



SPEAK

Annual Report 2019

Address:

Office # 403, 4th Floor, Royal Suit Plaza, E-11/2, Islamabad.

Telephone:

051-2305384/051-8772381

www.speak.org.pk

INTRODUCTION

SPEAK Trust was set up on **06, February 2018**, registered under **Trust Act, 1882** as a non-profit organization. SPEAK is youth led and run by a group of likeminded passionate individuals and volunteers working to mobilize and advocate for the rights of the marginalized communities. SPEAK promotes human rights, gender equality and HIV & AIDS prevention & awareness

VISION

An inclusive and empowered society with citizens actively advancing human rights, gender equality and HIV prevention and response.

MISSION

Promote collective voice and consciousness amongst citizenry by equipping them with skills and

TEAM EXPERIENCE

Our team has conducted numerous researches on gender equality, understanding men's behavior with regards to gender based violence & family life, and fatherhood and its impacts on boys' behavior and communication between father and son. We have also held multiple public awareness campaigns through mainstream and social media directly educating men on adopting gender sensitive behaviors. Our team is known locally and internationally for promoting gender equality, healthy family life and collective awareness.

Team experience of working at grass root level with many local organizations, directly facilitating people living with HIV. Our team is also experienced in working with media, conducting researches and trainings of other organizations and institutions. Furthermore, our team has attended multiple workshops and trainings to enhance capacity building in the field of HIV & AIDS.

PROJECT 2019

PROJECT

INTEGRATED SERVICES OF SAFE MIGRATION, HIV PREVENTION AND CARE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS AND FAMILIES”

This project is funded by foreign donor, CARAM Asia. CARAM Asia is a regional network of 42 members in 18 countries spanning across Asia and the Middle East. CARAM Asia is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. CARAM Asia have been working for the promotion and protection of migrants’ labour and health rights with focus on HIV and AIDS issues since its establishment in 1997.

The project tiled as in Pakistan. The project has been approved for 03 years and 05 months (Oct 2018 to Feb 2022).

The project will strategically improve 04 areas of intervention;

1. Provide free of cost treatment, counselling and referral to government’s HIV and AIDS services for HIV positive labour migrants of Pakistan
2. Improve Hospitals’ service delivery by training doctors and other hospital staff.
3. Share data and learning with relevant ministries to address HIV & AIDS epidemic from Pakistan
4. Provide training and material to private recruiters to aware potential migrants on risk of HIV& AIDS.

Under the project, in year 2019, SPEAK has implemented following activities and produces the outcomes;

1) 03 meetings with Global Fund, National AIDS Control Program (NACP), Provincial AIDS Control Program PACP KP, and Nae Zindagi Trust have been conducted in Islamabad. We have shared the problem being faced by PLHIV community in terms of their access to healthcare services. PLHIV shared that they have to travel to Peshawar or Islamabad for their treatment. Though the treatment is free but the traveling cost is high for them. Due to this, they face difficulties to meet other familial obligations. The current set-up in Batkhela, Swat is not providing any kind of treatment to the HIV patients as they refer them to Peshawar or Islamabad. SPEAK suggested that SPEAK's ground staff can assist in referring people to the treatment centre and provide free of cost counselling to PLHIV. We proposed NACP to upgrade the Butkhela Centre for the treatment of PLHIV. They appreciated this idea and also asked SPEAK to come along to visit the Butkhela Centre. They also ensure that they will certainly take necessary steps in this regard. In the last meeting, NACP shared that a PACP-KP and a CSO working on HIV positive Injectable Drug Users are working in this regard to upgrading the Centre with treatment facilities

2) 03 meetings have been conducted with BE & OE.

In 1st meeting, SPEAK stressed on the need and importance of reviewing the pre-departure HIV/AIDS briefing content of Protectorate of Emigrants.

In 2nd meeting, SPEAK:

- Shared the IEC material (Brochures) on HIV awareness and prevention for potential migrants.
- Requested BE & OE to adapt the IEC material in their briefing content

In 3rd meeting:

- Follow-up on letter of "Request for adaptation of awareness brochures on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention for emigrants".
- Director General (DG) of BE & OE appreciated and agreed to integrate the IEC material in their briefing content.

