

Approaches to eliminate hepatitis infection in Sri Lanka.

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Background/ purpose

Sri Lanka is a low middle income island country in South Asia with a non-fee levying, universal health care system which has achieved excellent health and social indices. The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) has supported the government of Sri Lanka for over three decades. Contribution of the global fund (GF) has helped Sri Lanka to be certified by the World Health Organization on having eliminated malaria in 2016.

The purpose is to highlight the support provided by GF to the National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) to end AIDS by 2030 and eliminate hepatitis among key populations (KP) namely - men who have sex with men, female sex workers, transgender women, people who use and inject drugs and prisoners by an outreach model.

Approach

Desk review of the grant cycle-7 proposal for 2025-2028 submitted by NSACP and the performance framework used by the Local Funding Agent (LFA) to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the grant.

Outcomes

With global fund support, a prevention service package is being implemented through an outreach peer educator module to make KPs aware of the risks to HIV/syphilis/hepatitis B & C and prevention by practicing safer sexual and injecting drug use behaviors and providing point of care rapid diagnostic tests to help know their sero-status and linking for antiretroviral therapy and treatment for hepatitis C. Prevention information Management System (PIMS) developed with GF support captures data on outreach for monitoring and evaluation.

Significance

The GFATM grant has helped to implement a peer outreach model through trained peer educators for difficult to reach KPs and networks, while providing treatment for syphilis and HIV and hepatitis to achieve undetectable viral load levels to improve their quality of life and prevent transmission to others. Created a procurement chain management system for health commodities.

Disclosure of interest – None