

Government to Launch Fourth Phase of the NACP-IV

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The union minister for health, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad will launch fourth phase of the National AIDS Control Program (NACP-IV) of the Department of AIDS Control (DAC) on 12th February, 2014 to accelerate the country's AIDS program.

The NACP-IV has been designed based on the lessons learnt from previous phases. The strategic plan for NACP-IV for the period 2012-17 has been developed through an elaborate multi-stakeholder consultative planning process. Consolidating the gains made till now, the NACP-IV aims to accelerate the process of epidemic reversal and further strengthen the epidemic response in India through a cautious and well defined integration process over the five-year period.

The objectives of NACP-IV are to reduce new infections and provide comprehensive care and support to all PLHIV and treatment services for all those who require it. A number of new initiatives have been planned under NACP-IV. The national program will continue to innovate and generate lessons from its performance management system and disseminate the best practices across the globe.

The total budgetary allocation for the fourth phase of the National AIDS Control Program (NACP-IV) for five years is Rs 14,295.05 crores. The project will be partly funded through grants from the Global Fund and credit from the World Bank.

India has demonstrated an overall reduction of 57% in the annual new HIV infections (among adult population) from 2.74 lakhs in 2000 to 1.16 lakhs in 2011, reflecting the impact of various interventions and scaled-up prevention strategies under the NACP. The adult HIV prevalence has decreased from 0.41% in 2001 to 0.27% in 2011.

Besides, the estimated number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) has decreased from 24.1 lakhs in 2000 to 20.9 lakhs in 2011. Wider access to Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has resulted in a 29% reduction in estimated annual deaths due to AIDS related causes between 2007 and 2011. It is estimated that around 1.5 lakh lives have been saved due to ART till 2011.

India is committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in reducing HIV mortality. The country is making a significant progress in achieving this goal by its focused efforts through the National AIDS Control Program (NACP). In 1992, the Government launched NACP-I and NACP-II was initiated in 1998.

Based on the learning from NACP-I and II, the Government designed and implemented NACP-III (2007-2012) with an objective to "halt and reverse the HIV epidemic in India" by the end of the project. The NACP-III has given the desired results. India's AIDS control efforts have been appreciated in the UN General Assembly Special Session as one of the global success stories.