

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
signed on 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014

Between

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Government of India

&

Department of AIDS Control

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Government of India



## INTRODUCTION

India has one of the largest numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Given the prevalence rate of 0.27 percent, 21 lakh people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country. HIV is driven by a number of socio-economic factors; therefore, health interventions alone are not sufficient to address causes and consequences of the epidemic. It requires a multi-sectoral response. Mainstreaming approaches to HIV have increasingly gained ground with the realization that the non-health sector can play an important and meaningful role in reducing vulnerability to HIV and mitigating its impact on those infected and affected.

Department of AIDS Control (DAC) and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) are thereafter referred to together as "the parties"

### Article 1

#### 1. DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL

- 1.1 Department of AIDS Control is nodal agency for coordinating response with respect to Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in India. Department of AIDS Control has initiated several measures towards mainstreaming and partnership with various Ministries.
- 1.2 The National AIDS Control Programme is implemented through 38 State AIDS Control Societies (SACS)/Municipal AIDS Control Societies (MACS). NACP places importance for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS by a) enhancing coverage and reach by information on STI/HIV prevention and services b) Integration of STI/HIV related services through existing health infrastructure available in Ministries/Departments and PSUs c) Facilitating schemes for Social protection of people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

### Article 2

#### 2. MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (MoRT&H)

- 2.1 Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was formed in 2009 by bifurcating the erstwhile Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways into two independent Ministries. Road Transport is a critical infrastructure for economic development of a country. It influences the pace, structure and pattern of development. In India, Road infrastructure is used to transport over 60% of total goods and 85% of total passenger traffic. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways encompasses within its fold Road Transport and Highways which includes construction and maintenance of National Highways (NH), administration of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, formulation of broad policies relating to road transport, environmental issues, automotive norms, fixation of user fee rate for use of National

Highways etc. besides making arrangements for movements of vehicular traffic with neighbouring countries. Comprehensive policy package is necessary to address the diverse issues facing the transport sector. The capacity of national Highways in term of handling traffic (passenger and cargo) needs to be in keeping pace with the growing requirements of industrial development. India, having one of the largest road networks of 46.90 lakh km, consists of National Highways, Expressways, State Highways, Major District Roads, Other District Roads and Village Roads. Historically investments in the transport sector have been made by the State mainly because of large resource requirement, long gestation period, uncertain returns and a number of externalities associated with the infrastructure sector. However, the growing resources requirements and the concern for managerial efficiency and consumer responsiveness have led to active involvement of the private sector in infrastructure services in recent times. To encourage private sector participation, Ministry has laid down comprehensive policy guidelines for private sector participation in the development of National Highways.

### Article 3

#### 3. RATIONALE FOR MAINSTREAMING HIV

- 3.1 Transport can be considered as a social vector in the transmission of the disease similarly to other high risk behaviours such as injecting drug use and commercial sex which fuel the epidemic. Transport sector workers are more vulnerable to acquire the HIV infection since they spend large amounts of time away from their families and may have multiple sexual partners. The recent HSS has revealed emerging pockets of infection among bridge population. Besides high risk migrants, long distance truckers also show high levels of vulnerability and form an important part of the bridge population. Since these groups serve as conduits of infection from HRGs to general population, they play a significant role in the transmission of infection from high prevalent areas to hitherto low infection areas.
- 3.2 At the national level, the surveillance of HIV among different risk groups in 2010-11 indicates that the rate of prevalence among truckers is 2.59%. This is nearly ten times higher than the national prevalence among adult population in India (0.27%).
- 3.3 The lack of awareness, transitory work situations, limited access to services and inadequate mechanism to address the challenge heighten the vulnerability of transport workers to HIV/AIDS. Because of this bi-directional relationship, MoRT&H can contribute significantly towards checking the spread of HIV and mitigate the impact of the epidemic by helping prevention through education and peer support, offer care, support & treatment.

