

Building the Capacity of People Living with HIV and Sexual Minorities in Orissa and West Bengal to Advance their Health and Rights

A SAATHII project in partnership with Interact Worldwide, London and funded by the Department for International Development – Civil Society Challenge Fund, Glasgow

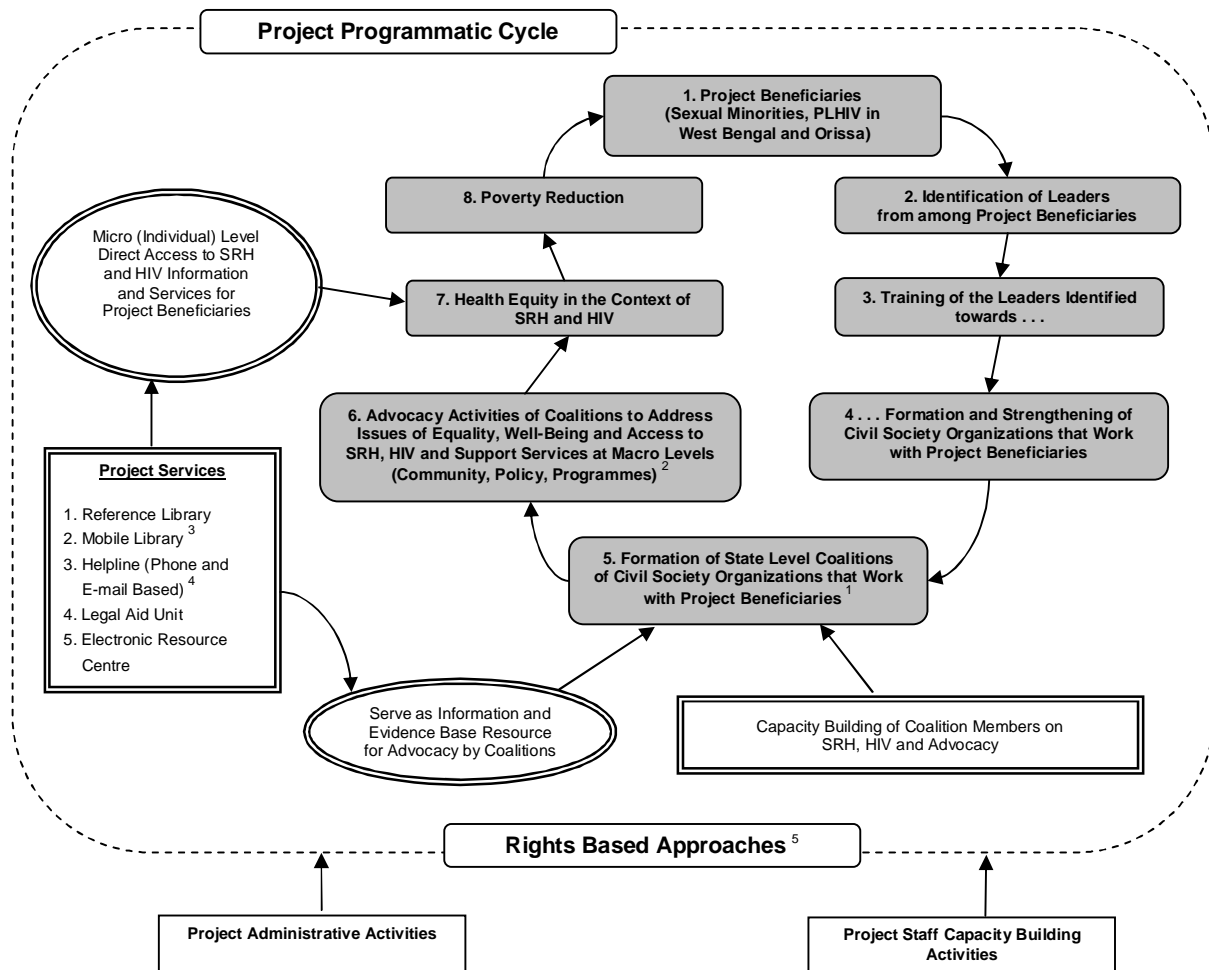
PROJECT COMPONENTS ORGANOGRAM

Project Goal (Vision): To contribute to poverty reduction through improved sexual and reproductive health (SRH) equity for sexual minorities and people living with HIV (PLHIV), in line with the Government of India's National AIDS Control Programme – Phase III (2007-2011), National Rural Health Mission, and Reproductive and Child Health Programme – Phase II (2004-2009).

Project Purpose (Mission): Empowerment of sexual minorities and PLHIV in Orissa and West Bengal to know, promote and exact their rights as enshrined in the Indian Constitution, and improve health equity, particularly with regards to SRH, including HIV/AIDS.

Operative Mission Statement: Facilitating collective action (coalitions) among sexual minorities and PLHIV in Orissa and West Bengal to fight stigma and discrimination, and ensure equality and well-being for themselves in the spheres of SRH, HIV and associated health and development issues – as promised by the Indian Constitution, and government and non-government programmes. *Note: This statement has been articulated further by the coalitions envisaged.*

Figure 1: A graphic representation of the project structure



Notes:

1 The coalitions will eventually be fully owned and managed by the communities concerned in the post-project period (though transfer of ownership and management will begin within the project period).

2 Operational definition of **advocacy** for this project: Advocacy or “influencing the influencers” in general can be explained as follows: “Advocacy is the pursuit of influencing outcomes – by bringing about changes in attitudes, behaviours, policies and resource allocation decisions within political, economic and social systems and institutions that directly affect people’s lives (based on the World Health Organization definition)”.

In the context of this project, advocacy means:

- a) To sensitize a range of stakeholders in order to increase understanding of the health and development needs of sexual minorities and PLHIV, and
- b) To ensure that the understanding is translated into progressive action to reduce stigma and discrimination against sexual minorities and PLHIV, and protect their rights to life and health

The broad advocacy activity sequence envisaged is:

- a) Stakeholder and policy analysis and research
- b) Documentation for evidence base
- c) Development of advocacy strategy, messages and material [based on (a) and (b), meant for (d) and (e)]
- d) Segmented advocacy campaigns
- e) Other (non-campaign) advocacy activities

3 Mobile library service – This service will function as an extension of the reference library service. Through an infotainment approach, it will facilitate wider dissemination of information on SRH and HIV, particularly among project beneficiaries who have limited educational levels, do not have easy access to the reference library or live in media dark areas of West Bengal and Orissa. In each mobile library outing, material like audio-visual aids, flip charts, games, books and magazines will be transported (usually in a hired vehicle) from the SAATHII offices in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar to the premises or specific sites in the working areas of coalition member agencies and shared with their beneficiaries. This will involve interaction with the beneficiaries, wherein the project staff will encourage dialogue on issues of concern around SRH and HIV. The dialogue will also provide opportunities to capture anecdotal evidence that can inform advocacy efforts of the coalitions.

4 Helpline service – The main function of this service will be information provision on SRH and HIV, and referrals to SRH, HIV and associated support services. Counselling will not be the mainstay of the service, though if needed, some element of emotional or psycho-social support will be provided to the helpline clients.

5 Rights based approaches – The project will attempt a comprehensive rights based approach that involves the following simultaneous emphases:

- a) Generating awareness among the project beneficiaries about their rights or entitlements
- b) Encouraging consciousness that these rights should not be denied or suppressed by anyone
- c) A sense that individuals and communities have a responsibility to try and realize their rights on their own steam and not expect someone else to grant them those rights based on a plea or demand
- d) A recognition that their rights are not unlimited, do not exist in isolation, and should not take away from anyone else’s rights