

# ENSURING SPECIFIC RIGHTS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV IN RAJASTHAN

IMPACT, in partnership with Rajasthan Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (RNP+) has secured a catalytic grant from the recently concluded UNIFEM round of Gender Equity Funds. This two year grant is aimed at developing a policy for ensuring the rights of Women living with HIV (WLHIV) in the state of Rajasthan.

Gender discrimination is still at large in Indian society and historically the status of women in Rajasthan has been very poor. WLHIV face discriminations at the home and society. Gender inequality, disparity in social-cultural norms and sexual relations make women more critical to adverse affects of HIV/AIDS. Access to economic resources and gender based violence limit women's ability to protect themselves. In addition to this, poverty pushes them to the periphery of development and affects their overall growth and well-being. Moreover, women have lack of access to information on HIV, few opportunities on access to treatment because of the stigma and discrimination attached with it and they are also the main care givers, which make the situation even grave for women.

The purpose of this grant is to "Draft and submit a policy document to the Government of Rajasthan indicating the Package of Services to be made available to women living with HIV as part of their right to survive with dignity and support the system in ratifying and implementing the policy". Within this advocacy based project a series of consultations will be carried out with different stakeholders to gather enough information to draft a "minimum support package" as entitlement for women living with HIV, for which the government of Rajasthan will make commitment to provide as their basic right to live with dignity.

## Aim

To ensure that the specific rights of WLHIV are ensured by providing them a comprehensive right based package of services.

## Objectives

Strengthen the network of WLHIV and empower them to claim their rights Increased recognition and commitment towards the rights of WLHIV, and improved resource allocations at the government level Reduced stigma and discrimination against WLHIV at the community level .

## Expected results

Build the required level of knowledge and skills among network members to conduct advocacy at different levels from state government to community Support the government system in drafting, ratification and implementation of the policy

that ensures the rights of WLHIV Build stronger partnerships between government, community and WLHIV for an enabling environment to protect the rights of WLHIV .

