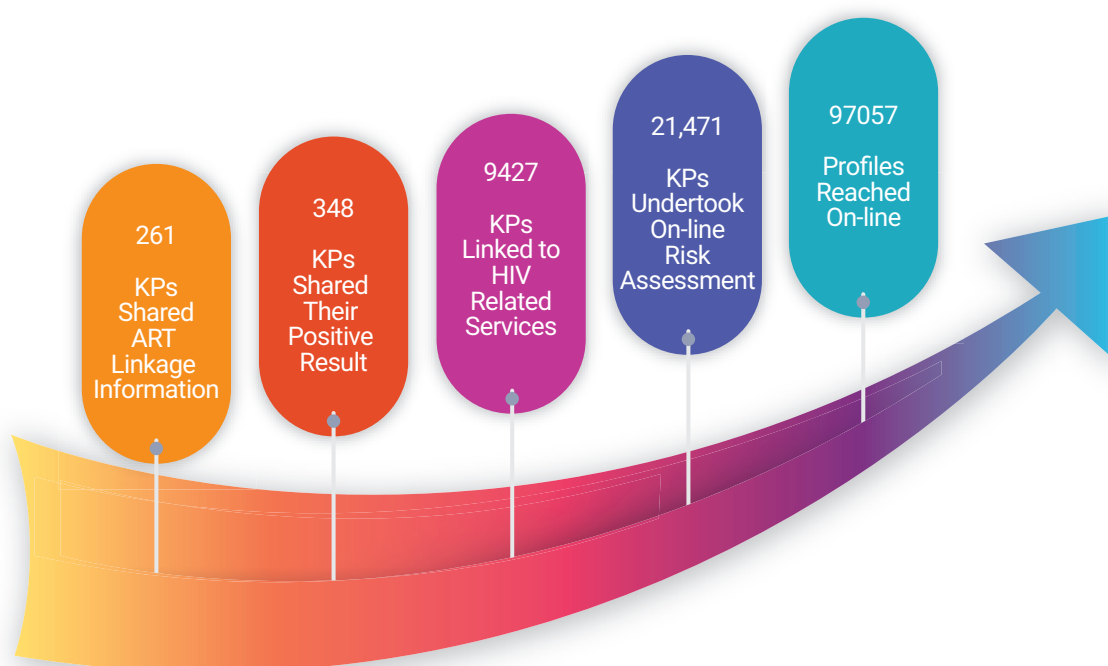
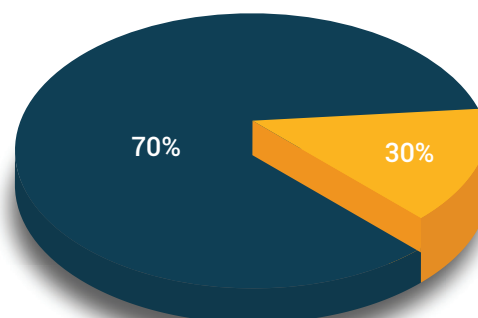


CHART 7: ACHIEVEMENTS OF NETREACH

(SBCC) package for programs that reach at-risk populations on virtual platforms. Over 100 community members, project leads and key stakeholders from across India convened in Delhi in April 2022, to co-create communications materials and chart out strategies to strengthen existing SBCC packages of NACO to adapt to the new age of communication.

NETREACH website was officially launched on October 10, 2022, and since testing face to March 2023 the site has had 25,930 views by 18,243 unique visitors.



● Repeat Page Views
● Unique Page Views
N=25930

CHART 8: PERFORMANCE OF NETREACH WEBSITE

EMINENT VISITORS

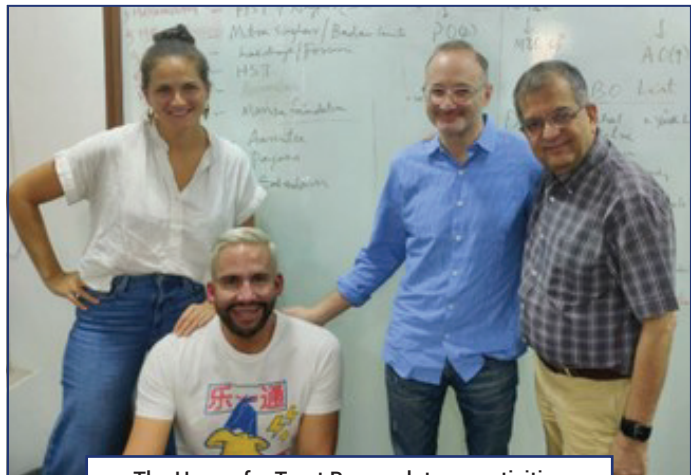
The Additional Secretary and Director General (AS & DG) of NACO, Shri Alok Saxena, visited HST on 8th June 2022, along with NACO officials Dr Shobini Rajan, Dr Chinamayee Das, Dr Bhawani Singh for interactions with the community to understand the challenges faced by the young gay men, Transwomen, and other MSM in accessing HIV testing and treatment. They also reviewed the progress of HST's online intervention through the NETREACH project.



