

Point of care based testing

Portable CD4 machines

A pilot by Nai Zindagi and MAINLINE

Efficient use of technology to fast track cost effective access to CD4 diagnostics essential in initiating ART for people who use drugs living with HIV.

Why portable CD4 testing?

- Portable CD4 machines
- Public sector operated static CD4 facility
- Global Fund supported Nai Zindagi managed sites
- Government supported civil society managed sites

Together Global Fund and Government supported programs cover 80% of Pakistan's PWID population

3 static facilities could not cater to the demand for CD4 tests across Pakistan.

Travel distances are long and travel options limited and costly. People using drugs are reluctant to travel across districts mainly due to fear of law enforcement and withdrawals in the absence of drugs.

People using drugs and living with HIV without a CD4 test result could not access ART.

Large numbers of people using drugs and living with HIV post-VCCT were lost to follow up due to limited or no access to CD4 tests.

Outcome of portable CD4 testing?

- 1480 people using drugs and living with HIV from 25 districts across Pakistan who had never been tested for CD4, were provided CD4 testing at their door step in 6 months by Nai Zindagi.
- It saved clients from 623,718 kms of travel and over 10,000 hours of travel time and hassles related to dislocation, police checks between districts and other issues.
- Net savings of US\$ 125,232 in travel costs and cost of test kits in 6 months of operation. Machines cost US\$ 24,000 and consumables and operational costs amount to approximately US\$ 18,000 for the period.
- Use of portable CD4 machines has now been expanded across Pakistan and is supported by the Global Fund and WHO.
- 736 people using drugs living with HIV with a CD4 below 500 were identified and are currently being enrolled in ART.