

## THE ROLE OF THE NGO IN THE FIELD OF HIV/AIDS

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### Introduction

AIDS Awareness Group (AAG) is a voluntary organization (NGO), which was registered in 1994 under the Societies Registration Act (1860). Our registration Number is S-25682 / 94. We are registered u/s 12 of the Income Tax Act and have exemption under Section 80 G of the Act since May 1995 for all donations received by AAG. We are also registered under FCRA vide Registration No. 231650972 in 1999, to cover foreign contributions.

AAG's Vision: A world where men and women are treated equal in all respects.

AAG focuses on the following: -

- ◆ Integrated Health and Development programmes in urban slums, resettlement Colony and backward rural areas outside Delhi,
- ◆ Legal Aid and legal literacy programmes in Jails and free legal advice from our office,
- ◆ HIV / AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and Care & Support of PLHIVs in Delhi, and
- ◆ Counseling for Sex / Sexuality, HIV / AIDS and Legal counseling from our Helpline at our Office.

Good Health gives you the courage and energy to tackle any problem, Education gives you the tools to improve the quality of life of oneself, the family and if you are energetic and motivated enough the community yours and that of the world at large.

Motivation and Humanity, together with health and education gives you the sustained power to continue working for the people, no matter what the difficulties, seeking options to bring about change for the better for those suffering from deprivation, neglect and extreme poverty.

AAG was formed initially to improve the health of people. We saw that for good health one needed money for nutritious food and medicines. To get the money one needed education and vocational training for the marginalised communities. We saw that Money for unexpected emergencies could also be generated through micro savings and micro credit. Thus we developed our concept of starting "Integrated Health, Education and Development Projects" so as to help the community solve its problems by itself, holistically. This is the cycle through which AAG went till it evolved into what it is today. This is a replicable model which we plan to put in place in other States.

### a. Health

1. Opening a clinic manned by a Qualified MBBS, DGO Lady Doctor who started a general health clinic.
2. Starting the Anaemia correction (iron supplement) Horlicks programme for the children and pregnant Women as recommended by our Lady Doctor.
3. Health and Hygiene awareness programme and safe drinking water awareness programme. Obtaining Chlorine tablets from MCD and distribution after teaching the community how to use them to make the water safe for drinking.
4. Teaching Family Planning methods to the Community.
5. An immunization programme for the community.

### b. Vocational Training Programmes in Operation

1. Computer Training Programme for boys and girls,
2. Sewing and tailoring training programme for adolescent girls and women.

### c. Educational & Adult Literacy Programme

1. Opening a Tuition Centre for children from classes 1 to 5 for those children who have either never been to school or have dropped out from schools.
2. An Adult literacy programme for women.

### d. Micro-Finance & Micro-Credit Programme

1. 30 Self Help Groups are operational, 26 have opened Savings Bank Accounts.
2. Some women have started micro enterprises after taking loans.

The non-governmental organizations listed below offer additional information and resources on their Web sites about HIV/AIDS around the world.

### Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was created to dramatically increase resources to fight three of the world's most devastating diseases, and to direct those resources to areas of greatest need. As an international financing institution, the fund invests the world's money to save lives. To date, it has committed \$19.3 billion in 144 countries to support large-scale prevention, treatment and care programs against the three diseases.

## International AIDS Society

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 14,000 members from more than 190 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. Its members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and program planners. The IAS is the custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference. These conferences provide a unique forum for the interaction of science, community and leadership, and strengthen an evidence-based policy and programmatic response to the epidemic. The next conference will be held in 2012 in Washington, DC and the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and the National Institutes of Health are among the local organizing partners.

- Learn about U.S. Government activities, events, and news related to AIDS 2012 on the AIDS.gov page about this major national convening.
- View the AIDS.gov video blogs from the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria.

## Kaiser Family Foundation

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the U.S., as well as the U.S. role in global health policy. The foundation serves as a non-partisan source of facts, information, and analysis for policy-makers, the media, the health care community, and the public. Among the foundation's priority issue areas is global HIV/AIDS.

## UNAIDS

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. UNAIDS fulfills its mission by:

- Uniting the efforts of the United Nations system, civil society, national governments, the private sector, global institutions and people living with and most affected by HIV.
- Speaking out in solidarity with the people most affected by HIV in defense of human dignity, human rights and gender equality.
- Mobilizing political, technical, scientific and financial resources and holding ourselves and others accountable for results.
- Empowering agents of change with strategic information and evidence to influence and ensure

that resources are targeted where they deliver the greatest impact and bring about a prevention revolution.

- Supporting inclusive country leadership for sustainable responses that are integral to and integrated with national health and development efforts.

Established in 1994 by a resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council and launched in January 1996, UNAIDS is guided by a Program Coordinating Board with representatives of 22 governments from all geographic regions, the UNAIDS Cosponsors, and five representatives of nongovernmental organizations, including associations of people living with HIV. With its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the UNAIDS Secretariat works on the ground in more than 80 countries.

HIV is transmitted primarily via unprotected sexual intercourse (including anal and even oral sex), contaminated blood transfusions, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. Some bodily fluids, such as saliva and tears, do not transmit HIV. Prevention of HIV infection, primarily through safe sex and needle-exchange programs, is a key strategy to control the spread of the disease.

There is no cure or vaccine; however, antiretroviral treatment can slow the course of the disease and may lead to a near-normal life expectancy. While antiretroviral treatment reduces the risk of death and complications from the disease, these medications are expensive and may be associated with side effects.

## References

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