

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: February 2021

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### Objectives

#### Objective 1 &2: Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among at-risk adult men, women and PPs and KPs

##### Support group meeting:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meetings physically maintaining preventive measures of COVID-19, i.e. use of mask, sanitizer and physical distance in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts on 28<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, respectively. The meeting was facilitated by Case manager and PN. Discussion was done on Adherence to treatment, awareness and safety precautions against COVID-19, Tenofovir Lamivudine and Dolutegravir (TLD) regimen, VL/CD4 testing, U=U, ART adherence, VL testing, VL suppression, Importance of PrEP, enrollment on Biometric system at respective ART Center and Index based partner testing.

##### Virtual monthly review meeting:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted monthly review meetings to review the progress and decide way forward. The meeting discussed on target vs. achievement, reducing gap between diagnosed and ART enrollment including VL testing and suppression in Jhapa on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, whereas in Morang & Sunsari on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. In the meeting there was presence of PC, M&E Officers, FS, AFO, HA, CBS, PN, Lab staffs.

##### Creative events:

- Creative event was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February in Morang and Sunsari district, with a total of 23 participants (FSWs) with the following objective;
  - To orient on PrEP and enrolled on PrEP to prevent HIV transmission.
  - To inform regarding merosathi booking and its convenience,
  - To inform regarding link feedback tool and its promotion and use among their network.
  - To develop good relation with FSWs and their networks.
  - To increase clinic flow and testing.
  - To train KPs to achieve skills for Income Generation.

Among the total participants 13 KPs were tested but all were non-reactive. All negative FSWs were offered for PrEP. Among them 7 in Sunsari and 3 in Morang started PrEP in Feb. 2021

##### Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

- **Sunsari:**  
In this period S&D discrimination reduction training was conducted at Pakali on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 in coordination with Ward Office. In the training Ward member, FCHV, FS, PN and people from marginalized community (mushar) were participated. This community was focused because their family members worked in India. They were provided on knowledge on HIV/AIDS, sign & symptoms, mode of transmission, diagnosis & treatment, VL, PrEP and causes of stigma & discrimination in the community. Participants were able to know on HIV/AIDS and their concept was clear, Ward chair Person was thankful for conducting such training the community for AMDA EpiC Project.

##### Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

- In this period jointly monthly meeting was done with BDS Sub Ips of Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari was done on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 in Jhapa, Lead Nepal. In the meeting there was presence of PC, M&E Officers, AFO. Discussion was focused on case findings, ART enrollment, viral load testing, track lost

## **EpiC Nepal Project**

### **Monthly Update: February 2021**

---

to follow up cases, coordination with ART centers and hospitals, weekly case mgmt meeting, If any issues and problems arise then time discussion the respectively PC of the districts and with the staffs to be done immediately.

#### **Festival campaign social media posts:**

- Not done in this period.

#### **Objective 3: Improve program management including HIS and HRH and financial systems to ensure attainment and maintenance of epidemic control; and**

#### **Data Quality Assessment:**

- Not done in this period.

#### **Monitoring visits:**

- Monitoring visit was conducted by Sr. Program Officer, Miss Salina Joshi on 26<sup>th</sup> February at Birtamod city clinic. She visited the clinic and also performed community monitoring of PN. Discussion was done on community screening of PreP to be started by CBS, case detailing of recent infection diagnosis to be started, viral load results to be followed up, referral slip to be received from clients of Lead Nepal visiting city clinic for any service, index testing to be more focused.

#### **Community monitoring Scorecard:**

- Not done in this period.

#### **Provincial / Other GoN meeting:**

- In this period participated in the stakeholders meeting in Sunsari organized by Mahila Sahayogi Samuha on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.2021. In the meeting there was participation from Itahari Municipality, Area police office, DHO, Civil Society, Nepal Patrakar Mahasang Itahari, Shramik Mahila Sajha Manch, Prasyash Mahila Samuha, KYC, OCMC, Itahari Hospital, Human Welfare Society and other stakeholders of Sunsari district. In the meeting there was discussion of HIV/AIDS and its impact in FSWs also correlation with TB. Role of civil society and other stakeholders in the district to minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS and TB in FSWs.
- As a part from EpiC Project AMDA PC shared the Global and National scenario of HIV/AIDS, along with the concept, its mode of transmission, preventive measures, treatment services available in the country and provided by EpiC project, working collectively to achieve 95-95-95 by 2025.

#### **Quarterly Review Meeting**

- Not done in this period.

