

Record of Discussions

Desk Review of the Principal Recipient SAATHI by the Oversight Committee for GC7 (HIV) Grant

Date: 18th June 2026

Time: 2:30 PM- 03:30 PM

Mode: Virtual Meeting

A virtual desk review of the Non-Government Principal Recipient, SAATHI, for the GC7 Grant was held on 18th June 2026. The meeting was attended by the members of the Oversight Committee (OC), the India Secretariat, Program Divisions and representatives from the Non-Governmental Principal Recipient (NGPR), SAATHI for the GC7 Grant, as per the attendance list enclosed in **Annexure 1**. The objective of the review was to assess the implementation of the GC7 Grant up to April 2026 and evaluate the performance of the Principal Recipient based on their Key Performance Indicators.

SAATHI delivered a presentation which was broadly based on the format shared by the India CCM Secretariat and can be found enclosed **Annexure 2**.

Major Discussion Points/Action Points are as follows:

SI no.	Comments/Suggestions	Response/Discussions	Further action required
1	The OC enquired whether capacity-building trainings were provided for pre-CLM formation members, especially on governance, networking, and community system strengthening.	In response, some of these topics were covered during the Pre-CLM meeting, and further capacity-building will be conducted after registration.	
2	The OC enquired whether the CLM was ready, as it had been mentioned that it would be rolled out by July.	SAATHI stated that they received information that NACO is planning to upload the tool on the server by July. Once it is deployed, CLM will be rolled out from July onwards.	Provide an update on the rollout and implementation status of the Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) initiative.
3	The OC enquired how the budget will be utilized, noting that e-CLM is fully digital.	SAATHI said that community champions receive a small travel honorarium for conducting the CLM exercise. Once the digital CLM tool is rolled out, the activity will be scaled up significantly through the trained pool of community champions, which is expected to increase budget utilization.	Provide an update on the rollout and implementation status of the Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) initiative.
4	The OC sought clarification on whether the training is independent of the digital CLM rollout.	SAATHI clarified that NACO has instructed them to proceed with all trainings so that all Community Champions are trained and active. Once the digital CLM is rolled out, they will be ready to implement it in the field.	Provide an update on the trainings of the community champions.
5	The OC said that with the project ending in March 2027, a concrete plan should be shared outlining how the remaining targets, and available funds will be utilized to	SAATHI noted the request and agreed to share the same.	Develop and submit a time-bound project implementation plan within three months to address the

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	achieve the planned program results by the end of the reporting period.		identified gaps with focus on the Haryana state, pregnant women, CLM and trainings of peer educators and peer leaders
6	The OC noted concerns around HIV programming for pregnant women. It was observed there are gaps in linking them to VL testing, and asked what other challenges SAATHI is facing beyond linkage for HIV-positive pregnant women	In response, SAATHI mentioned that one key challenge is that work begins only after women are identified, which leads to delays in detection. Another challenge is the limited capacity of outreach workers, who must manage several priority populations at the same time. SAATHI noted that because they do not work in the private sector, some EVTHS cases may be missed since those clients may go primarily to private facilities.	
7	The OC acknowledged the good practice in Punjab and recommended that the model be systematically documented and considered for scale-up. The OC also noted that SAATHI's differentiated index strategy appears to be a unique practice that could be useful for other partners	SAATHI agreed to document the good practice and share it	Share good practice report that has improved viral load suppression and retention, demonstrating how counselling and adherence interventions have translated into better treatment outcomes
8	The OC asked about the training work under Kshamta Kendra, including pre-test and post-test analysis be documented and shared. In addition, they wanted to know whether SAATHI is tracking knowledge retention	Regarding Kshamta Kendra, SAATHI said that an assessment has been requested to understand the outcomes, including knowledge retention and practices adopted by prevention cadres. They are currently discussing this with NACO and have developed a tool to assess how the knowledge is being implemented in the field.	
9	The OC asked for a comment on Haryana's performance across the testing and care cascade, including the challenges, the strategic interventions being used to address them	In Haryana, the main challenges were a high number of LFU cases and overlap in cases between Chandigarh and Delhi. NACO has initiated a data-cleaning exercise. There were also challenges related to viral load testing, which are being addressed through camp-based VL screening and testing. In addition, shortages of HIV test kits under NHM have been raised through advocacy efforts. Early infant testing at 6 weeks has been affected by DBS kit shortages. Haryana is also seeing an increase in cases in the prison programme, and the strategies used in Punjab are being replicated there as well.	
10	The OC enquired why the training indicators for peer educators, peer leaders, and the bridge population are lagging compared with other indicators, and how SAATHI is addressing the gap	SAATHI explained that issues for peer educators and peer leaders differ. For TI core peer educators, 13,200 have been trained (99%), but the percentage appears low due to high turnover. For bridge population peer leaders, the challenge is that they are full-time workers and cannot attend three-day continuous trainings. To address this, SAATHI is training programme managers and a few ORWs at the NGO level to conduct local training, and is also asking KVs to bring nearby NGOs together within districts to reduce travel and improve convenience	

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List of Participants:

Annexure 1

S No.	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Dr. Naresh Goel	Member	OC
2	Dr. Mohan P S Kohli	Member	OC
3	Dr. Sunita Upadhyaya	Member	OC
4	Mr. Ramesh Babu	Member	OC
5	Dr. Rita Prasad	Member	OC
6	Mr. Ningthoujam Roshan	Member	OC
7	Mr. Shridhar Pandey	Member	OC
8	Mr. Samir Kumar	Member	OC
9	Mr. Atul	Member	OC
10	Dr. Sathish		SAATHI
11	Ms. Lakshmi Ramakrishnan		SAATHI
12	Mr. Anupam Hazra		SAATHI
13	Mr. Christopher		SAATHI
14	Ms. Gitanjali Mohanty	Coordinator	ICCM
15	Ms. Vera Sapu	Program Officer	ICCM
16	Ms. Chander Pal	Admin Asst	ICCM

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