The Humsafar Trust Offsite at Daman



The Humsafar Trust Research team at the AIDS 2022 conference in Montreal, Canada



The Humsafar Trust Research team activities



Pride 2022/2023 activities.



GLIMPSES OF OUTREACH BY OUR VIRTUAL NAVIGATORS

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Virtual Navigator for

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- Arunachal Pradesh
- Meghalaya

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Virtual Outreach models used by The Humsafar Trust's Pan-India Project NETREACH

RESEARCH

Research is an integral component of The Humsafar Trust's work, since the year 2000, when the first ever study to develop baseline indicators on the Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practices pertaining to HIV/AIDS among MSM in Mumbai and Thane was successfully conducted. Since then, the research department has grown leaps and bounds. The Humsafar Trust (HST) holds the distinction of being the first community-based organization (CBO) to establish its own Institutional Review Board (IRB) with a Federal Wide Assurance certificate.

STUDIES CONCLUDED IN APRIL 2022-MARCH 2023

1. Reducing health inequalities among sexual minorities in India: generating evidence for action

- ◆ This collaboration aims to identify factors that affect health seeking among sexual minorities with focus on the understanding how syndemic conditions form as well as exploring the role of stigmas in the production of syndemics.
- ◆ Source of Support: DBT/Welcome Trust India Alliance
- ◆ Collaboration between C-SHARP and The Humsafar Trust

HST actively conducts research studies for LGBTQ+ communities in both Delhi and Mumbai. The Mumbai team, led by a consulting project director, with extensive experience in LGBTQ+ research spanning over 20 years, plays a crucial role. Over the past decade, HST has successfully implemented more than 25 research studies, receiving funding from both national and international sources, and collaborating with reputable agencies. Research team members also play an important role in strengthening capacities across Members of the research team facilitated over ten training workshops on HIV AIDS and STIs and gender sensitivity trainings in April 2022- March 2023.

- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai and Chennai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: June 2017-September 2022

2. #SafeHandsSafeHearts: The effect of an eHealth intervention on COVID-19 knowledge, behaviors, and mental wellness of LGBT+ people – a randomized control trial

- ◆ The major goals of this project are to investigate the effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability of a messaging intervention on HIV testing and linkage to prevention/treatment services among internet-using MSM in Delhi via a two-armed randomized control trial.



- ◆ Source of Support: IDRC-CIHR
- ◆ Collaboration between C-SHARP and The Humsafar Trust
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai; other sites: Toronto and Bangkok
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: March 2021-February 2021

3. *Chalo Delhi: Implementation science approach for increasing HIV testing uptake among online MSM in Delhi, India: Testing acceptability, feasibility, and real world-effectiveness virtual interventions*

- ◆ The major goals of this project are to investigate the effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability of a messaging intervention on HIV testing and linkage to prevention/treatment services among internet-using MSM in Delhi via a two-armed randomized control trial.
- ◆ Source of Support: FTC- IAPAC
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust and Einstein Medical University
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Delhi
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: March 2021-March 2023

4. *Project Harmony: Reducing discrimination faced by MSM and Transgender Women in public hospitals: A pilot multi-level intervention using a quasi-experimental design.*

- ◆ Phase 1: Intervention development: To design and finalise a theory-based intervention (Intergroup Contact Theory and Popular Opinion Leader) to reduce discrimination faced by MSM and TGW in health care settings.
- ◆ Phase 2: Intervention implementation and Assessment: To test the efficacy of a multi-level intervention to reduce discrimination faced by MSM and TGW in public health settings.
- ◆ Site: Mumbai and Chennai
- ◆ Collaboration between C-SHARP and The Humsafar Trust
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: June 2021–October 2022.