#### **Monthly meeting with ART centers:**

- Monthly meeting with ART centers was conducted in 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at BPKIHS ART center. In the meeting there was presence of ART doctor, ART counselor Nisha Shrestha, PC and M&E Officer, HA-ART for BPKIHS of AMDA Nepal. Discussion was done on the ART enrollment, ART adherence, Biometric entry of all PLHIV cases from ART center, Enrollment

## EpiC Nepal Project

### Monthly Update: February 2021

---

of PLHIV in Health Insurance, VL sample collection done twice a month, Logistic support need for Smooth Operation of ART Center, Focus on data entry on DHIS 2 Software.

#### Monitoring visit by GoN

- Mr. Deepak Dahal visited Morang city clinic of Epic Project at 10:00 am, he was sanitized and his temperature was recorded in the entrance and maintained in the dairy. He monitored the process of service delivered from our city clinic. PC visited him from registration room how we register the new clients and make different file for every individual and send clients to clinic. He was taken in the clinic room and Case Manager explains the process and services from clinic room and he was visited in the Lab room, testing process, cold chain maintained, Process of waste management in the clinic and from outreach.

Then after we all had a interaction in the meeting hall in presence of NCASC Statistic Officer, AMDA PC, BDS Sub IP PC, M&E Officer, Case Manager, FS, Lab Assistant, CBS, PN and DIC Operator. Welcome, round of introduction and brief description was done by AMDA PC Rohit Kumar Uranw and briefly presented the working areas in the Province-1 by EpiC Project with technical support of FHI coordination with AMDA Nepal and BDS Sub IPs Pariwartansil Samaj Describes the goals and objectives of the project and process of outreach session with HIV screening in the community through different approach by our CBS/PN.

- HIV testing services
- STI screening, diagnosis and treatment services.
- Support in ART initiation, VL Testing services.
- PrEP screening and initiation services.
- Support Group/ Adherence club meeting
- Condom & Lube distribution through DIC and outreach.

Every event/activity conducted is recorded in the respective forms and reported on the day as per required through Mero Data. Regular preparation and submission of report to FHI on daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly basis also HMIS, LMIS report to Palikas and DHO as entered in the online system.

After the presentation, open discussion was done in which

He asked what are the challenges faced by us during the implementation of the project activities:

1. Time consuming in OPD card prepn (2-3hrs) which hampers in same day ART initiation, if direct OPD ticketing for PLHIV will be very much helpful in same day ART initiation.
2. Due to no identity (citizenship) of some TG, MSM hard to enrolled on health insurance.
3. Access in DHIS-2 tracker to HA-ART for recording and reporting.

He said that he will talk to his team in the central level and also suggested

- To support in enroll all PLHIV in Biometric system immediately to minimize duplication, strengthen ART reporting system and services delivery.
- We will be working soon in one national reporting system for HIV treatment services Nepal Govnt. and EDPs collectively.

## EpiC Nepal Project

### Monthly Update: February 2021

---

- To provide access of DHIS-2 tracker to HA-ART by ART counselor in the respective ART center is circulated during the training of DHIS-2 tracker in Biratnagar.

He was very much impressive on support group/Adherence club meeting that we conducted with PLHIV group, sharing their experiences of ART adherence, VL testing & suppression, Index testing, HIV preventive measures with each other.

Lastly, he was thankful for to our team for quick visit and work collectively to achieve the target by 2030

#### Target vs Achievement on key indicators:

S.N.	Indicators	Target FY 2021	Achievement In Feb.2021	Cumulative Achievement FY2021
1	KP_Prev	823	116	385(46%)
2	PP_Prev	686	114	487(70%)
3	HTS_TST_FSWs	576	76	204(35%)
4	HTS_TST_PPs	530	66	260(49%)
5	HTS_TST_POS_FSWs	12	2	6(50%)
6	HTS_TST_POS_PPs	37	6	38(102%)
7	TX_New_FSWs	12	2	5(41%)
8	TX_NEW_PPs	171	10	61(35%)
9	TX_PVLS(D)	561	32	194(34%)
10	TX_PVLS(N)	537	29	180(33%)
11	STI_Screening	274	79	266(97%)
12	STI_Diagnosis & Treatment	76	37	152(200%)
13	PrEP_New	144	19	55(38%)
14	Condom distribution	223872	18,925	97,491(43%)
15	Stigma & discrimination reduction training	300	21	120(40%)

## EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: February 2021

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### Photos:



Pic: Sharing of Epic Nepal activities during stakeholders meeting of Sunsari organized by Mahila Sahayogi Samuha

## EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: February 2021

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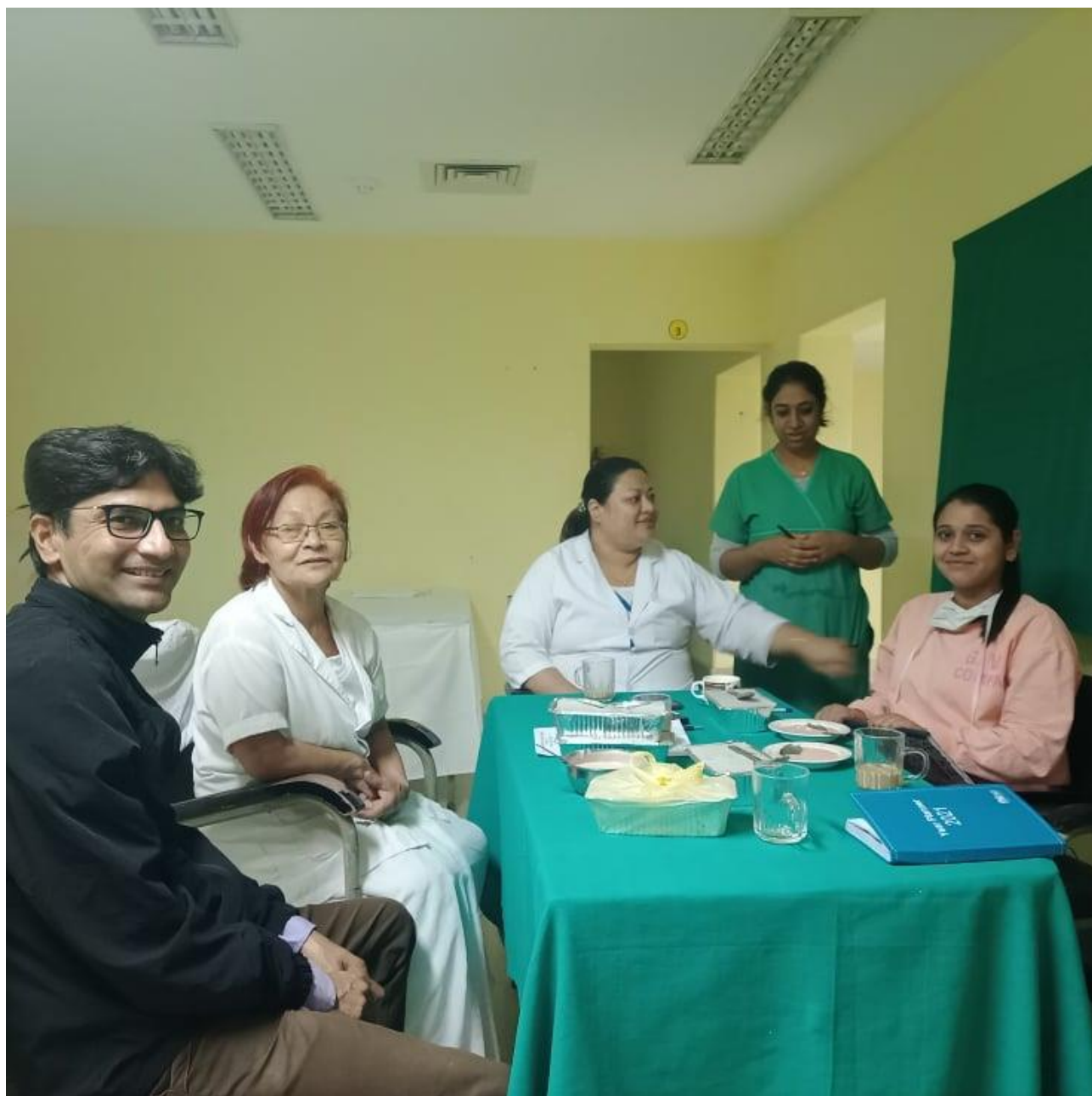


Pic: Monitoring visit of NCASC Statistics Officer Mr. Deepak Dahal



**EpiC Nepal Project**  
**Monthly Update: February 2021**

---



Pic: Monthly ART meeting of BPKIHS Dharan

**EpiC Nepal Project**  
**Monthly Update: February 2021**

---



Pic: Creative event conducting in the DIC of Morang and Sunsari.



## EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: February 2021

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Pic: Stigma and Discrimination reduction training in Jhumka , Sunsari.

Thank You