



AIDS Accountability
International

INDIA

COUNTRY PROFILES

AIDS Accountability Country Profiles are initially provided for a selection of 17 countries in order to give further commentary on their performance according to the AIDS Accountability Country Scorecard and the context in which the response takes place. For further details about the data or the methodology, please see our website www.aidsaccountability.org

AIDS Accountability International (AAI) was established to increase accountability and inspire bolder leadership in the response to the AIDS epidemic. We do this by rating and comparing the degree to which public, private and civil society actors are fulfilling the formal agreements they have made to respond to the epidemic.

Facts India

Region: Asia

Population: 1.1 billion

HIV prevalence: 0.3% 15-49 years (UNAIDS)

Gross National Income: US\$ 820 per capita (2006)

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Country Profile: India

Introduction

India is the home of approximately 2.5 million people living with HIV and has a population of 114.8 million in total. The epidemic in India has a diverse spread across the country but is particularly focused in the South and North East. Transmission is reported to be largely heterosexual in the South and occurring particularly among injecting drug users (IDUs) and sex workers in the North East. Recently, estimates of the number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in India were reduced markedly from 5m to 2.4m based on the results of household surveys. Adult HIV prevalence is reported to be 0.3% with higher rates of 4-7% among men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers and IDUs.

What the scorecard reveals

India receives varied scores in the scorecard, which is partly a result of limited UNGASS reporting. The moderate score C for element 1 is only to a small degree due to lack of data. Availability of essential surveillance data has improved slightly from 2006 (D) to 2008 (C) reflecting greater availability of prevalence data for IDUs and MSM, and knowledge and behavioural data for the general population and sex workers.

For element 2, none of the indicators on funding allocated to prevention programmes for most-at-risk populations were provided, hence no score. These findings are of particular concern given the ways in which transmission is occurring in India.

Although there has been a modest increase in anti-retroviral therapy (ART) coverage in India from 3% in 2004 to 10% in 2006, overall coverage remains poor (E). The score on element 3 is based on data from 2006.

Although India reports that coverage of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programmes rose from 4-7% in 2004 to 10-24% in 2007, it is of concern that the country did not report coverage levels for prevention programs among most-at-risk populations such as sex workers, IDUs and MSM. Coverage of PMTCT is only an indicator used in countries in sub-Saharan Africa, hence India did not receive a score on this element.

India's overall coordination environment is reported to be very good (A) with high scores (A) reported for all elements of the Three Ones.

India's score for the operating environment for civil society is good (B). Unsurprisingly, the score given by government for this (A) is higher than that given by civil society itself (C). Nevertheless, civil society reported that efforts to increase civil society participation had improved from 2005 (2/10) to 2007 (5/10).

India scores modestly on the human rights mainstreaming element of the scorecard (C), which captures the degree to which human rights have been mainstreamed into the AIDS response. The score is based on reporting to the UNGASS National Composite Policy Index (NCPI). Limitations include the absence of laws and regulations to protect most-at-risk populations and the presence of laws which are considered to present obstacles to providing programs for such populations.

India's Score

Elements	2006	2008
1: Data Collection	D	C
2: Focus on most-at-risk populations		No data
3: Treatment	E	E
4: Prevention	C	No data
5: Coordination		A
6: Civil Society		B
7: Financing		No data
8: Human Rights Mainstreaming		C

Explanation of scores: A= 81-100%, B= 61-80%, C=41-60%, D=21-40%, E=0-20%

Reporting –How can India improve?

India scored a C on the **AIDS Reporting Index**, which reflects a moderate reporting on the elements in the scorecard with room for improvements. The score for element 1 could be improved significantly by adding data sex workers, MSM and IDUs particularly for knowledge and condom use. Similarly, no data was reported on element 3, including total funds spent on prevention programmes and funds spent on most-at-risk populations.

The latest data on coverage of ART was submitted in 2006. Therefore, any possible improvement by India is not mirrored in the score due to insufficient reporting. For element 4, coverage of prevention programmes for most-at-risk populations must be submitted to get a score. No data was submitted on funding, how much was domestic funds and percentage of total funds spent on prevention.

For elements 5, 6 and 8 the reporting was next to complete.

Element	Reported indicators	Total indicators	% reporting
1	12	15	80%
2	0	3	0%
3	1	1	100%
4	0	3	0%
5	63	64	98%
6	31	32	97%
7	0	3	0%
8	39	40	98%

Visit our website to make your own scorecard, access more information about the scorecard including indicators on country level and to give your feedback to us. Make your voice heard at www.aidsaccountability.org