MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL
Dr. Kalpana Apte

I take this opportunity to congratulate each and every staff and volunteer of FPA India Branches and Projects for the hard work and the commitment to serve the poor that has resulted in an astounding amount of work. As this year draws to a close, we need to start looking at compilation of work as per the set format. However, these stories of successes and of the ground activities are important testimonials that our Branches are functioning very well in all areas of services, programmes, events and resource mobilization.

I was very happy to see the enthusiastic participation and commitment of Branches in making efforts to raise funds for Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon. I am sure that we will succeed beyond our expectations and also gain valuable experience.

I am sure all of you will have started planning with new resolutions, thoughts, ideas and changes in your own life style. We are sure that together we will be able to perform even better in times ahead! This conviction comes from my observations and meetings with you on various occasions. Let us work together to scale new heights of success in future.

As the year 2016 draws to a close, we take this opportunity to reflect on the gains and progress made. India is going through several transformative policy changes. These affect the development of the country, accelerate growth and at times poses challenges as well. FPA India is connected to the grass-roots, working for the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Poverty, lack of information and lack of agency still remain biggest obstacles for many and thus Rights continue to be violated. These stories from field are testimonials to the facts that individual will to succeed and rise above exploitation and ill health is indomitable. It just needs a little support, a bit of strength.

FPA India is here to work with individuals and communities give that push and be that support, enabling them to realize their own rights. Our Branch team of volunteers and staff work in most adverse situations and these stories bring you a glimpse of their hard work. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue as much we have enjoyed putting it together.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Mr. Umesh Aradhya

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AGRA
Orientation programme with government workers and ASHAs

Health providers took part in this programme, which was addressed by the Branch Manager. They were also given information on safe abortion, SRHR and Family Planning services. The meeting with CBDs also had an open discussion on safe abortion, women’s problems and referrals for RHFPC. Participants: 76.

IUCD and free contraceptive camp

Free camps were conducted every Thursday at the RHFPC. Knowledge was imparted on Family Planning methods, safe abortion and STI/RTI among the community members.

IEC/Demand generation programme with CBOs and CBDs

CBOs (Community Based Organisations), CBDs (Community Based Depots), ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) workers, ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), PMPs (Private Medical Practitioners) and chemists were part of a demand generation programme for the RHFPC. This was in addition to the efforts of SPID, World Vision and several others who have been supporting the RHFPC with client referrals. Participants: 156.

BELGAUM
Health Checkup and ICTC Camp

Dr Arati A Kulkarni, Medical Officer-RHFPC checked the clients while Mrs Laxmi A Mirji counselled them, after which the test results were given to patients. Participants: 48 Female sex workers

CASE STUDIES

FPA INDIA’S COMMITMENT – TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRY

From our Pune Branch comes the story of Meena (name changed), a girl of 14, studying in the seventh standard. Her family was economically backward, which forced both her parents to work. Also, they had no personal toilet in their house, which forced them to visit public toilets.

Six months ago, when Meena had gone to a public toilet, a man from the same community raped her. This incident was reported by the family to FPA India’s Link Worker. The family was counselled by FPA India and further action was taken. The community helped FPA India’s Field Worker to take the lead – the rapist was trapped and the police called. The culprit was eventually arrested and punished.

But FPA India’s action did not stop there. The Field Worker found out the root cause and took action to build private toilets in every house, with the help of the local Corporator. This is a great example of how FPA India’s commitment goes beyond its immediate brief and works for the community – and the country – as a whole.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR HIV PATIENT

In Pune Branch, a woman was treated at a usual SRH special service session. She tested HIV positive. Since she was very poor, she was given free consultation and treatment. The field staff referred her to Sassoon Hospital for further treatment. She was inducted into a support group to receive psychosocial support, nutrition and the necessary health services through the Morris Foundation Project of the Branch. The Branch helped her out, took care of her health and led her towards a healthy peaceful life.
BHUBANESWAR
Training in income generation activities

A five-day income generating training programme was organised for young school dropouts to help them maintain equal status in the society and for gender equality. They gained skills in making incense sticks and phenyl. As many as 18 of them started production and marketing their products the very next day. Participants: 25.

BIJAPUR
IEC programme on ‘Youth and Women’s Empowerment’

The programme was conducted in association with the Department of Field Publicity, Government of India, Mrs Neelamma Meti, President, Zilla Parishad, Bijapur, spoke about income generating skills. Mr G Tukaramegowda, Mr Kashinatha Pawar, Mrs Ratna Bhudihal and Dr Anuradha Konage, were the other key speakers. Mr V N Kotawal, Programme Officer, also addressed the audience, comprising of local NGO and SHG members, out-of-school youths, teachers and ASHAs. Participants: 34 (16 male, 18 female).

Advocacy meetings in Bangalore and Bijapur

The meeting in Bangalore was held with state level officers. Dr Shalini Rajanish, IAS; Mr M Nagendraaswamy, IAS; Dr Anil Bilimale; Dr Rajani S, Child Health and Adolescent Director; Dr K Ravikumar, Health Officer; and Mr V N Kotawal, Programme Officer, were the key speakers. The role of NGOs, reproductive health of adolescents, health schemes for school youth, Reproductive Health and Rights and Comprehensive Sexuality Education were among the topics covered. Participants: 34 (21 male, 13 female).

The advocacy meeting in Bijapur was held at the Indian Oil Corporation premises. Mr Prasanna Joshi, Branch Manager, and Mr Vijayakumar Kotawal, PQ, spoke to the audience comprising of FPA India and IOC staff members. Topics included FPA India’s objectives, RH FP services, ORS services, counselling, AEP sessions, gender and empowerment, health related programmes and corporate social responsibility.

HYDERABAD
Mother and Child Health Project

This project, initiated with the help of Bharathi Cements, is providing health services to women and children in nine villages. Till date, 17 Mother and Child Health sessions have been conducted with 4287 women participating. Both clinical and contraceptive services were provided. Over 5,000 condoms and 35 cycles of oral pills were distributed, apart of installing four condom boxes in as many villages.

Skill development training programme

With the assistance of Khadi Gram Udyog, free skill development training was imparted to women for preparing spices, masala, eggless cake and bakery items. On completion of the training certificates were given by the Udyog. Participants: 58.

SRH service sessions

Various camps were organized, in November and December 2016, for youth, men and women in both urban and rural areas. In the session for schools, colleges and out-of-school youth, there were 492 participants. After providing medical and counselling services, 23 cases were referred to specialists. The special session for men had 346 participants who were tested for STI, urology, sexual dysfunction and skin infections. Among them, 27 were referred to specialists. In the women’s session, screening for cervical and breast cancer was conducted. Of the 302 women who took part, 23 were referred to specialists while 12 tested positive for VIA.

MOHALI
Programme on Adolescent Education

Programme Plus

The three-day programme on AEP+ was organised from November 8 to 10, 2016. Participants: 48 girls in the 12-14 year age group.

Special Health Services camps

Two camps were held with financial support from HQ Dr Veena Gupta and Dr Kulbir Kaur Lamba examined 70 adolescent girls, while in the second, a team of two doctors checked 126 patients.
NILGIRIS
Special service session of RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS

An outreach camp was organised covering RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS exclusively for tea garden workers at Muthanadu Estate. Participants: 80.

Cancer awareness programme
A breast and cervical cancer awareness programme for women SHG members was held. Participants: 44.

Fire drill training
The Branch, in association with ABC Fire Protector, conducted basic fire drill training, combining both theory and practical aspects. The training, which was held at the RHFPC, saw the participation of 15 staff members.

Income generation training programmes
This programme, conducted at Coonoor, trained the participants in making phenyl, soap oil, pickle and masalas. Chief guest Mr G Lakshmi Narayanan, Programme Chairperson, spoke about entrepreneurship for the SHG. Mrs Krishnaleela, Project Director of RK Trust, which helped in conducting the programme, gave a vote of thanks. The training was conducted in two groups of 25 members each. Total Participants: 50.

A similar programme was conducted at Gudalur, where another 50 participants were trained in income generation through entrepreneurship.

NORTH KANARA
Youth Centre and Adolescent Clinic opened

A Youth Centre and Adolescent Clinic was opened at A V Baliga Arts & Science College, Kumta. An awareness programme was organised in which Dr G G Hegde, Branch President, spoke on ‘Behavioural Changes in Adolescents, Problems and Treatment Methods’. Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager, spoke on Family Planning and the importance of the Adolescent Clinic. Over 67 students took part in the programme.

Cancer screening camp for women
This special camp was held at Kimani in association with Hi-Tech Diagnostic Centre and Hongeerana Mahila Okkuta Sanga, Kumta.

