

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24





Mr. Pasupuleti Nagaraju
Founder and President, HOPES

"We are delighted to share our annual report for 2023-24 that captures the 18th year of HOPES as an organization. It is a significant milestone as we successfully complete 2 decades of our coming together as a collective to amplify the voices of the PLHIV (People Living with HIV/AIDS) community. As a community-based organization, it has been a personal and emotional journey for us, filled with joy, pride and learnings. India has come a long way in its HIV services response since the detection of first HIV case in 1986. The collectivization of the PLHIV community through the formation of district level networks, state level networks and the national network, supported by the Government, NGOs and the international agencies, has played a significant role in creating an enabling environment for the PLHIV community throughout the country."

Founder's Message

The recent legislation 'The HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 is an important constitutional commitment, protecting our human rights and dignity legally.

The initiation of the Vihaan Care and Support Centre (CSC) Programme in 2013, supported by the Global Fund and executed by the PLHIV networks, is a national initiative aimed at providing holistic services to improving the survival rate and quality of life of the PLHIV. Since 2013, HOPES has been successfully implementing the Vihaan CSC project in Greater Hyderabad district. We have also worked on strengthening the capacity of community members by building their leadership and advocacy skills and enhancing their knowledge of legal aspects and constitutional rights. Gradually, considering the evolving needs of the community, we are now increasing our focus towards skill building and livelihood initiatives for the community and ensuring quality education of the CHLIV

In the last 2 decades, we have received immense support from the State AIDS Control Society (SACS), initially of Andhra Pradesh and later of Telangana. With support of SACS and with effective collaboration with the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit (DAPCU), other government departments, health care providers and NGOs, we have been able to ensure that the community receives health services in a stigma free environment. By building partnerships with the civil society and Govt. stakeholders, we have also been able to cater to the non-health needs of the community and their families – legal aid, social entitlements and welfare schemes, education and nutrition support and skill building and livelihood.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, stakeholders, partners, volunteers and media for their support; our accomplishments would not have been possible without their generous support and encouragement.

Organisational Overview

HOPES is a non-governmental organization working for the rights, health and socio-economic well-being of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in Greater Hyderabad district. The idea of HOPES was conceived in 2004, when a group of 10 PLHIV came together with the intent of addressing the stigma and discrimination faced by the community in Greater Hyderabad district. This was the first time in the state of Andhra Pradesh that a group of PLHIV collectivized to advocate for the rights of the community. Driven by our own experiences of having faced stigma and struggled through the challenges of living with HIV, we shared the goal of providing a better quality of life for the PLHIV community by creating a sense of belonging and togetherness.

Our first priority was advocating for better health services at the district level through sensitization of the district authorities and the health care staff. By means of mobilizing the community, we worked towards sensitizing them and demanding our right to receive Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) services in a responsive, non-discriminatory setting. After 2 years of persistently working for the rights of our community, HOPES was formally registered as a community-based organization (CBO) in 2006 under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act 35 of 2001 [Registration No. 796/2006].

In addition to health, we also focus on the socio-economic development by facilitating access to social entitlements, social welfare schemes, legal aid support, education sponsorship, nutrition support, skill building initiatives and livelihood opportunities.

Over the past 2 decades, HOPES has successfully worked towards developing an enabling environment for the PLHIV community through a collaborative approach that brought together the varied stakeholders in the district - the community, the govt. and the civil society.



World AIDS Day program at State level

HOPES is affiliated with:

- Network of Telangana People Living with HIV/AIDS (NTP)
- National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+)



World AIDS Day program, 2023

Our Vision

People Living with HIV/AIDS have equal rights and live with dignity and peace with other members of the society.

Our Mission

By means of Advocacy, Networking and Service delivery, HOPES is working to:

- Protect and promote the rights of PLHIV by facilitating and ensuring their involvement at all levels of decision making.
- Promote social acceptance of PLHIV and their families by diminishing stigma and discrimination
- Facilitate early linkages of PLHIV for treatment, care and support services.
- Provide PLHIV with more economic, social and cultural networking opportunities.
- Provide access to information and awareness, thereby reducing incidences of HIV infection.

Beneficiaries

HOPES works with all individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Greater Hyderabad district, including the high-risk groups most affected by HIV and AIDS - **LGBTQI community, injecting drug users, sex workers, migrants.**

21010 People Living with HIV/AIDS including **1435** CLHIV (Children Living with HIV/AIDS) are registered with HOPES.

Male PHLIV	9652
Female PHLIV	9830
Transgender PHLIV	93
Male CHLIV	748
Female CHLIV	687

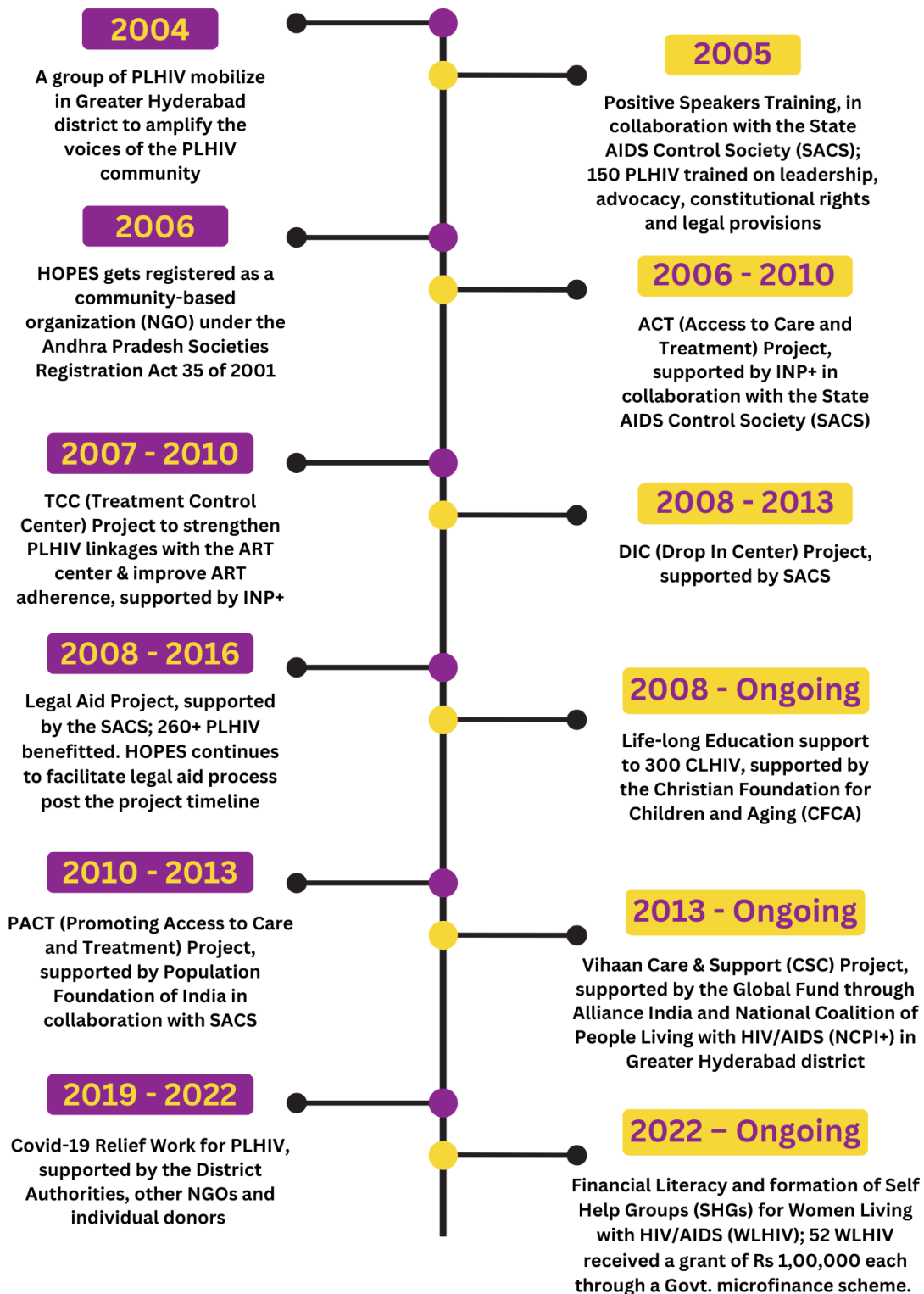


International AIDS Candlelight Memorial day

Geographical Coverage

Greater Hyderabad district of Telangana

Work Journey



Impact

2006 - 2024



21000+

PLHIV and their families are receiving timely HIV care, support and referral services, enabling them to lead a healthy and positive life.