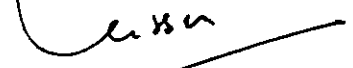
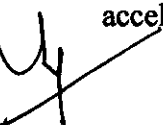


## Article 4

### 4. SCOPE FOR MAINSTREAMING

- 4.1 MoRT&H can prove to be important partner to National AIDS Control Programme in providing HIV preventive services designed to reduce the prevalence of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among truck drivers and their sexual partners, including strategic behavioural communication, health education programs, counselling and testing, and service delivery and referral and impact mitigation through travel support and employment.
- 4.2 Spreading Awareness about prevention of HIV; Road transport is critical infrastructure for economic development as well as social integration of a country. National and state highways form the economic backbone of the country and have often facilitated development along their routes, and many new towns have sprung up along major highways. In India, Road infrastructure is used to transport over 60% of total goods and 85% of total passenger traffic. India, having one of the largest road networks of 46.90 lakh kms, consists of national highways, expressways, state highways, major districts roads and other district roads and village roads. Road Transport becomes the most important means for spreading awareness for prevention of HIV through facilitating the display of bill boards, hoardings etc around the bus stops, toll plaza, halting points, etc.
- 4.3 Promoting behaviour change communication: Highways have large numbers of small restaurants and inns (known as *dhabas*) along their length which serve as truck halting points and provide food & rest. These halting points also serve as spaces for unsafe sexual activities. These places can be strategically used for promoting behaviour change communication and safe sexual behaviour. The toll plazas and toll tickets can have HIV messages. Motels established along National Highways may have awareness messages and condom promotion.
- 4.4 Health education and training –MoRT&H can integrate information about prevention of HIV in the training of drivers. Session on HIV/AIDS may include in the safety trainings conducted by IDTR as well as health education materials and test for driving license.
- 4.5 STUs may be requested to provide free passes for PLHIV which will contribute towards mitigation of impact of HIV and providing social protection.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing rationale and scope, the Department of AIDS Control and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways mutually agree to cooperate & collaborate with the overall goal of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS for accelerating the reversal and mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS.



## **Article 5**

### **5 Objectives of MOU**

- 5.1 Reaching out to the large number of drivers with information on HIV through integration in human resource training through IDTR.
- 5.2 Reaching large number of transport and highway builder workers with Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and HIV through counselling.
- 5.3 Provision of social protection to people living with HIV
- 5.4 Adoption of National Policy on HIV/AIDS and World of Work in Ministry and all autonomous bodies under the Ministry.

## **Article 6**

### **6 Key deliverable**

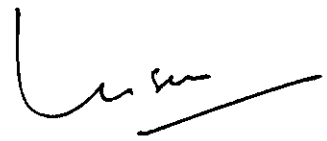
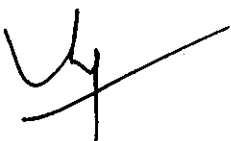
- 6.1 Ministry will advise all stake holders to display IEC materials on prevention of HIV through sign boards panel, scrolls, hoarding etc at various locations on Highways for awareness building of passengers including migrants.
- 6.2 Ministry will extend support, without financial commitment for smooth and effective implementation of trucker's interventions through NGOs supported by SACS at truckers halt points identified by SACS.
- 6.3 Ministry will appoint nodal officer in all autonomous bodies under the control of Ministry for technical guidance and coordination on HIV/AIDS activities.
- 6.4 Ministry and all autonomous bodies under its administrative control will share the information with Department of AIDS Control.

## **Article 7**

### **7. ROLE OF MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (MoRT&H)**

#### **7.1 Directives**

- Issue advisory to all its stake holders to integrate STI/HIV/AIDS in the Human Resources Trainings.



- Deputation of a nodal officer for HIV activities from MoRT&H for coordination with Department of AIDS Control. Issue advisory to the state road transport undertakings for doing the same.

#### 7.2 Awareness generation for prevention of HIV

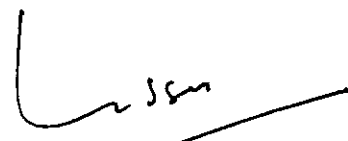
- Issue advisory to the Concessionaries through NHAI to promote information and awareness about prevention of HIV through hoardings, bill boards and other material displayed at toll plazas and truckers halt points.
- Issue advisory to the Concessionaries through NHAI to promote HIV/AIDS information and awareness messages in the toll tickets, toll gates and motel established along national highways.
- Issue advisory to the Concessionaries through NHAI to promote safe sexual behaviour through targeted interventions for truckers through NGOs at truckers halt points.

