

## TESTIMONIALS

"ARC has supported my daughter to continue her education when I did not have any money to pay for her tuition during the Covid times. My daughter has completed 12 grade now, and has started working in a bank in a supporting role. Covid times were tough, and ARC helped us by providing dry ration and other supplies..."

- Ms. Varsha, Age 45 yrs, Beneficiary

"ARC has started tailoring classes for us to learn dress making. Among eight, three of us used to work in a service bar with no steady income. I have left the service bar work and started earning from the tailoring work ..."

- Ms. Pratiksha, Age 35 yrs, Beneficiary

## SUPPORT REQUIRED

Action Research Centre is seeking partnerships for livelihood promotion and entrepreneurship development among women from low-income households and those affected by HIV/AIDS. ARC is also seeking support for life skills education, health and nutrition among adolescents and young people, especially girls.

You can be a part of ARC's endeavor by volunteering your time and making donations. Share your resources, talent and time and get involved in making a difference to the lives of the underprivileged. You can contribute through checks/drafts or online transfer payable to Action Research Centre. Your donations are exempted from tax under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961.

## LEGAL STATUS

Trust Registration No.: E/3381	12A registration No.: AABTA5935DE20214
PAN No. : AABTA5935D	80G registration No.: AABTA5935DF20214
CSR-1 registration No.: CSR00015978	FCRA registration No.: 083990170

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ABOUT US

Action Research Centre is a non-profit organization registered under The Bombay Trust Act, 1950 in March 2004. ARC has been working relentlessly since the last 18 years for the social and economic empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable population groups including women, young people, children and migrants. ARC is focused on integration of research (i.e. need assessment and impact evaluations) with implementation for adaptive management of the programs. ARC is fully compliant with 12A, 80G, FCRA and CSR-1 registrations.

## VISION

To promote evidence-based programming through rigorous monitoring and evaluation of programs for greater impact.

## MISSION

ARC adopts a broad-based, action oriented and participatory approach to program implementation and research on varied thematic areas including

- HIV/AIDS Prevention & Care
- Health
- Education
- Migration
- Livelihood
- Nutrition

## APPROACH



Greater community participation



Peer led interventions



Gender equity and equality



Evidence based programming for impact



Action research approach to programming



Measuring impact through Social return on investment (SROI)

## PROGRAMS

- ▶ HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Key Population in collaboration with Avert Society Mumbai/ USAID (2007-2010), Public Health Foundation of India (2010-2014) and Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) (2014- ongoing)

More than 4,000 Female Sex Workers (FSWs) in Thane have benefitted from HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and referral services. Behavior change communication, counseling, condom promotion, HIV and STI screening and treatment, ART adherence and encouraging all the vulnerable and at-risk women and men to test for HIV are the key strategies used.

ARC provides counseling and testing services at two drop-in-centres (Thane and Mumbra) and through a mobile clinic. Additionally, ARC also facilitates their access to social entitlements and welfare schemes by facilitating access to Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter ID card, ration card and opening of bank accounts.

More than 57 FSWS living with HIV were provided with HIV prevention, treatment and referral services.



## ▶ HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Migrants in collaboration with Care India and Big Lottery (UK) (2010-2014)



ARC was able to reach out to more than 60,000 migrants (Nepali and Bangla speaking) in Mumbai with prevention and care services. It has been the first of its kind of intervention where services were provided both at the source and destination places of migrants. The project innovated different service delivery mechanisms, including mobile drop-in-centre and large-scale community level infotainment program for greater participation of the migrant community.

More than 500 men living with HIV/AIDS were provided with HIV prevention, treatment and referral services.

## ▶ Life skills education and health (Since 2004)

Family centered approach is used to address the needs of children and their caregivers. The program leverages on the existing resources within government, communities and private sector to enhance support to the beneficiaries. The intervention is focused on economic stability, food security, health and nutrition, school attendance and academic achievement, and other psychosocial support. Special attention is given to vulnerable and at-risk adolescent children, especially girls. The program is working towards reducing the risk of physical, emotional and psychological injury to children due to exposure to violence at home or in the community.



The program has benefitted more than 600 adolescent and young people in the community.

## ▶ Entrepreneurship development (Since 2004)

ARC has been training women to acquire skills and become entrepreneurs for sustainable livelihood. The objective of the program has been to develop self-reliant women. More than 140 women in Thane sub-urban area have been trained on different income generation activities including embroidery, dressmaking, tie-and-dye, and making cloth-bags and files, and tailoring. The focus is not only on providing vocational skills, but also equipping them with business skills to run a small enterprise independently.

## RESEARCH

In partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), ARC is currently developing comprehensive and integrated training modules on Strategic Information for use by the national and state level M&E officers working with the National AIDS Control Program (NACP). These training modules are focused on the basics of HIV/AIDS, fundamentals of M&E, research, surveillance and estimation of key population, data management and use.

With support from WHO, ARC conducted a community listening exercise among key population such as sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSMs) and transgender community to assess the nature and extent of use of internet based digital technology to access their sexual partners.

ARC evaluated a girl child project of the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI), which was focused on prevention of female feticide in seven northern states of India.

In collaboration with the Population Council and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), ARC conducted research among MSMs and transgender population to assess their willingness to participate in HIV prevention program and vaccine development.

With support from Avert Society/USAID, ARC and Maharashtra Network of HIV Positive People conducted a study to know the extent of HIV related stigma and discrimination at the levels of individual, family, community and institution.

## Work during COVID 19 Pandemic

- Distributed 1,250 dry ration kits to FSWs by mobilizing local resources
- 36 FSWs living with HIV were regularly given nutrition during Covid 19
- 360 adolescent girls in the age group of 15-18 years were given sanitary pads



## IMPACT

- More than 4000 Female Sex workers (FSWs) and over 150 partners and spouses of FSWs have received timely HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention and Care Services, leading to reduction in high-risk behavior
- More than 97 FSWs and 500 men living with HIV/AIDS were provided with Anti-Retro Viral Treatment (ART) and counselling services, enabling them to lead a healthy life
- Trained more than 140 women from marginalized communities in various income generating activities, enabling them to become financially independent
- 600 adolescent and young people have received life skills training, thus enabling them to protect themselves from physical, mental and emotional abuse and excel in life academically and professionally
- Facilitated access of ration cards for 251 FSWs, opening of bank accounts for 950 FSWs, Aadhaar cards for 300 FSWs and voter ID cards for 161 FSWs
- Mobilized sponsorship for 10 children to study at a boarding school

## PARTNERS

- World Health Organization (WHO) • USAID • Family Health International 360 (FHI 360) • IMRB International
- CARE India • Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) • Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)
- Population Council • FPA India • Avert Society

FHI 360 is mentoring ARC on organizational development under the USAID and PEPFAR supported project - Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) (2021 – 2023)

## AWARDS

ARC's HIV/AIDS prevention project was recognized as one of the best performing targeted interventions in the state of Maharashtra, on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2022.

ARC has also received a certificate of appreciation, for the services provided to key population in the community, by Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society/ National AIDS Control Organization/ USAID.