2700+

PLHIV and their families availed social welfare and protection schemes, leading to their social and economic empowerment



300

PLHIV are receiving regular nutritional support, enabling them to lead a healthy life



300

CLHIV are receiving lifelong education support, enabling them to secure quality education



150

PLHIV received training on leadership and advocacy, thereby enabling them to effectively address and reduce incidences of stigma and discrimination



150

PLHIV received legal aid support; **162** cases received closure



12

PLHIV self-help groups (SHGs) sustained, thereby economically empowering **180** WLHIV



Advocacy with the Health Minister of Telangana

VIHAAN Care & Support Center (CSC) Project:

Awareness about and access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) treatment and other support services are crucial for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). The challenges faced by the community, particularly for the poor and the marginalized, are further exacerbated by the HIV related stigma from the family and the society and the structural and economic barriers in accessing healthcare services.

Supported by the Global Fund, Vihaan CSC is a national initiative, focused on providing expanded and holistic care and support

services to PLHIV and their families. It is a comprehensive program targeted at improving the survival and quality of life of PLHIV and reducing further transmission.

Since 2013, HOPES has been implementing the Vihaan CSC project in Greater Hyderabad district of Telangana. Vihaan CSC follows a differentiated service delivery model, adapting and prioritizing HIV services that reflect the preferences and expectations of various groups of PLHIV.

In 2023-24, Vihaan CSC of HOPES has benefited **13000+** PLHIV by:

- Early linkages to care, support & treatment services, supporting the newly-identified PLHIV to enrol into the ART program.
- Improved treatment adherence and education, helping the PLHIV to sustain and manage their treatment regimens.
- Increased early testing and expanded positive prevention activities, contributing to national efforts to prevent HIV transmission and reduce overall burden of disease.
- Improved social protection and wellbeing of PLHIV, by facilitating access to existing social welfare and protection schemes.
- Strengthened community systems and reduced stigma & discrimination, by building skills of community members to advocate for access to stigma- and discrimination-free services.

The testing of spouse/partner, children and family members of the PLHIV is also conducted and appropriate referrals are established.

PLHIV and their care givers in the family are also trained on basic infection control practices at home, management of general ailments and minor infections at home and identification of signs and symptoms of health issues requiring immediate medical care.

In addition to limited knowledge of treatment adherence, socio-economic factors such as

poverty, poor accessibility, etc. are also responsible for LFU (Loss to Follow-up) cases and poor treatment adherence. To address this, our team provides comprehensive information, address concerns and facilitates appropriate linkages for health and non-health needs of the PLHIV. The CSC staff provide information on social entitlements and welfare schemes and also facilitate access to the same. Nutrition support is regularly mobilized for the marginalized PLHIV and CLHIV.

Vihaan CSC Service Model

Counselling	Need based Individual and Group Counselling at the CSC centre ensure that PLHIV get Psychosocial Support and Information on 1. Treatment literacy 2. Treatment adherence 3. Nutrition 4. Sexual and Reproductive Health 5. Positive Living and Positive Prevention.
Outreach	By means of Prioritization and Outreach Mapping, home visits are made to ensure 1. Early linkages of PLHIV to care 2. Improved treatment adherence and retention in care 3. Periodic HIV testing of discordant couples 4. Regular screening for TB symptoms among PLHIV and family members 5. Treatment Compliance among TB positive cases 6. LFU and MIS clients are linked back to ART Centre.
Referrals & Linkages	Through Coordination and Collaboration, Linkages are established with various govt. and non-govt institutions to ensure that the health and non-health needs of the PLHIV are met 1. Social Entitlements and Welfare Schemes 2. Legal Aid 3. Treatment for General Health and Opportunistic Infections 4. Nutritional Support 6. Education Sponsorship 7. Skill building and Livelihood.
Support Group Meetings	Support group meetings held at the CSC, provide a safe space for the PLHIV to share their problems and concerns and learn from each other on how to cope. Theme based discussion, prioritized based on the needs of the group provide emotional support, enhance their knowledge about HIV/AIDS through experiential sharing and motivate them to have a positive outlook.
Advocacy	CSC strives towards creating an enabling environment for the PLHIV to receive stigma free services by repeatedly sensitizing important stakeholders about the issues and concerns of the community. A discrimination response team (DRT) has been set up to deal with issues of discrimination faced by the community. Activities at district level are organized on special occasions such as World AIDS day, World TB Day, etc. to sensitize and strengthen partnership with critical stakeholders.

HOPES Vihaan CSC Team

The Vihaan Project is being guided by the President of HOPES, Mr. P. Nagaraju, who also serves as the Director of the project. The implementation of the varied activities is through a team of a Project Coordinator, an Accountant, a Peer Counsellor and **20** Health Promoters/ Outreach Workers.