#### 7.3 Information, Education & Communication

- Issue advisory to the Concessionaries through NHAI to promote awareness generation through health camps and display of IEC materials like panels, hoardings etc. in the strategic locations.
- Issue advisory to the Concessionaries through NHAI to inclusion of HIV prevention and risk reduction for migrant's population and work sites through communication & mid media activities and inclusion of information on SIT/HIV prevention & services in all printed materials for dissemination.
- Observation of World AIDS Day, Voluntary Blood Donation Day and Voluntary Blood Donors Day.

#### 7.4 Capacity Building

- Issue advisory to the State Transport Undertakings & the Concessionaries through NHAI for inclusion of HIV/ AIDS in the Human Resource Training systems for creating awareness about prevention and ensuring non stigmatizing environment for PLHIV.
- Ensure information on STI/HIV prevention and services through capacity building.



## 7.5 Reducing stigma and discrimination

- Issue advisory to the State Transport Undertakings and Concessionaries through NHAI to inclusion of STI/HIV specific initiatives/projects under their health/medical care through the welfare fund/CSR.

## 7.6 Sharing of information

- Reflection of activities on HIV/AIDS carried out by the MoRT&H in Annual report and Ministry's website.
- Provision of sharing of web link of DAC in the website of MoRT&H,

### Article 8

## 8. ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL

- 8.1 Provide technical support for implementation of awareness generation activities and mid media at bus stations, bus depots, bus stops etc
- 8.2 Provide prototype of necessary communication material to MoRT&H, autonomous bodies and State Road Transport Undertakings which can be replicated for dissemination.
- 8.3 Providing technical support / training material for inclusion of HIV/AIDS in the human resource training systems.
- 8.4 Representation of DAC/SACS officials in the meetings at MoRT&H and autonomous bodies.
- 8.5 Provide technical support of implementation of IEC and awareness activities in transport sector.
- 8.7 Sharing reporting formats and monitoring mechanism.
- 8.8 Provision of sharing of web link of MoRT&H in the website of DAC.

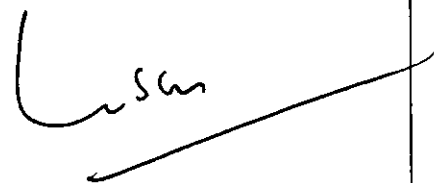
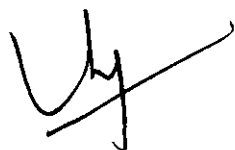
### Article 9

## 9. IMPLEMENTATION OF MOU

- 9.1 Parties will setup a joint working group for drawing up an action plan for implementing MoU.

## List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Department of AIDS Control
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRG	High Risk Group
HSS	HIV Sentinel Surveillance
ICTCs	Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres
IDTR	Institute of Driving Training & Research
IEC	Information Education & Communication
MACS	Municipal AIDS Control Societies
MARPs	Most at-risk Populations
MoHFW	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
MoRTH	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHAI	National Highway Authority of India
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking
RTO	Road Transport Officer
SACS	State AIDS Control Societies
SRTC	State Road Transport Corporation
STU	State Transport Undertaking
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
ToT	Training of Trainers

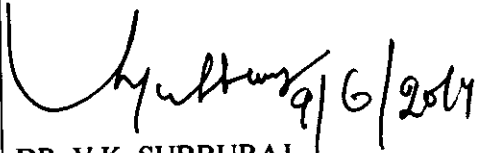




- 9.2 Parties would decide the modalities for execution of the proposal contained in the MoU based on the recommendations of the joint working group.
- 9.3 Parties agree to collaborate and work closely for fulfilment of objectives set in the MOU.
- 9.4 Both the parties would consult each other and review the progress for implementing objectives of this MOU on quarterly basis
- 9.5 This MOU will be operative with effect from 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 and any alteration / modifications can be carried out with the consent of both parties.

The parties herein have appended their respective signatures the day and the year above stated.

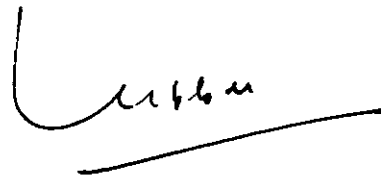
SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL,  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY  
WELFARE



9/6/2014

DR. V.K. SUBBURAJ,  
SECRETARY,  
DEPARTMENT OF AIDS CONTROL,  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY  
WELFARE,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT &  
HIGHWAYS



SHRI VIJAY CHHIBBER,  
SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT &  
HIGHWAYS,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA