

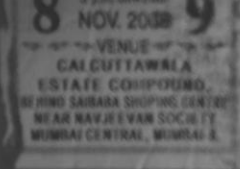
World **HEPATITIS** Day

28<sup>th</sup> July 2017



Commemoration of World Hepatitis Day  
by United Way Mumbai

*Reaching out to the  
underserved*



Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

*Delivering Hope*

Hepatitis Awareness, Prevention and Care



United Way Mumbai

## World Hepatitis Day, 2017 Commemoration by United Way Mumbai

United Way Mumbai (UWM) has been working on tackling community health challenges of Hepatitis B in Mumbai city since 2010. Interventions such as preventive education, testing, vaccination, medical referrals, support for treatment compliance, patient support group etc. are undertaken in public private partnership with public health department and other key stakeholders in the city.

UWM observes World Hepatitis Week every year and carries out a variety of innovative campaigns in vulnerable and high risk groups to raise awareness about this disease. With the aim to reaching out to the underserved communities, this year our interventions included:

- ☐ **Weeklong interventions** for preventive education, testing and vaccination among high risk communities
- ☐ Facilitating a city level **panel discussion on 'Tackling Hepatitis in Mumbai: Success, Challenges & Opportunities**
- ☐ Unveiling of **research publication on Knowledge, Attitude, Practice of Commercial Sex Workers** towards Hepatitis B

## Weeklong Interventions among High Risk & Underserved Communities

Community Group	Relevance	Interventions
<b>Commercial Sex Workers &amp; Transgender Individuals</b>	Higher risk of HBV-infection with their history of multiple sex partners, irregular condom use by partners and co-infection with sexually transmitted infection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hepatitis B testing and vaccination</li> <li>• Preventive health education especially related to vertical and horizontal transmission of Hepatitis B</li> </ul>
<b>Truck drivers</b>	Due to continuous travelling and migratory movement, truck drivers is high risk community group that often gets involved in unsafe sex practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventive health education on key aspects of Hepatitis B</li> <li>• Putting up stickers, posters on key messages on Hepatitis B prevention on trucks for visual reinforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Barbers and nearby community</b>	Barbers, if not well informed, can be responsible for spreading blood-transmitted diseases due to unsafe practices of hair-cutting and shaving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barbers were informed about the important role they play in preventing spread of infections such as Hepatitis B by adopting safe and hygienic practices in their work</li> <li>• Barbers put up stickers related to Hepatitis B in their shops for their customers</li> </ul>
<b>Scrap yard workers</b>	The chances of transmission of Hepatitis B and other infections through wounds are high as these workers are often in contact with sharp objects in scrap, which might have been handled by infected individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventive education activities were carried out through pamphlet distribution and one to one interactions</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health Workers</b>	Public Health Workers work directly in the communities and play critical role in early diagnosis and prevention health education of the citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive peer health educators' trainings were carried out with these public health workers</li> <li>• These trained health educators will further spread awareness on Hepatitis B</li> </ul>

## Commercial Sex Workers: Sensitization, Testing & Vaccination



Hepatitis B Testing and Vaccination drives conducted in Gaiwadi, Pav wala street, Jamna Mansion & Kamathipura localities (areas predominantly housing commercial sex workers)

**180+ CSWs Impacted**



## Transgender Individuals : Sensitization, Testing & Vaccination



Transgender population are highly vulnerable to Hepatitis infection as many of them are involved in commercial sex work. UWM partnered with Kinnar Asmita and Navodaya Movement (community based organisations) and organized training, testing and vaccination activities

**24 Transgender Individuals impacted**

# Truck Drivers: Sensitisation & One to One Interactions



The UWM Team conducted awareness drives and one to one interactions with truck drivers in Wadala and Reay Road truck terminals. They also put up stickers on prevention of Hepatitis B.

**150+ Truck drivers Impacted**

Translation of the sticker Hepatitis B can affect anyone. Please use condoms always.



# Barbers & Medical stores : Awareness generation, pamphlet and sticker distribution



**37 Barbers and 20 Medical store owners** were sensitized on key aspects related to Hepatitis B. They were also made aware on their role in preventing infections such as Hepatitis B. Informative stickers were put up for awareness of their customers.



Translation: We care for you and we use a new blade each time we serve you. This way we protect you from infections such as Hepatitis B. (Stickers put up at Barbers' shop)



Translation: Hepatitis B can affect anyone. Please use condoms always. (Stickers put up in medical stores)



## Scrap Yard Workers



One to One interactions and counselling activities were undertaken with scrap yard workers who are highly vulnerable to infections as their work involves direct work with waste materials which can be infected objects such as syringes and other materials.

**100+ Scrap Yard Workers Impacted**



# Public Health Workers



Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) of Dept. of Public health, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) are first point of contact in the communities for health aspects. They were trained as peer health educators on aspects related to Hepatitis B which will help them in early diagnosis and in educating members of communities they work in.

**50+ Community Health Volunteers Impacted**

# Panel Discussion on Tackling Hepatitis in Mumbai: Challenges and Successes



Panelists included representatives from the Municipal Corporation, WHO and prominent public and private hospitals of Mumbai



In the audience were representatives from NGOs, government officials, public and private health workers .