Women from remote areas were made aware of cancer, given Pap smear test and trained on conducting self-examination for breast cancer. Prof Sujatha Kamath, Vice President, FPA India Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager; and Mr Ullass Naik, Rotary Club, Kumta, were the key speakers. Participants: 56.

Anemia testing and awareness programmes for adolescents
A series of programmes was conducted for anemia testing and awareness with the support of Canara Health Care Centre. The programme concluded with testing of HB for the girls with follow up treatment where required.

At Nellekeri High School, Kumta: Dr G G Hegde, Branch President, spoke on anemia related health issues among young girls. Mrs Renukha Bhat, Secretary; and Mrs Bharati Naik, Headmistress of the school were the other speakers. Participants: 189.

At J V S High School Divogi: Dr G G Hegde, Branch President; Dr Satish Prabhu, Canara Health Care Centre; Mr Dayanan Desbhhandari, Head Master, J V S High School; and Ms Manjula, Programme Officer, spoke to the audience. Participants: 150.

At Nellekeri College, Kumta: Dr G G Hegde, Branch President; and Dr Prabhakar Bhat Kailad spoke on the topic of anemia. Participants: 1,000.

Awareness programme on soft skills
A programme was organised at Vannalli High School, to develop communication and decision making skills among adolescents. Mr G D Bhat, BEd College; Mr Manjula Gouda, Programme Officer; and Mr Ganesh Naik, Head Master, Vannalli High School, were the speakers. Participants: 134.

PUNE
Progressive programmes for awareness and action

The Branch organised a series of programmes in the quarter focussed on progressive awareness, facilitating increased access to Sexual and Reproductive Health. These efforts helped clients to imbibe the importance of SRHR through contraceptive usage, cervical and breast cancer screening examination, VIA testing and PAP smear. The audiences included key populations like PLHIV, adolescents and other vulnerable groups like construction workers. The idea was also to increase male involvement through various interventions and strategies like conducting reproductive health camps, signature campaigns, engaging male coordinators for behavioural change communication, sexually transmitted infection treatment and care.

Here’s a list of the camps conducted by the Branch:

- SRH camps for PLHIVs, adolescents, migrant populations like construction workers and difficult-to-reach communities. Services like consultation, counselling, HB/blood group/HIV testing, pre-test and post-test counselling, cervical and breast cancer screening and examination. Total camps: 11. Total beneficiaries: 781.

- Signature campaign for increasing awareness of HIV testing.

- Special session at RHFPC by male coordinators to increase male involvement. Free HIV testing organised from December 1-7, 2016. Beneficiaries: 85 (male: 56).

- Free SRH camp (targeted intervention) was organised for PLHIV clients at RHFPC. The complete range of services was offered, including consultation, counselling, HB/blood group/HIV testing, pre-test and post-test counselling, cervical and breast cancer screening and examination, and distribution of medicines. Beneficiaries: 70.

- Free Hepatitis B vaccination camp. In PLHIV, it is important to prevent Hepatitis B virus (HBV). The vaccination was administered free of cost at this camp organised on November 24 and December 31, 2016. Beneficiaries: 73.
SOLAPUR
Health awareness session conducted

This session was conducted at Walchand College on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Seva Saptah. Prof Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, Vice President of FPA India; Dr Ajit Manikshette, Principal of the College; and Adv Shrinivas Katkur, President, Lions Club of Solapur Central, were present along with other BEC members. A ‘Healthy Mother & Baby Competition’ was organised in the presence of Dr Kavita Chandak, UFWC Medical Officer; Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager; and Mr Virendra Pardeshi, Programme Officer, among others.

Diwali delights – nutritional food and sarees distributed

On the occasion of Diwali, nutritional food was provided at Pakher Sankul. Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager, Mr Ramanlal Soniminde, Branch Vice President and Ms Vijayshree Amle, Youth Volunteer, Inner Wheel Club member were present during the occasion. Free sarees were distributed after the traditional lamp was lit by Mrs Sarla Zhawar, President, Inner Wheel Club. Among those present were Dr Nabha Kakade, Branch President, Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, FPA India Vice President; and Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager.

Free immunization programme

The programme was organised under the aegis of Lions Club of Solapur Central. Dr Gulabchand Shaha, of the Lions Club; Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, FPA India Vice President; Dr N B Telli, Hon. Secretary of the Branch; Mr Ramanlal Soniminde, Branch Vice President; and Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager; were among the key dignitaries present.