5. *Accelerating the access and uptake of HIV self-testing (HIV-ST) in India: A demonstration Project*

- ◆ This study intends to establish the groundwork for future introduction of innovative service delivery models & approaches to deliver self-testing as a part of HIV testing services in the national program.
- ◆ Source of Support: PATH under STAR Initiative funded by UNITAID through Population Services International (PSI)
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust and PATH, 11 implementing partners & 6 technical partners.
- ◆ Place of implementation: A multicentric study in 13 states of India
- ◆ Implementing Partner in 4 states: Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, 93,380 participants agreed HIV ST to be participants.
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: June 2021 –March 2023

6. *Title: #: Acceptability and feasibility of broadly neutralizing antibodies as HIV prevention products in India*

- ◆ Major Goals: The study aims to understand the perspectives of potential end-users, service providers and policy makers on the factors influencing the acceptability and feasibility of broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) as HIV prevention products among populations of interest in India.
- ◆ Name of PD/PI: Multisite
- ◆ Source of Support: USAID IAVI
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 02/2021–4/2022.

STUDIES STARTED IN 2022-2023 AND ON-GOING

1. *CHALO 2.0: A mobile-technology-based intervention to accelerate HIV testing and linkage to prevention and treatment.*

- ◆ The major goals of this project are to investigate the efficacy of a messaging intervention on HIV testing and linkage to prevention/treatment services among internet-



using MSM in Mumbai via a three-arm randomized control trial.

- ◆ Project Number: R01MH119001-01A
- ◆ Name of PD/PI: Dr. Viraj Patel, Einstein School of Medicine, and Montefiore Medical Center
- ◆ Source of Support: NIH
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: March 2020–May 2025.

2. *Project Chetana: Adapting an effective intervention for enhancing engagement in HIV care to meet the needs of key populations in India.*

- ◆ The study aims to engage community stakeholders in the adaptation of the Chetana-PN wellness adherence intervention for use with Indian MSM and TGW who are living with HIV and to assess in an RCT the acceptability and feasibility of the theoretically-guided, adapted intervention and obtain preliminary effect size estimations for the impact of the intervention on (1) appointment keeping, (2) ART adherence and (3) viral suppression, among MSM and TGW who are newly or insufficiently engaged in HIV care
- ◆ Source of Support: NIH
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust and UCSF
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: 05/2022–05/2025.

3. *MFARR – Mobilizing for a Research Revolution to ensure LGBTQ Inclusion in Asia*

- ◆ The study aims to explore and understand LGBTQ people's experiences of inclusion in various domains of life such as education, health, family, economic well-being, personal security, violence, and political/civic participation; identify current gaps/progress made on LGBTQ inclusion; and develop indicators for LGBTQ inclusion.
- ◆ Source of Support: SSHRC

- ◆ Collaboration between C-SHARP, The Humsafar Trust, and University of Toronto
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: Jan 2021–March 2026

4. *Health Status and Hormone Use among Adult Transgender Women with or without HIV*

- ◆ The project will develop and pilot test a recruitment and data collection protocol to assemble a cohort and investigate hormone use among transwomen in Mumbai.
- ◆ Source of Support: CFAR-03 Developmental Pilot Award
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust, Baldwin Wallace University and Emory University
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: April 2022–December 2023.

5. *SWAG 3.0: How LGBTQ+ people think, learn, and disclose about Mental Health on social media*

- ◆ The goal of this research project is to explore how queer people in India think and learn about mental health and mental illness and how they understand, share, and represent their mental health on social media platforms.
- ◆ Funding Agency: SPAN Award
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust and the Northwestern University
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: April 2022–August 2023

6. *IIR 2022: Sexual networks, HIV/STI prevalence and access to services amid COVID-19 pandemic for key populations in India and Kenya*

- ◆ The study aims to initiate and strengthen south–south collaborations and address key contextual issues via capacity



building and community inclusion with research on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on accessing HIV/STI services.

- ◆ Source of Support: USAID-IAVI-ICMR
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust, IAVI, and Kemri, Kenya
- ◆ Primary Place of Performance: Mumbai, Delhi, Thane, and Kenya
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: January 2022-June 2023

7. **DiGiTaPP Study: Inclusion of Perspectives from Emerging Digitally Driven Risk Networks in Defining a Target Product Profile (TPP) for next-generation HIV Prevention Vaccines**

- ◆ The study will also focus on identifying outreach channels and platforms for engaging unreached most-at-risk communities in impactful and cost-effective ways.
- ◆ Source of support: IAVI
- ◆ Collaboration between The Humsafar Trust and IAVI
- ◆ Site: Delhi + Chennai + Mumbai
- ◆ Project/Proposal Start and End Date: April 2022- March 2024

LIST OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2022- MARCH 2023

Pinch A, Birnholtz J, Rawat S, Bhattar A, Baruah D, Dange A. "Someone Else Is Behind the Screen": Visibility, Privacy, and Trust on Geosocial Networking Apps in India. *Social Media+ Society*. 2022 Sep;8(3):20563051221126076.