Next Steps:

- 1) Follow-up and facilitate on adaptation of the IEC brochures in their orientation to potential migrants.
- 2) Follow-up on translating the material into the local languages of all the provinces and share it through brochures and video messages at POEPA and Protectorate of Emigrants offices

03) 05 meetings have been organised with Ministry of Interior, FIA, NACP and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

01 meeting has been conducted with Ministry of Interior to review and discuss the existing policies and procedures regarding deported/returnee migrants. As per their claim, Gulf and some other countries do not deport HIV positive migrants, instead they force them to return to Pakistan without informing the Pakistani authorities. This leads to no identification of returnee HIV Positive migrants. We have also shared our concern that currently health desks at airports are not providing HIV services to screen returnee/deported migrants. Ministry of interior suggested us to take Ministry of Health on board as this matter is directly linked to Health department and only partially linked to Federal Investigation Agency.

Another meeting with health desks officials at Islamabad international Airport was conducted. They are currently not providing any HIV services as they do not have testing kits. They are also not provided access to deported migrants by FIA.

01 meeting with officials of FIA at Islamabad international Airport has been conducted. They regard HIV services for deported and returnee migrants as important and they are willing to cooperate. They are also of the view that currently no HIV services are available at health desks. They also shared that there are at least 3 to 4 flights every month containing 100-150 deportees to Islamabad. They asked us to collaborate with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Ministry of Health.

Policy recommendations have already been shared with Ministry of National Health and MOEHRD

Next Step:

Follow-ups with Ministry of Health, MOEHRD, FIA and CAA.

04) 135 returnee migrants have been motivated for voluntary HIV testing to know their status. 09 people out of 135 have been found HIV positive. We are further identifying migrant workers and their families to motivate them for voluntary HIV testing. Complete information of 09 deported/returnee and HIV positive migrants has been uploaded.

05) In response to recent outbreak in Larkana, Sindh, (851 infected out of which around 700 are children), SPEAK has collaborated with National AIDS Control Program (NACP), Sindh AIDS Control Program (SACP) to update their IEC material on HIV/AIDS and printed 30,000 brochure (15,000 in Sindhi language and 15,000 in Urdu Language) Annexed. These brochures have been delivered to SACP to distribute in Larkana.

06) 9 Pre-departure awareness sessions on prevention of HIV/AIDS were held for potential migrants. Around 350 potential migrants (all men) from Swat, Buner and Chakdarra - Dir were participated in the orientation sessions, who had applied for jobs in UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Malaysia and etc. Sessions were based on discussion on

the reasons as to why migrants are at risk of contracting HIV. Participants raised several questions about HIV & AIDS and the trainer responded them by giving daily life examples. Participants shared that session was helpful for them in enhancing their knowledge about HIV & AIDS, its spread and prevention and how it is linked with them. The session helped participants to understand certain risky practices which may lead them to get infected by HIV.

Next Steps: More sessions will be organized in year 2020

07) Information of returned migrant workers is being updated in excel sheet. SPEAK has contacted local HIV testing laboratories and Overseas Employment Promoters in Swat and Peshawar to reach out the new returnee HIV positive migrants . 135 returnee migrants have been motivated for voluntary HIV testing to know their status and 09 were found HIV positive and their complete information has been uploaded on excel sheet. They were referred to health care services. In one of our meeting with NACP, we have requested NACP to separate database for each group of PLHIV including profession, They appreciated the idea and expressed their willingness to work on that. The classification will help in accessing the numbers of HIV positive migrants thus enabling them to be considered as key population if the number is high. NACP expressed their intent to link SPEAK's identified HIV positive deported migrants to their Management Information System by issuing User Id to SPEAK's Outreach Worker/Field Officer. It will be helpful in increasing access of deported and HIV positive migrants to health care services.

