

LINKAGES

The Humsafar Trust (HST), an LGBTQ+ Community Based Organization (CBO) based in Mumbai, was selected through a competitive process as a lead agency for LINKAGES India funded by FHI 360 and USAID / PEPFAR for Mumbai and Pune districts of Maharashtra to achieve the PEPFAR 90-90-90 targets by 2020.

LINKAGES in India aims to accelerate the ability of Government and KP organizations to collaboratively plan, deliver and optimize services that reduce HIV transmission among KPs and extend life for those who are HIV positive.

The Humsafar Trust will provide technical assistance (TA) to 21 TI CBOs working with 18,600 MSM, TG and PWIDs. These include 16 TIs in Mumbai providing services to 11,200 MSM, 4,400 TGs and 1,400 PWIDs, while in Pune five TIs provide services to 1,400 MSM and TGs and 200 PWIDs. Of the five TIs in Pune, one is a core composite TI working with both MSM and TGs. HST will work closely with FHI 360 LINKAGES team and the local stakeholders including Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS), Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS), TSU and the district authorities to help achieve the project goals

The objective of LINKAGES is to increase the coverage and quality of HIV cascade services for MSM, TG and PWID in Mumbai and Pune districts of Maharashtra, India. The HST will focus on capacity building and system strengthening of TI NGOs to promote the HIV cascade of reach, test, treat and retain services for KPs as detailed below:

Provide HIV prevention services including condoms / harm reduction to unreached KPs, focusing on those at higher risk such as young and new KPs · Encourage HIV testing among new KPs (first-time testers) and repeated testing for HIV negative individuals · Improve linkages to care, support, and treatment services for KPs tested HIV positive