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. *Culture, health & sexuality*. 2022 Jul 1;24(7):951- 67.

Datta D, Dange A, Rawat S, Kim R, Patel VV. HIV Testing by Gender Identity Among Sexually Active Transgender-, Intersex-, and Hijra Individuals Reached Online in India. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2023 Mar 15:1-7.

Chakrapani V, Newman PA, Sebastian A, Rawat S, Shunmugam M, Sellamuthu P. The impact of COVID-19 on economic well-being and health

outcomes among transgender women in India. *Transgender Health*. 2022 Oct 1;7(5):381-4.

Chakrapani V, Newman PA, Sebastian A, Rawat S, Mittal S, Gupta V, Kaur M. Mental health, economic well-being, and health care access amid the COVID-19 pandemic: a mixed methods study among urban men who have sex with men in India. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*. 2022 Dec 31;30(1):2144087.

Kazemian P, Ding DD, Scott JA, Feser MK, Biello K, Thomas BE, Dange A, Bedoya CA, Balu V, Rawat S, Kumarasamy N. The cost-effectiveness of a resilience-based psychosocial intervention for HIV prevention among MSM in India. *AIDS*. 2022 Jul 15;36(9):1223-32.

EMINENT VISITORS

- ◆ Dr Michael Goodman (Emory University and Dr Swagata Banik (Baldwin Wallace University) visited HST. We hosted a talk on global evidence on health impacts of hormone use among transgender women by Dr. Michael Goodman from Emory University in July 2022. The talk was attended by transgender women in Mumbai
- ◆ Dr Viraj Patel, our long time collaborator and US PI (Einstein Medical University and Montefiore Medical Center) for our study Chalo 2.0 visited us in the month of September and December to provide overall guidance to the Chalo 2.0 study team members
- ◆ Our long-time Collaborators Dr Steve Safren (Miami University), Dr Matthew Mimiaga (UCLA), Dr Katie Biello (Brown University) visited us in the month of October to discuss potential projects
- ◆ Dr Rupa Patel, PrEP Clinic Medical Director, Biomedical HIV Prevention Clinical Research Lead Whitman Walker Institute and Health Washington DC visited to have ground level conversation on PrEP. She visited hotspots and met community members and shared knowledge about PrEP
- ◆ Dr Maria Ekstrand, Dr Wayne Steward from the UCSF visited to strengthen the work on Chetana Project and for facilitating a Project workshop



HR, IT, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Humsafar Trust has a robust system of managing human resources. In the reporting year, HST reviewed HR policy, sexual harassment policy, recruitment policy and updated to meet the needs of the organisation.

With a virtual component and confidential data involved in implementation, HST also fortified its IT policy creating more secure data handling mechanisms. One key aspect of this was switching to Microsoft systems from Google.

The Humsafar Trust (HST) follows the Indian Accounting Standards prescribed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and international accounting standards systems, complies with all taxes, liabilities and ensures compliance with the statutory requirements of the FCRA Act and other relevant laws as applicable from time to time. We use accounting system Tally Prime which is cloud based to manage our accounting efficiently. The Humsafar Trust has Internal, External, and Project auditors that focus on the organization's

objectives followed by the Indian Accounting Standards and Statutory compliance for achieving Income Tax related objectives.

The Humsafar Trust is governed by the Financial Management System and other policy weights and strengthening our systems followed by: Finance Manual, Procurement Policy, Cost Sharing Policy, Risk and Fraud corruption policy, Onward Granting Manual, Conflict of Interest Policy, and Safeguarding Policy.

We sincerely thank all our donors for their growing and continuous commitment to our work. The annual grant/ donations receipts for the year are INR 15.85 crores (USD 1.96 Million), supported by National and International Agencies, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and individual donors. This kind of robust financial support scales up HST implementation and interventions. Small funding supports innovations, skill building, and education efforts; while large-scale funding supports Capacity building, Prevention Care,

