

REPORT

World AIDS Day '2008

FOOD BANK FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV/ AIDS

Date & Time : 30th November 2008 & 11.30 am (Sunday)

Venue : ICWO - Head Office
AP 216, 6th Street, I Block, 18th Main Road,
Vallalar Colony, Anna Nagar West, Chennai 40

HIV/AIDS SCENARIO

As per National AIDS Control Organization's (NACO) 2006 estimates, national adult HIV prevalence in India is approximately 0.36 percent, amounting to between 2 and 3.1 million people. If an average figure is taken, this comes to 2.5 million people living with HIV and AIDS; almost 50 percent of the previous estimate of 5.2 million.

In India, women account for around one million out of 2.5 million estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS *. Their heightened vulnerability has both biological and socio-economic reasons. Early marriage, violence and sexual abuse against women are the major socio-economic reasons of their vulnerability to HIV infection. Their biological construct makes them more susceptible to HIV infection in any given heterosexual encounter.

World AIDS Day 2008: LEAD-EMPOWER-DELIVER

Stop AIDS; Keep the Promise - Leadership

Since every 1st December has been observed globally as a day of action designed to raise public awareness on AIDS and to catalyze new and greater commitment against the pandemic, not just for one day, but for 365 days a year. WORLD AIDS DAY highlights up-to-date information on AIDS prevention and care. It aims to stimulate discussion and action among people not regularly confronted by AIDS and to spread messages of compassion, hope and understanding to every corner of the globe.

The theme for world AIDS day 2008 is "Leadership". This theme will continue to be promoted with campaigning slogan, "Stop AIDS; Keep the Promise".

Introduction about ICWO :- Indian Community Welfare Organization is actively involved in creating, innovative and replicatable model in the field of STD/HIV/AIDS Prevention. ICWO's previous innovative efforts were successful and appreciated through out the world.

ICWO Innovation Activities:

Talking Condom, Go for Gold Contest, Gee Boom Ba (condom memory contest), Condom Joke Contest, Secret Magic Slate, Mayamillai Manthiramillai, Operation Clean Sweep, World Largest Water Condom, Display of Huge Condom Banner, Signature Campaign,

Display of World Smallest AIDS Message, World Friendship Day for PLHA in Chennai, Foot Ball Tournament for PLHA in Chennai, Cricket Tournament for Female Sex workers in Chennai, Kitchen Queen Contest for PLHA in Chennai, World Valentines Day for PLHA in Chennai, Cricket Match between Political Leaders Vs PLHA in Chennai, Pudhiyadhor Pongal for PLHA in Chennai & Water Yoga for PLHA in Chennai.

As part of continuing innovative efforts ICWO is initiating a Food Bank for nutritional support for Women and Children living with HIV/AIDS on World AIDS Day on 30th November 2008.

FOOD BANK FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV/ AIDS

It has become clear that nutrition will have to be addressed in the treatment of HIV disease and AIDS. In the focus-group discussions that we conducted, every group interviewed listed the lack of food as the most likely cause of nonadherence to antiretroviral (ARV) drug therapy. One participant succinctly stated, "If you give us ARVs, please give us food, just food." There truly is irony, not captured in the language of treatment advocacy, in providing antiretroviral drugs to populations that lack access to safe water or food.



The possibility that a relatively inexpensive intervention such as multivitamin supplementation could reduce the risk of or delay HIV-associated disease and death raises the question of how other basic interventions need to be integrated into our nascent HIV and AIDS treatment programs. PLHAs health needs extend beyond the treatment of HIV disease and AIDS; HIV-infected persons are at great risk from other threats, as well. For example, programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV will not fulfill their potential if ineffective maternal and child health services fail to prevent the many competing causes of death in women and children.

Innovative schemes will have to be developed to address the need for food supplementation within HIV and AIDS treatment programs. In addition to antiretroviral drugs, nutrition food could also be advised or "prescribed" by health care providers for HIV-infected patients and their families says **Mr. A.J. Hariharan, Founder Secretary, ICWO.**

HIV-positive people need to pay special attention to their nutritional status. Early intervention and attention to nutrition needs can have long-term benefits. To stay healthy,

nutritional intervention and education must start at the time of HIV-positive diagnosis. Nutrition consults must occur on a regular time schedule. Comprehensive nutritional services that include nutrition education and nutrition counseling are a vital part of the health care treatment plan.

Supported by:

ICWO has initiated a Food Bank for nutritional support for Women & Children Living with HIV/AIDS. ICWO is mobilizing support from the Corporate and philanthropists.

The generous support received from the Corporate and philanthropists will be used to purchase food grains for women & children living with HIV/AIDS. Every month the women and children would be support food grains.

The food bank is Inaugurated by **Mr. Andrew T. Simkin, Consul General, United States of America, Chennai** and **Dr. Bimal Charles, Project Director, AIDS Prevention and Control Project**

The inauguration of the food bank is supported by CHENNAI CORPORATION AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL SOCIETY (CAPACS) and Lions Clubs International, 324A5.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

A.J.Hariharan

Founder Secretary

Indian Community Welfare Organisation - I.C.W.O.

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