

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: March 2024

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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:

#### Jhapa

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 14 PLHIV (7 male & 7 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the ART Adherence, Importance of viral load and health insurance.

#### Sunsari

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 15 PLHIV (6 Male and 9 Female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case manager and PN. Discussion was done on Health Insurance, U=U, ART enrollment and re enrollment of all positive cases, Mental Health, importance of Index based partner testing and about viral load.

#### Morang

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang a total of 18 PLHIV (9 Male and 9 Female) participated in the meeting, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. Meeting was facilitated by field Supervisor and PN. Discussion was done on Health Insurance, U=U, ART enrollment and re enrollment of all positive cases, Mental Health, importance of Index based partner testing and about viral load.

#### Ilam

The Support Group meeting was held on March 21, 2024, at Ilam ART center. There are a total of 14 personnel present during the support group meetings. 14 are PLHIV (7 male and 7 female) and others 4 are ART counselor, HA-ART, and 2 are P.N from AMDA Nepal. Education on HIV prevention, Viral load, U=U, adherence, the importance of adherence and index testing was given at the meeting.

### Monthly review meeting:

Monthly Review Meeting (MRM) online was done on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Itahari Field Office. Discussion was done on following topics

- Target vs achievement
- Areas to be focused like Index Testing, Viral Load Testing, PrEP\_New, Merosathi booking and testing, Self-testing
- EAC, AHD, Mental Health.
- Compliances of USAID
- Benefits and allowances
- Areas to be focused

### Monthly review meeting:

Conducted Monthly Review Meeting with presence of Provincial Coordinator from Epic Nepal at Birtamod City clinic at 20<sup>th</sup> March. In the meeting, the following discussions were done :

- Performance high lists & cascade till the date

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- Merosathi booking & Online reach
- IIT register & Unsuppressed tracker updating
- Peer Mobilizers for program

### Quarterly Review Meeting

- Not done in this period

### Online Activities

Jhapa : In this reporting period , 20 phone call were made for ART Adherence , support group & HIV testing services . Likewise 1 PP was communicated through online medium .

Similarly, 4 clients booked HIV testing services through merosathi & 3 arrived in the clinic & took the services .

Sunsari: In this period, 13 phone follow up were done among them 8 took services in the clinic.

Similarly, 10 clients booked HIV testing services through Mero Sathi & 9 arrived to clinic and took the services.

Morang: In this period, 1 client booked HIV testing services through Mero Sathi & 1 arrived to clinic and took the services.

### Relief Packages

- Not done in this period.

### COVID-19 Isolation Kit:

- Not done in this period.

### Hygiene kit Distribution:

- Not done in this period.

### Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted Holi special creative event (PrEP focused) on March 21<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Itahari City clinic. A total of 25 FSWs (1.2-19, 1.3-36) participants. It was facilitated by Case Manager, DIC Operator and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP and its continuation, HIV/STI testing, Mental Health. In this event PrEP new 1, PrEP restart and 10 refilled PrEP also 16 KPs done the STI screening and 10 HIV testing also sharing of best wishes for Holi festival with different colors.

- **Morang**

Conducted Holi special creative event on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 20 female (1.2-5, 1.3-9, 67-6) participants participated in the event. It was facilitated CBS, PN and Field Supervisor. There was discussion on importance of PrEP and its continuation, HIV prevention & treatment. In this event 3 of the participants were screened for STI/HIV and 3 clients are PrEP refilled also sharing of best wishes for Holi festival with different colors.

### Jhapa

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Conducted creative event on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 19 (FSWs) were participated in the event which was facilitated by HA, DIC, CBS & P.N. Discussion was done about the importance of PrEP its advantages, sexually transmitted Infections (STIs) and its effects. In this event, 5 Kp tested for HIV & STI , 3 KP started PrEP, 1 restarted & 1 refilled. Also, 5 KPs were screened for STI, 2 were diagnosed and 1 were treated.

#### **Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:**

- **Sunsari:**

HIV related Stigma and Discrimination reduction Training was conducted on 3/29/2024 at the Duhabi Municipality Ward office 11 Hall 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. In the training there were presence of Ward committee members, Health workers, FCHV and local leaders of ward-11, Duhabi Municipality. A total of 50 participates were present in the session among them 33 were female and 17 were male participants. Training was facilitated by PC, Sr. Lab Assistant and Peer Navigator. In the training participants were able to know briefly concept of HIV/AIDS, its causes, mode of transmission, diagnoses, treatment and preventive measures along with Prep, PEP services, National strategies of 21-26 and goal by 2023. Activities carried by government and private sector. Concept of stigma and discrimination, its effects, areas and causes of stigma and discrimination. Also, there was discussion on the role of civil society, health workers, FCHV and other community leaders to minimize stigma and discrimination at different level of service delivery sites and community.