Income generation activity programme

The programme was inaugurated by Mrs Sarla Zhawar, President of the Inner Wheel Club, Solapur. Mrs Padma Dikonda, Past. President, Inner Wheel Club of Solapur; Dr Nabha Kakade, Branch President, Mrs Renuka Jadhav, Programme Director, Kranti Mahila Sangh; Miss Vijayshree Amle, Youth Volunteer; and Mrs Laxmibai Kurlekar, trainer, were present at the event. The training was held at the office of Vihaan Project Office in Solapur.

Sugar testing and diabetic treatment programme

Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, FPA India Vice President, inaugurated the programme. Adv S Katkur, President, Lions Club of Solapur and Lion Dr G Shah, Vice President were present. Mr Ramanlal Soniminde, Branch Vice President; Mr Sugat Gaikwad, Branch Manager; and Mr Farhan Baghwan, Youth Volunteer contributed to make the programme a success.

CELEBRATING IMPORTANT DAYS & OCCASIONS

INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

In Mohali, a rally was organised in which over 200 people took part, including NSS volunteers, college students, faculty and FPA India staff members. Meant to create awareness about the girl child and related cleanliness, the event got wide coverage and appreciation on Facebook.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In Agra, the special day was observed with social health workers like AWWs, CBDs and ASHAs. The rights of women, contraceptive options and RHFPC’s services were highlighted. Participants: 27.
**CHILDREN’S DAY**

In Madurai, the day was observed with HIV-infected children in collaboration with TANSACS. Competitions in singing and drawing were conducted for 52 children in the 5-15 year age group, along with 75 HIV-infected mothers. Mr P Jayapandi, District Program Manager of District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit (DAPCU), Madurai, was the chief guest. Mr S Prathiban, Branch Manager, addressed the audience. The winners of the competition received prizes on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2016.

**WORLD AIDS DAY**

**Theme: Hands Up for HIV Prevention**

Our Ahmedabad Branch observed World AIDS Day with a variety of activities. These included face painting of the LGBT flag (rainbow) by a youth volunteer, and an exhibition stall at RHFPC with the message: ‘Zero HIV new infection, Zero stigma and discrimination, and Zero HIV related death’. Leaflets about HIV information and RHFPC services were distributed. Beneficiaries: 300.

In our Bangalore Branch, an HIV/AIDS awareness programme for sex workers was organised to observe the special day. Ms Madhura Ashok Kumar, Branch President, and outreach workers Shantal and Shobha were the Resource Persons. Participants: 50. In another programme held for young people, Resource Person Radha and Counsellor Geetha addressed the audience and explained the importance of ART to PLHIV. The programme, which was highly interactive, attracted 45 participants.

In our Belgaum Branch, an essay and elocution competition was organised to create awareness among students. Prof G K Khadabadi distributed the prizes. A daughters-mothers meet was conducted as part of the adolescent education programme in association with the Inner Wheel Club, Belgaum. Mrs Kirti Tambe, President of the Club, participated while Dr Arati Kulkarni, MO-RHPFC and Dr Shivani D Patil, MO-ORS FPA India were the Resource Persons. Participants: 171.

In our Bhubaneswar, a sensitization programme was organised in association with Jana Sathyana Sanstha, Bhubaneswar. Mr Prasanta Ku Panda, PO-JSS, Dr B Nayak, Medical Officer; Mrs N Mohanty, Programme Officer; and Mr G Pattanaik, Counsellor were the Resource Persons. It was attended by adolescent girls who actively took part in the Q&A session that followed. Participants: 34.

Our Bidar Branch observed the Day by setting up an Exhibition Stall and organising an awareness session on the platform at the railway station. Dr V V Talpallikar, Branch President, FPA India, presided over the programme which Dr Indumati Patil, FWO, inaugurated. Dr Vijayashree Basheetty, Past President of Bidar Branch; Mr Satpal Sagu, Officer, Railway Protection Force; and Mr Rameshkumar Patil, Station Master, Bidar Railway Station, were the Chief Guests. Over 5,000 people, mostly railway passengers, participated.
In **Bijapur**, a procession was taken out which was inaugurated by Mr Shivakumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Bijapur. Mrs Neelamma S Meti, President, Zilla Parishad; Dr Suresh Naik, DHO; Mr Somaraju, District Sessions Judge; Dr Anant S Desai, District Surgeon; and Dr S S Yaranal, HoD, Community Medicine Department, Al-Ameen Medical College, were the other key speakers. HIV/AIDS, lives of PLHIV, health facilities, ART services, FP methods, population and sex ratio, adolescent and sex workers' health issues and legal support for PLHIVs were the topics covered. Mr Prasanna Joshi, Branch Manager, and Mr Vijayakumar Kotawai, PO, took active part in the proceedings. Participants: 350.