08) In Pakistan, Organizations working on HIV are mainly focusing on key population (Injected Drug Users, Transgender, MSM and FSW). SPEAK approached them and presented the case of migrants that how the migrant community particular from Pakistan is vulnerable to HIV. The vulnerabilities stems from lack of knowledge about HIV, force back to return in case of getting infected with HIV in host country and very limited or no access to healthcare services. Pakistan AIDS Strategy 2015-2020 recognized migrant as a vulnerable population but nothing has been done so far to protect and promote their rights in this regard .SPEAK sensitized them to advocate for increased HIV Funding particularly for migrants.

09) Training Workshop has been conducted on 28th January, 2020 in Ramada Hotel, Islamabad. Representative of 10 CSOs working on HIV, migrants rights and Key HIV population has participated in the training. Furthermore, Senior Officials from National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) and Integrated HIV, Hepatitis & Thalassemia Control Program K-P has participated in the workshop. Training workshop has commenced with the session on HIV budget allocation in Pakistan over the last 10 years. Official from NACP shared Detail account on overview of budget that how its is allocated and what are the funding gaps in HIV prevention and response in the country. He further added that there are currently no funding for HIV and SRHR of migrants.

Brief discussion was held by engaging participants through brainstorming on

- 1) Linkages between migrants and HIV, Migrants' socio-economic contribution for their families and in sending country's GDP.
- 2) How migration and HIV is linked and how migrants' are vulnerable to HIV.
- 3) Issues being faced by HIV positive migrants in receiving countries in terms of forced back to return without counselling and referral to healthcare services
- 4) Lack of access to health care services due to unidentified status and associated stigma attached to HIV in Pakistan.

All Participants were of the view that migrants are closely linked with Key HIV population (Injectable Drug User (IDUs, Transgender, MSM and FSW). Another session designed on Sustainable HIV funding and HIV programs in relation to migrants. Additionally, we shared the required annual estimated budget at all phases of migration to address the migrants' HIV needs. Participants acknowledged that funding for migrants is inevitable to reduce their vulnerabilities and they ensured their cooperation and participation in future..

10) Senior management (SMT) actively participated in all meetings. They have thoroughly reviewed the preparation prior to the meetings. SMT engaged Global Fund and National AIDS Control Program for future collaborations. It was agreed by both parties to sign a MoU, to make our interventions formal part of governments' HIV Program. This is a huge achievement for SPEAK as it might increase our chances to secure more funding in future, reaching out to more people utilizing government's platform and learning by working with experts.. MEL plan is developed and 3 field monitoring visits by SMT to Swat are conducted to assess the effectiveness and quality of interventions at ground levels. These monitoring visits helped in revising and improving field mobilizations strategies and MEL tools. SMT also conducted Hospitals Sessions and trained hospitals staff on ethical treatment of PLHIV continuous follow up by SMT. On-job staff training on project management, MEL, field mobilization, research, and capacity building was also ensured throughout the year.

TV PROGRAM TO COMMEMORATE WORLDS AIDS DAY

To Commemorate World AIDS Day 2019, SPEAK has organized 01 Television Programs for free of cost on Hum News on 2nd December) for HIV awareness and prevention. The primary aim was to aware masses on HIV/AIDS, transmission modes and prevention methods.

Program initiated with the basic information on HIV/AIDS, modes of transmission and prevention. Facts and figures regarding estimated number of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Pakistan, number of registered PLHIV, number of People on treatment has been shared by SPEAK representative. Furthermore the key groups (Injectable Drug Users, Transgender, MSM and FSW) among HIV patients have also been discussed briefly.

Special emphasis was given to migrants workers as their vulnerabilities regarding HIV/AIDS have largely been ignored in terms of their pre-departure orientation on HIV/AIDS and its prevention.

One major factor behind gaps in # of people registered and # of people on treatment is associated with stigma which leads PLHIV to not get treatment and hence hiding their HIV positive identities. Stressed was also given to educate people openly as this is a health right issue. Lastly, prevention methods were also been explained by SPEAK representative to aware masses. It is necessary to aware the people on HIV/AIDS who live in far-flung areas and governments should take immediate steps in this regard.

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/speaktrustislamabad/videos/285737435689076/?v=285737435689076>