**Alandur CHVCC:**

Siaap continues to redefine itself by searching for innovative and progressive methods to reduce HIV transmission, increase support, and empower communities. The focus of all new projects continues to be greater involvement and empowerment for people to protect themselves from the consequences of HIV and AIDS. In this regard Siaap set out to establish a Community Health voluntary counselling and testing centre at Alandur, Municipality are in Chennai. A rent free space was offered by the Alandur Municipality through the guidance and efforts of the women in the local area. This project was envisages as a model for community based voluntary counselling and confidential testing centres, an interim care facility for patients that aids to referral linkages and serves as a community support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The facility offered counselling for a range of issues including STI and HIV, offered testing services for HIV and provided STI care through clinic days on Saturdays every week. The facility was publicized by Puppet shows, and periodical meetings with the SHG women within the four zones of the Municipality. In addition to these services medical camps were conducted for various health issues such as STIs, general health and eye camps. The team at the centre also provided trainings for women and adolescent children on topics such as menstrual hygiene, aspects related sexuality.

During a span of 2 ½ years the project reached out to 40,000 men women and adolescents people and provided testing for over 500 people. The most significant aspect with regard to the HIV testing is that 80% of those tested came as couples. In the due course of the project the SHG women took charge of the facilities. A representative group of women from the 4 zones planned the activities along with the Siaap team, decided on the medical camps based on the local needs, sought local support for venue. A private medical practitioner volunteered her time on the clinic day s and provided treatment free of cost. The health post Medical officers who were provided trainings as per their needs offered their supported during medical camps and also provided medicines free of cost. This further enhanced the relationship between the HCPs and the people in all the four zones and motivated the medical officers and nurses to conduct positive deliveries at the health posts.