



PLUS

January 2010

Network of Maharashtra People with HIV

Changes to ACT

The next few months will see major changes to the ACT programme which has been operating in the six high prevalence states, including Maharashtra, since 2005. ACT will close on 31st March and the next day, 1st April, Promoting Access to Care and Treatment (PACT) will take its place.

The main focus of PACT will be the formation of supportnets. These are smaller versions of self-help groups. Each district will need a different number according to enrollment. These supportnets will empower people and make them independent, so that the supportnets will be self-sustaining in a few years when Global Fund funding comes to an end.

All ACT staff will be busy over the next two months preparing for closure. Districts have been asked to submit 5 years worth of programme and finance reports, such as Annual Reports, training records, and audited accounts. These need to be sent to NMP+ by the 10th February. ACT staff will then combine them into a consolidated report for INP+.

A closure meeting is being arranged by INP+ on behalf of the Global Fund, for the second half of March. It is expected to be held in one of the six ACT states. We hope that at least one representative from each district will be able to attend. The number of staff in each district is yet to be notified, but it is likely that it will be related to the size of enrollment. **Below**, State Programme Associate for ACT Yuvraj Shinde.



Help our advocacy; free bus passes, 2nd line, O.I.

At its meeting on the 27th January, the NMP+ board decided its main advocacies for the year:

- **bus passes** to give free transport for positive people who travel for treatment
- **free 2nd line** treatment for all



We hope to get a newspaper to take up our campaign for bus passes. For that, we need good case studies of people who travel long distances for treatment.

We are also following up on the campaign to get free 2nd line treatment. Thank you to those who have sent Information about children on 2nd line. We will be raising this as an issue with Rekha Jain, NACO consultant for Maharashtra, in a meeting scheduled for the 22nd February.

We ask all districts to let us have your three best Case Studies in the following categories:

- difficulty and expense of someone having to travel by bus for treatment
- need for free second line
- unavailability of Opportunistic Infections (OI) medicines in government hospitals.

Please send the case studies to Pravin Salunke at samarth@nmpplus.net by the 6th February.

Nagpur gets 2nd line promise

With the help of the Human Rights Law Network, Nagpur district arranged a meeting with the Health Minister of Maharashtra, Suresh Shetty, about services at the Government Medical College, Nagpur. He promised that if the numbers requiring it reach 80, 2nd line will be provided free of charge at Nagpur.

Pune male self-help group; marriage mela and more

It has been a busy few months for NPP+, the Pune network. To tie in with World AIDS Day they launched a male self-help group. 150 people attended the second meeting on the 7th January. 73 positive men paid the 100 rs membership fee, before electing a board.

Among other activities recently were an awareness programme at Katraj, and a child mela for infected and affected children. Events included a magic show, drawing and dance competitions, blowing up balloons, and energetic games.

A new Income Generation project was inaugurated in the Junnar Taluka, by Vallabh Benke M.L.A., and Sharad Lende, Vice President of Pune Jilla Parishad. The first initiative in the project is a small cattle farming initiative, **Below**.



Finally, a Vadhu Var Melava was organised together with NGO working for positive orphans, Manavya, and sponsored by two Rotary Clubs, Pune Metro and Pune Dhayari. 160 men and 75 women attended, and 5 marriages have already been agreed (picture **below**).



DICs to be reviewed

A conference to discuss Drop in Centres (DIC) in Maharashtra has been arranged by Avert for the first 3 days in February. The meeting will review the performance of DICs and ask how they can be improved.

The meeting will look at ways to improve the services and review future strategy.

All staff from Avert funded DICs will be attending, as well as positive people from the communities served, Vinod Jambhale (State Programme Manager), Yuvraj Shinde (ACT Project Coordinator), and the ex coordinator of Aurangabad DIC Girija Thakur.

Below: Kolhapur DIC. Sunita, Counsellor, on the left and Poonam, Project Co-ordinator., and the list of DICs in Maharashtra . Please note the enrollment figures shown are from a couple of months ago.



DISTRICT	FUNDED	FROM	ROLL
Kolhapur	Avert	Sep.2006	1800
Sangli	Avert	Dec.2003	2480
Satara	Avert	Sep.2006	1950
Ratnagiri	Avert	Apr.2004	1350
Thane	Avert	Oct.2005	1680
Nagpur	Avert	Sep.2005	1750
Aurangabad	Avert	Dec.2005	1896
Mumbai	MDACS	Feb.2008	466
Nanded	MSACS	Aug.2007	430
Beed	MSACS	Dec.2005	2266
Yawatmal	MSACS	Aug.2007	1005
Pune	MSACS	Mar.2005	2850
Ahamadnagar	MSACS	Apr.2005	1698
Jalgaon	MSACS	Sep.2007	927
Hingoli	MSACS	Aug-07	500
			23048

Dr Reddy's can help with training and jobs

Staff from Dr Reddy's Foundation, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of the pharmaceutical company, came to the NMP+ offices to tell us about how their foundation can help young positive people. They offer training for 18 -26 year olds in things like shop work, computer studies and hotel and catering.

They give a three month training course, which costs 800 rs, though in exceptional circumstances the fee can be waived. At the end of the course, Dr Reddy's helps the young people to find jobs in malls, call centres, hotels and IT companies.

They have a 95% placement rate, as they have good relations with CSR departments in many major companies. They aim to help young people who are disadvantaged by low income levels, inadequate skills, irregular employment, absence of opportunities for training and development, and family indebtedness.

Dr Reddy's Foundation offers training and job opportunities all over Maharashtra.

To contact Dr Reddy's Foundation, please ring

9673030030; 9850837126

<http://www.drreddysfoundation.org/LABS.html>

Do you have a client with a disability?

NMP+ wants to start recognising and getting involved in the area of disability and HIV, so we need to find out what the position is in Maharashtra.

Yuvraj Shinde is trying to put together some information about people with both a **disability and HIV**. He would like to hear from districts or projects about such people. Yuvraj would like to receive their case studies, whether their disability came before or after their HIV. If you have such a case study already or can get one, please send to Yuvraj.

News

NMP+ board member Prema Khandagale has been honoured with the Jijau Award, presented by the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation on World AIDS Day for her contribution to the cause of women and people with HIV.



After last year's successful State Public Hearing on the need for free 2nd line, Samarth Co-ordinator Pravin Salunke is organising another hearing for July on Free Bus Passes for HIV positive people.

Stars of the month ☆

All ACT staff in Maharashtra, including state, districts, PLCs and TCCs. By the end of January, the project passed 50,000 enrollments since it started 5 years ago. The award is particularly deserved as through no fault of their own or of NMP+ many of these staff have not received salaries for some months.

Please send pictures, contributions or suggestions for the newsletter to Vincent McDonald, Communications Adviser, at vjmcd@hotmail.co.uk, or to **NMP+**, 401-403 Ganga Prestige Arcade, Nana Peth, Laxmi Road, Pune 411002, e mail: nmpplus@gmail.com, phone: 020 – 26336084/87