HOPES staff

Education Support

Since **2008**, HOPES is sponsoring the *life-long education* of **300 CLHIV**, with support from the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA).

Education kit and uniforms were provided to **40 CLHIV**, with support from Indian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP), Chennai.

Organization Capacity Building

HOPES is being mentored and provided with technical assistance by Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project of Family Health International 360 (FHI 360) since 2024 through LEPRASociety on organizational development and on sustaining services to the PLHIV community.

Through EpiC project, HOPES board members and staff shall self-assess their performance, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, along **9 core areas** of organizational development – **1. Organizational Strategy &**

Governance 2. Finance Management 3. Human Resources 4. Program Management 5. Program Quality 6. Client Needs & Participation 7. Monitoring & Evaluation 8. Networking, Partnerships & Knowledge Management 9. Resource Mobilization

A Capacity Development Plan (CDP), prioritized by a participatory process, shall be made in consultation with the EpiC team. The identified priority areas shall be strengthened through workshops and mentoring visits conducted by the EpiC team.



HOPES staff participates in CBO strengthening workshop, organized under EpiC project by FHI360 and Lepra Society



HOPES staff participates in Finance Management Workshop, organized under EpiC

Partnerships

- Alliance India
- National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India (NCPI+)
- Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS)
- Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSACS)
- Indian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP), Chennai

- Population Foundation of India (PFI)
- Family Planning Association of India (FPA)
- KC Pullaiah Foundation
- Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
- LEPRASociety

Glimpses Of Our Work



Nutrition distribution for PLHIV, supported by KC Pullaiah Foundation



National Youth Day celebration

Glimpses Of Our Work



Review meeting at District AIDS Prevention & Control Unit (DAPCU)



World AIDS Day program at District level



World AIDS Day program at District level

Glimpses Of Our Work



: International AIDS Candlelight Memorial day



Secretary of HOPES felicitated by his peers



HOPES staff participates in Youth Fest Red Run 10K program

Our Board

**Mr. Pasupuleti
Nagaraju**
Founder & President

Mr. Nagaraju, the Founder and the President of HIV of Positive People Efficiency Society (HOPES), is an inspiring and committed leader leading the organization since its inception in 2004. He has played a significant role in mobilizing the PLHIV community to advocate for their rights and has sensitized key stakeholders to identify with the issues of the community. Mr. Nagaraju also serves as the Treasurer of the State Level PLHIV Network - Telangana People Living with HIV/AIDS (NTP+). He has established partnerships with important stakeholders such as TNP+, NTP+, NCPI+, INP+, PFI, Alliance HIV/AIDS India, FHI-360, Lepa Society, Saathi, DAPCU, CSR, etc.

Mr. Santhoshi
Vice President

Mr. Santhoshi, the Vice President of HOPES, is a committed social worker and passionately works for the PLHIV community. He facilitates awareness programs, treatment adherence, skill building and life skill education initiatives.

Mr. Sudharshan
General Secretary

Mr. Sudharshan, the General Secretary of HOPES, has been part of the organization since its inception in 2004. Currently, he works as a Director in the Vihaan CSC project and guides the implementation of the program in the field and at the organization level. He motivates the community to lead a quality life and enables linkages with various Govt. schemes and social entitlements. Mr. Sudharshan actively mobilizes nutrition support for the community in Greater Hyderabad and has been felicitated by the District Officials for his exemplary contribution in the field of HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Janaki
Joint Secretary

Ms. Janaki a Joint Secretary of HOPES, works as a Health Promoter in the Vihaan CSC project. She has previously worked in PPTCT and DIC projects. She is also actively engaged in conducting support group meetings and mobilizing nutrition support for the community. Ms. Janaki also facilitates the process of linking the community members with the Govt. schemes.

Our Board

Ms. Triveni *Treasurer*

Ms. Triveni, the Treasurer of HOPES, has been associated with the network since its inception in 2004. She is a committed leader and an active positive speaker, creating awareness and advocating for the rights of the PLHIV community. Ms. Triveni is working as a GNM in A.R.T Center Osmania Hospital.

Mr. Laxman *Board Member*

Mr. Laxman joined the Board of HOPES in 2022. She voluntarily supports the work of the organization w.r.t prevention, treatment and skill building initiatives and motivates the PLHIV community to lead a healthy life during home visits and support group meetings.

Mr. Rajendhar *Board Member*

MR. Rajendhar, a board member of HOPES, actively works in the field to create awareness for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment adherence. He works as an outreach worker for the State AIDS Control Society and motivates the community to lead a healthy life.

HOPES

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