Objective of this panel discussion was to discuss how this massive public health challenge can be addressed through collaborations, public private partnerships. Participants pledged to contribute in the fight against viral Hepatitis. This forum proved to be effective in advocating and drawing attention on the action to be taken by relevant stakeholders

# Unveiling of Research Publication on KAP of Commercial Sex Workers towards Hepatitis B



- ❑ This is a scientific research study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of 400 commercial sex workers (CSWs) in relation to Hepatitis B in Mumbai .
- ❑ It is significant to note that there is limited information on awareness and practices related to Hepatitis B among general population. Researches and studies related to Hepatitis B and specific high risk community groups such as CSWs is even more limited.
- ❑ Our endeavor through this report is to disseminate key findings pertaining to Hepatitis B among CSWs and build into this knowledge base for current and future health interventions.



# Background – Why is this study focusing on female sex workers (FSWs)?

- **Limited access to basic determinants of good health**

Struggle for basic facilities – food & shelter

- **Harsh realities of life**

Poverty, drug & alcohol addiction, gambling, violence

- **Vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, Hepatitis B**

History of multiple sex partners, irregular condom use by partners, co-infections

- **Hepatitis B - Need of documentation emerged through UWM fieldwork**

High disease burden despite availability of vaccines, limited awareness, lack of preventive practices, dearth of literature

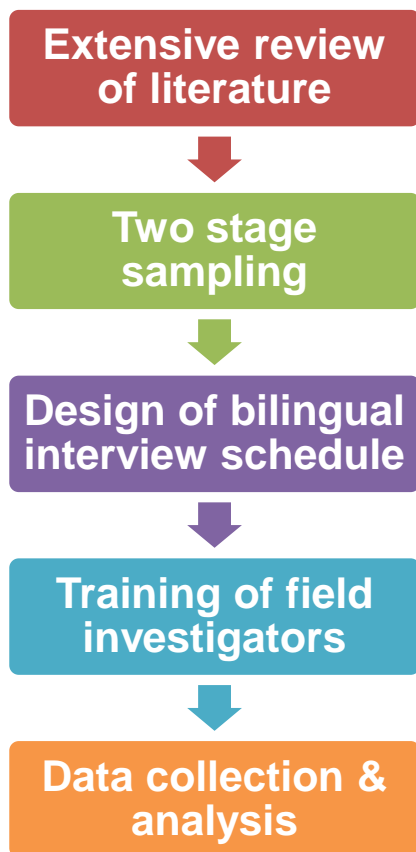
# KAP Research – scope & rationale

**9 locations** (red light areas) in Mumbai

**400** brothel based FSWs  
Interviewed

This study will help in public advocacy  
for collective action towards tackling  
Hepatitis challenges in the city of  
Mumbai

# KAP Research - Steps





# #1 Who are they?



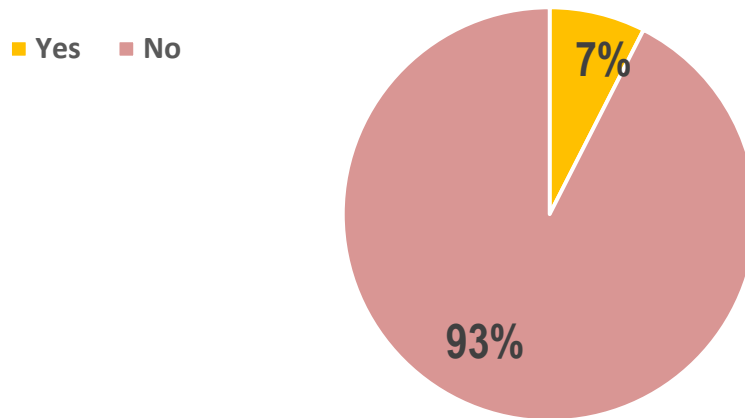
- Median age – 33, largely illiterate
- Married, having children who were raised outside the brothel
- Pursuing the profession since a decade or more
- 98% reported the use of condoms in all types of sex, with all types of customers
- Very few indulged in practices like intravenous drug use, tattooing
- Preference for private healthcare over public

## #2 What is their understanding of Hepatitis B?

Majority of respondents are **NOT** aware of-

- Hepatitis B disease itself
- Hepatitis B symptoms
- Hepatitis B modes of transmission

Percentage distribution of respondents who have heard of Hepatitis B



**Misconceptions prevail, especially about transmission**

# #3 What are attitude & practices?

- **Mixed attitude was reflected towards prevention**
- **Respondents follow some preventive practices—**
  - Condom use in all type of sexual activities as the most effective method of Hepatitis prevention
  - Sharing personal products was not a common practice among respondents



## #4 What do Hepatitis B prevention programs need?

1. Need to emphasize severity of Hepatitis over HIV via a thematic, time-bound approach

*for e.g. 99.7% respondents had not seen any Hepatitis related communication material*

2. Need to design communication material that is more user-friendly, pictorial and easier to follow for illiterate population
3. Need to involve multiple stakeholders –

*for e.g. only 4% respondents received Hepatitis B information from NGOs*





**Please join our efforts in reaching out  
to the Underserved and At Risk  
Communities for awareness on  
Hepatitis B and its prevention**