

Minutes of State Steering Committee Meeting

1st meeting of the State Steering Committee on Programmatic Mapping and Population Size Estimation (p-MPSE) of clients of sex workers was held on 25th October '23 at the Committee room, Punjab State AIDS Control Society, Chandigarh. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Adapa Karthik, IAS, Special Secretary Health cum Project Director, Punjab State AIDS Control Society, and attended by officials of Punjab SACS, representative of Dept. of Social Justice Empowerment and Minorities, Regional Institute PGIMER, community and NGO representatives. The list of participants is given in Annexure -II

The meeting started with the welcome of the Chair and committee members followed by a round of introduction of participants. Dr. Meenu, Joint Director-TI, PSACS informed the committee members about the purpose of the meeting. She highlighted that the p-MPSE among clients of sex workers is being conducted on a pilot basis in selected districts of 7 states including Punjab to estimate the size of clients of sex workers and also to document the challenges in p-MPSE implementation. A detailed presentation was made on outlining the rationale and purpose of p-MPSE, implementation process, role of various stakeholders, data collection mechanism, and monitoring & supportive supervision mechanism to ensure the quality of data. Dr. Meenu emphasized the role of the community in the entire process including importance of district level Community Advisory Board (CAB) in planning and oversight of p-MPSE process and also to address adverse events reported, if any. She further emphasized on the monitoring mechanism i.e. spot check at TI and SACS/DAPCU level and back check at DAPCU level to ensure the quality of data collection process. It was informed that 4 days training from 21st to 24th November 23 on p-MPSE among clients of sex workers will be conducted for the staff of TIs working in Ludhiana. The training will be facilitated by the representatives from NACO and Regional Institute for p-MPSE i.e. PGIMER.

Mr. Manish, Technical Expert indicated that the p-MPSE of clients of sex workers will leverage on the existing program data collected through the previous round of p-MPSE and will be implemented on approximately 246 hotspots of Ludhiana. New hot spots identified in the process will be added as part of the process. Similarly, 19 Network Operators identified through p-MPSE will be covered under the pilot.

Dr. Adapa Karthik indicated that the survey is of a sensitive nature. He asked the participants to share their thoughts about potential challenges in project implementation. Community members indicated that interaction with the clients of sex workers will be a challenge as they may not be comfortable giving information due to privacy reasons. Dr. Karthik discussed the concept of "safe space" to create an environment where the clients of sex workers can feel secure and open up to share information. It's a way to make the participants feel more comfortable and willing to participate in the survey. He further suggested digitizing the questionnaire to streamline the data collection process for field staff and reduce the likelihood of errors during data entry.

Mx. Mohini Mahant raised a concern about whether the survey would include clients of sex workers operating on virtual platforms. The response clarified that the survey will focus exclusively on physical hotspots and will not cover the virtual population, as a separate national-level survey is planned for that group.

Dr. Sunita asked JD-TI to explore the possibility of leveraging the proposed survey to collect additional data to strengthen the program further.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure I

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Organisation
1.	Dr. Adapa Karthik	Project Director PSACS
2.	Dr. Bobby Gulati	Additional Project Director, PSACS
3.	Mr. Sarabjinder Singh	Joint Director, Dept. of Social Justice Empowerment and Minorities, Punjab
4.	Dr. Sunita Devi	Joint Director -BTS & LS
5.	Dr. Meenu	Joint Director -Prevention
6.	Dr. Harpreet Kaur	Joint Director-CST
7.	Ms. Pawan Rekha	Joint Director- IEC
8.	Ms. Manu Lalia	Deputy Director-TI
9.	Dr. Amrinder Paul Singh	Deputy Director-Surveillance
10.	Mr. Maneet Sharma	Assistant Director-TI
11.	Mr. Manish Kumar	Technical Expert
12.	Mr. Sadrach Raittan	Junior Consultant, PGIMER, Chandigarh
13.	Ms. Nidhi Sharma	Project Manager, NGO-FPAI Mohali
14.	Mr. Munish Rana	Project Manager, NGO Samarth, Mohali
15.	Mx. Mohini Mahant	Project Director, Mansa Foundation, Ludhiana
16.	Ms. Sandeep Kaur	Community representative, FPAI Mohali
17.	Mx. Madan Lal Swami	Community representative, Mansa Foundation Mohali
18.	Mr. Rahul Kumar	Community representative, NGO Samarth, Mohali
19.	Mr. Dharaminder Kumar	Community representative, NGO- FPAI Mohali