

CHALLENGE FACILITY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Empowering Transgender Communities to reduce TB-related Morbidity and Mortality



LOCATION Chennai and neighboring districts of Tamil Nadu



TARGET POPULATION(S) Transwomen (known locally as *thirunangais* and *kothis*).



IMPLEMENTERS AND PARTNERS
Community-based group Sahodaran

Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India (SAATHII)

India



ABOUT THE PROJECT

PROBLEM STATEMENT — While the vulnerability of transgender (specifically, trans feminine) communities is recognized by the national TB program, involvement of trans communities in the TB response has been limited to date. There is a need to address both community-side barriers (TB-related health literacy, screening, linkages, advocacy as TB champions) and provider-side barriers (transphobia-free TB and related health services, disaggregated data collection and reporting).

AIM — Demonstrate a scalable model of transgender-responsive TB programming through strengthened community capacity for TB-related health literacy and advocacy, enhanced stigma-free access to diagnosis, treatment and care-continuum services, and improved collection and use of (trans) gender-disaggregated data to inform India's TB elimination program.

OBJECTIVES — Strengthen transgender community involvement in TB response, increase access to TB screening, diagnosis and treatment completion across public and private health sectors, and ensure collection and use of (trans)gender-disaggregated data in the national TB program.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS



CONTRIBUTION TO REACHING KEY UN HLM TARGETS BY 2022. The proposed intervention will contribute to the UNHLM 2022 target of transforming the TB response to be equitable, rights-based and people-centred, by focusing on the transgender communities that – in addition to being vulnerable to TB – are already deeply stigmatised and face barriers in accessing equitable health care. The intervention will honour the key commitments to paragraphs 14, 17, 18 and 33 of the Political Declaration resulting from the UNHLM on TB.



ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE TB STRATEGIC PLAN. The intervention goals are aligned with India's National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2017–25 which mentions the vulnerability of transgender communities due to Increased exposure to TB, limited access to quality TB services, and gender inequality; and highlights the need for their inclusion. It is also expected to add transgender-specific perspectives needed to fully operationalize the country's Gender Responsive Framework.

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ROUND 9 GRANTEE PROFILE



ABOUT SAATHII

SAATHII is a non-profit Charitable Trust, headquartered in Chennai, India, with operations across the country. Since 2002, it has been advocating for universal access to health, justice and social protection for socio-economically marginalized communities, and working to strengthening community involvement in programming and advocacy. Key initiatives include technical support to the Government of India for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, HIV-TB interventions among incarcerated populations, LGBTIQ+ inclusion in medical education, practice and vertical disease programs (HIV, TB, non-communicable diseases), mHealth to enhance client engagement and assess client satisfaction, and involving private sector in pediatric TB response.