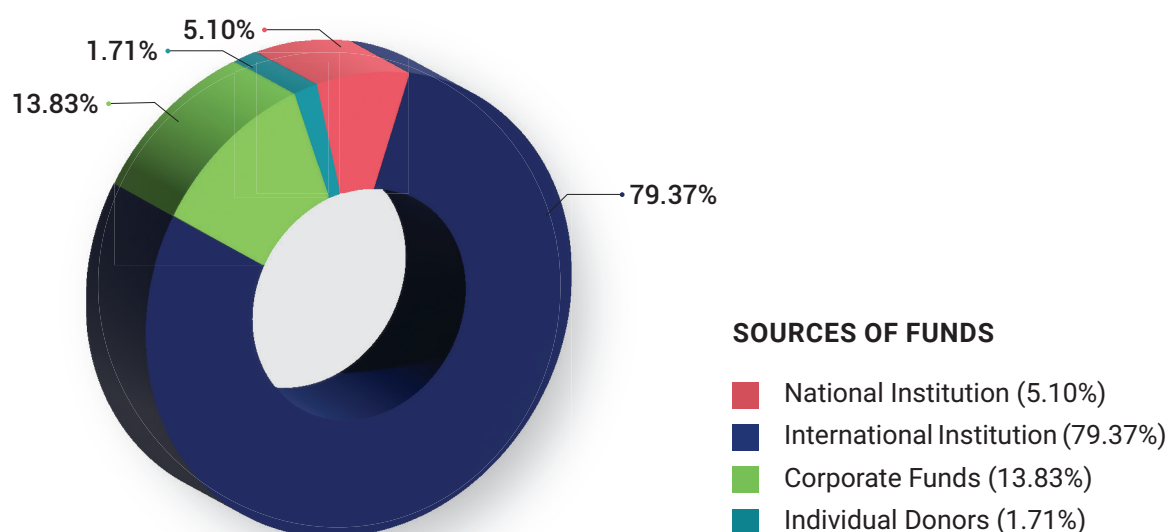


CHART 9: HST FUNDS BY CONTRIBUTORS



and Support for People living with HIV (PLHIV). Research studies focus on generating evidence through behavioural and bio-behavioural studies to advance LGBTQ+ community's health and human rights.. Both, large and small funding reflects pan-India operations with LGBTQ+ community-based organizations and

individual groups at State and National levels (Chart:9,10). HST funding has rapidly grown in the year 2022- 2023 and promises 100% growth of funding amount in 2023 – 2024 with domestic funds being the largest contributor to its growth.

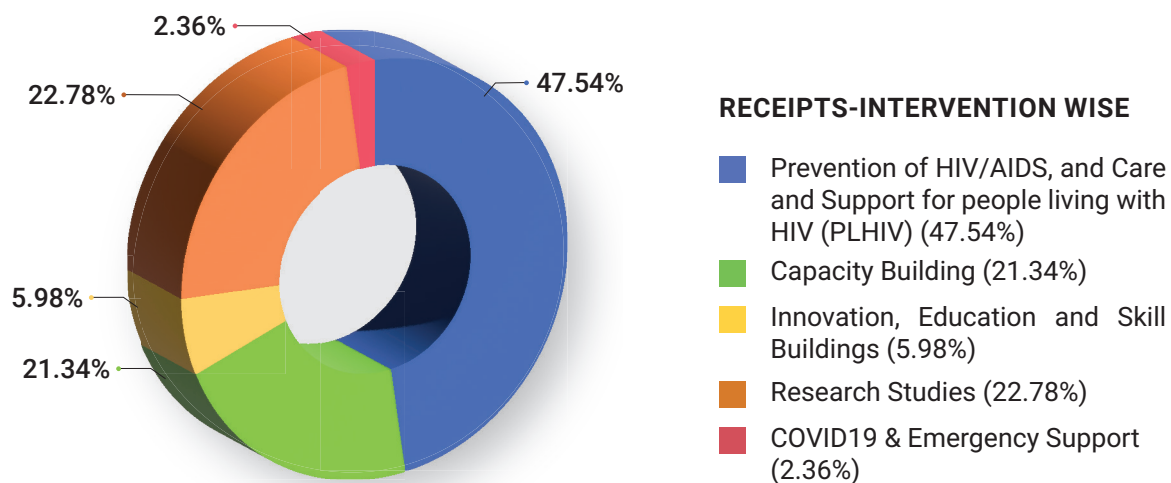


CHART 10: HST FUNDS BY AREA OF INTERVENTION

Report prepared with inputs from Health /Research /Capacity Building/ Advocacy and Finance Teams of The Humsafar Trust - Mumbai

Report Reviewed by: Suhail Abbasi (Co-founder and Chairperson): Alpana Dange (Consulting Research Director), Vivek Anand (CEO)

30th July 2023.





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