### **Taaras: Amplifying Voices, Envisioning Change**





With the Avahan III project nearing its conclusion, a collective vision to ensure ongoing support for women in sex work prompted the collaboration of Swasti and its partner community organisations.

This effort led to forming a coalition in October 2016, with Swasti serving as the national secretariat.

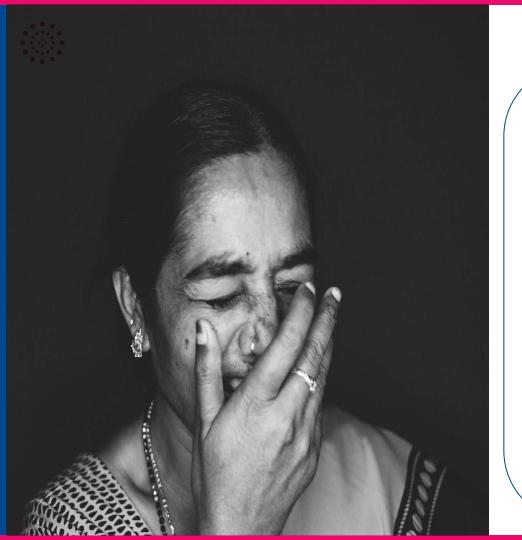
This coalition, named Taaras, encapsulates the essence of 'rapid progress'.



Taaras is a **coalition of women in sex work (WSW) and their organisations,** that provides a platform for their voices, aspirations and joint actions.

Taaras rises above ideologies, geography federations, cultural and language divisions.

Taaras aims to **empower marginalized communities** and enable them to enjoy their rights as citizens, accessing services and support with dignity, and substantially reduce their vulnerability to health and other socio-economic risks.





Taaras is currently anchored in **5 states**, Andhra Pradesh,
Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka
and Telangana, 21 regions,

Over 1000 plus active leaders and 62 community-based organizations

Working with over 1,20,000
community members,
on uplifting, mainstreaming and
including
marginalized communities.

#### **Taaras Works Towards**



Building a community connected vibrant partnership which evolves with time (and issues)

Inculcating a community centric and community-engaged approach in all interventions

Making community interventions self-sustaining

Systematically addressing & mitigating coercive and exploitative factors



leadership

**Enhanced community** 

Capacitated community organisations



**Enhanced** community wellbeing

2/2/2023



# Key highlights of what has been done so far





















- Contributed towards forming India's HIV/AIDS
   Key Population Network ( Collaboration of 7 Networks)
  - Succeeded in mobilizing an additional 10 million USD for COVID
    - Relief to KPs Relief from Global Fund.
- Played an important role in providing evidence to the Supreme Court for passing historic judgment in India-Distribution of free ration to all our community members without any document proof.
- During 1st & 2nd Covid wave, Taaras facilitated Rs
   112 crores worth of Covid relief materials into the hands of communities
- Taaras made its mission to persuade and educate eligible communities about vaccination which resulted in 100% uptake of vaccination services in the areas where Taaras is active





## **Key highlights of 2023**





In 2023, Taaras leaders participated in various national/international forums such as NACO, UNAIDS, GFATM & actively engaged with different stakeholders, amplifying community's voice & advancing the Taaras agenda.



Taaras-SMS secured a **11.5 crores** from Global Fund C19RM grants, focussing on social protection & CBO strengthening; a testament to effective and impactful initiatives.







The secretariat team marks **Taaras'**7 year journey with a
heartwarming celebration, honoring
women leaders, advisors, and
well-wishers. A booklet highlighting
the achievements of Taaras was also
released during the gathering.



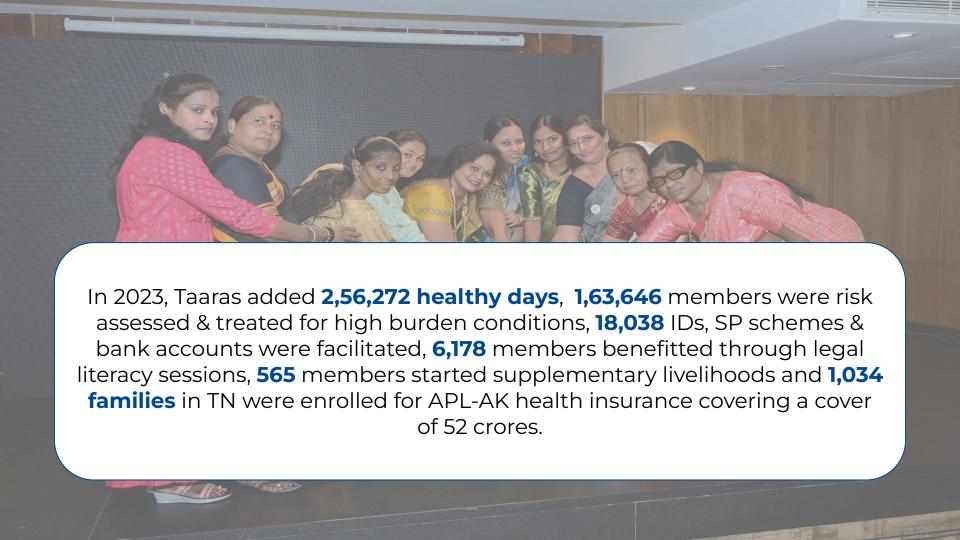
#### **Climate Change & Health Initiatives**



Taaras's holistic commitment shone through its proactive approach to climate change & health challenges. From mapping **climate risks to promoting awareness**, Taaras & secretariat team built resilient communities.

Health camps by Taaras COs addressed **high-burden conditions**, adding healthier days to Taaras members.

The secretariat team implemented a pilot program for **APL-AK health** insurance in Tamil Nadu, marking a significant step toward enhancing health outcomes.







In the next 3 years, Taaras looks forward to further enhancing community well-being by focusing on resilience, leadership building, financial inclusion, and advancing health and livelihood with the support of partners and stakeholders.

## Thank You!