In our **Hyderabad** Branch, a state level event was organised by the Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSACS). Dr John Babu, APD-TSACS welcomed the gathering. Mrs Karuna Vakati, IAS, Project Director-TSACS, and Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare was the chief guest. Earlier, she flagged off a rally attended by around 2,000 people, including NGO workers, students, stakeholders and community members, truckers and migrants. Several activities were conducted, including a counsellor programme for high school children in which 50 students participated. In another session, 85 high school students attended a talk by Dr Supriya on HIV prevention and the issue of PLHIV.

Our **Madurai** Branch observed the Day with a sensitization meeting for RRC Volunteers from the Madurai Institute of Social Science. Mr S Prathiban, Branch Manager, sensitized them about stigma and discrimination of PLHIV, while Mr Ponnapandi, Peer Counsellor of CSC Project, shared his experience. The Branch also celebrated the day by giving away prizes to HIV-infected children who had taken part in the Singing and Drawing Competitions held on Children's Day on November 26. The prizes were given away by Mr K Veera Raghava Rao, District Collector.

To observe the World AIDS Day in **Mohali**, six awareness programmes were held between November 30 and December 7, 2016. Spread across topics about HIV/AIDS, the programmes attracted 439 participants including HRCGs, young men and women, migratory and construction labourers, industrial workers and students.

Our **Nilgiris** Branch organised an awareness programme on November 28, 2016. Mrs Krishnaleela, Project Director, RK Trust, gave the welcome address. Mr J Varatharajan, in his speech, gave astounding statistics about HIV infections and AIDS related deaths worldwide and in India. This was followed by a quiz programme about HIV awareness with prize distribution to the winners.

In our **North Kanara** Branch, an awareness programme was conducted in collaboration with SKDRDP, Kumta. Mrs Santan Louis, Branch Manager; Dr K N Bailkeri, Former Branch Manager; Mr Beeranna Nayak, Honorary Treasurer; Ms Manjula Gouda, Programme Officer; and Mr Narayan Palane, Project Director, SKDRDP, were the key people who attended. Participants: Over 150 women from SHGs, and staff from FPA INDIA and SKDRDP.

Our **Pune** Branch celebrated World AIDS Day by creating a beautiful rangoli in the RHFPC premises. This was done to create awareness and make the community realise the importance of HIV testing – at the right time – due to the high-risk behaviour.
In Shimoga, the Day was celebrated in association with the District Health Office, KSAPS, paramedical colleges, schools and NGOs like the Inner Wheel Club and Spandana Health Foundation Trust. Mr Umesh Aradhya, FPA India President, was the Chief Guest along with dignitaries from the Health Department. Mr H B Ramesh Babu, President; Ms Pushpa Shetty, Vice President; Ms Hema Appaji, Secretary; and Mr S B Ashok Kumar, were the Resource Persons. An awareness programme was conducted, followed by a quiz session. A donation of Rs 2,000 was received from Spandana Health Foundation and Inner Wheel Club. Beneficiaries: 460.

In our Solapur Branch, a rally was inaugurated by Prof Dr Shrikant Yelegaonkar, FPA India Vice President, in the presence of an august gathering. Dr Rajaram Powar, Dean, Civil Hospital; Dr M M Maldar, Vice Chancellor, Solapur University; Adv S Katkur, President, Lions Club of Solapur and other dignitaries graced the occasion. Participants: 2,500.

Congratulations, Priya Kath!

At FPA India we are delighted that you have been selected as the ‘Youth Volunteer’ of IPPF! It is a singular achievement and a timely recognition of your commitment and hard work as a ‘Youth Volunteer’ of FPA India. You have contributed significantly to the advocacy for young people’s rights and raised these critical issues at national and international forums, and made their voices heard and be counted! Championing Sexual and Reproductive Rights of young people is a hard task and we are happy that it has been recognised at the IPPF level.

The family of FPA India, all volunteers and staff join together in congratulating you, Priya Kath! Best wishes for many more such recognitions that are yet to come.