- **Morang:**

HIV related Stigma and Discrimination reduction Training was conducted on 3/20/2024 at the Neuro Hospital, Biratnagar 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. In the training there were presence of Health workers of Neuro Hospital including ward Incharge. A total of 42 participates were present in the session among them 32 were female and 10 were male participants. Training was facilitated by PC, Sr. Lab Assistant, Field Supervisor and Peer Navigator. In the training participants were able to know briefly concept of HIV/AIDS, its causes, mode of transmission, diagnoses, treatment and preventive measures along with Prep, PEP services, National strategies of 21-26 and goal by 2023. Activities carried by government and private sector. Concept of stigma and discrimination, its effects, areas and causes of stigma and discrimination. Also, there was discussion on the role of health workers and other community leaders to minimize stigma and discrimination at different level of service delivery sites and community.

- **Jhapa**

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction training was organized at 3/25/2024 at Gauradha Hospital, Gauradha municipality. The program was conducted by M & E officer, Case manager, HA-ART & CBS, PN from AMDA Nepal. The participants of the program were Medical Superintendent , Medical officer, Lab Incharge, Hospital administrator, Staff nurse & other parademics and support staffs. The program was interactive and discussion was done about different aspects of HIV, AIDS and stigma & Discrimination. Further, the team of participants were divided into 3 groups in different topics for sharing team knowledge & perspective of the subject.

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### Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

- In this period participated in the provincial Level coordination and sharing meeting organized by NAP+N at Dream Land Hotel, Dharan. In the meeting was presence from Health Section of Dharan Municipality, BPKIHS, Damak, Koshi, Mechi ART, Save the children, AMDA Nepal, DPG, Lead Nepal, Human Welfare Society, JMMS, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Jagaran Aarogya kendra, FPAN, Journalist of local Media. In the meeting there was sharing of goals, objectives, activities of NAP+N and contributing to achieve in National goal 95-95-95 in HIV program and areas to be focused in coming days.
- In this period participated in the sharing meeting of Jagaran Aarogya Kendra at Halgada, Itahari. In the meeting there was sharing of activities conducted by Recovery Nepal, issues and challenges faced during program implementation and team work of all networks to achieve 95-95-95.
- In this period

### Viral Load campaign

- Morang: In this period 17 viral load sample collection done.
- Sunsari: In this period 28 viral load sample collection done.

### Festival campaign social media posts:

- In this period Holi Festival posters were shared in the social media for HIV services through official and personal facebook pages.

### 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 done from FHI360 by Lab Specialist Sanjit Pandit and NPHL by Firoz Maharjan, Santosh Khadka and Jagat Baniya at Itahari city clinic on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. They visited the lab and clinic and look over the process and services delivered from lab and clinic specially on HIV/STI testing, PrEP services, viral load testing, EID sample collection, data base prepn, waste management also monitored HIV self-testing procedure of CBS.

#### Monitoring visit by GoN

- Not done in this period.

#### Provincial / Other GoN meeting:

- Not done in this period.

#### Trainings and Orientations:

- In this period PC, M&E Officers, M&E Associate and HA\_ART participated in the recording and reporting training organized by FHI360 at Big Hotel Biratnagar on March 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In the

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training there was discussion on ONHIS tracker data entry, report generating, data cleaning, verification with proper and realist recording and reporting for assurance of data quality.

#### Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Inaruwa ART Center**

Quarterly ART meeting was conducted at Inaruwa ART center on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In the meeting, there was presence of Medical Superintend, ART Doctor, Hospital Administrator, Nursing staff, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, OCMC ward, Sr. Provincial Coordinator, PC, M & E officer, HA-ART from EpiC Project. In the meeting there was sharing of current status of HIV in the country, Province and district with goals to be achieved by Nepal government by 2026 and 2030. Areas to be focused by for FY2024 to achieve 95-95-95. Issues, challenges faced by LGBTIQ community and activities focused for these communities. Along with currently on ART, viral load status with KP wise of BPKIHS and Inaruwa Hospital.

- **Ilam ART Center**

Monthly ART meeting was conducted at Ilam ART center on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In the meeting, there was presence of Medical Superintend, ART Doctor, Hospital Administrator, Emergency Incharge, Nursing staff, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, CHBC Mobilizer from CCC, HA-ART, PN from EpiC Project. In the meeting there was sharing of shortage of VL reagent and plan for VL testing after reagent comes, need to provide orientation on dispensing site of Panchthar for dispensing and recording and reporting. Also discussed for quarterly ART meeting in February.

#### photos



Pics: HIV related Stigma and Discrimination Orientation to Health workers of Neuro Hospital Biratnagar.

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Pics: HIV related Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Orientation to Local Leaders and Health workers of Duhabi Municipality

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Pics: Quarterly ART Meeting at Inaruwa Hospital

**Thank You**