

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: July 2021

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 virtual support group meetings in Jhapa, Sunsari and Morang district on 23rd, 27th and 29th July 2021 through Facebook messenger respectively. A total of 21 PLHIV (16 Male and 5 Female) were participated. 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, ART enrollment and re enrollment of all positive cases, missing, LTFU and known positive cases, VL testing campaigns every week and dispatch of reports for know your status, Importance of PrEP and Index based partner testing and also regarding the merosathi booking link for various services. During the meeting discussion about prevention from the risk of COVID-19 & suggest to follow all the guidance imposed by government of Nepal & its local authorities for the prevention & control measures to follow.

Monthly review meeting:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted monthly review meetings to review the progress and decide way forward on 13th, 14th and 15th July in Sunsari, Jhapa and Morang district respectively. In the meeting there was presence of PO, PC, M&E Officers, FS, AFO, HA, CBS, PN, Lab staffs and DIC/M&E Associate. There was discussion on following:

- District and indicators wise target vs achievement.
- Gaps in case findings, ART enrollment, viral load testing, PrEP initiation.
- Known positive mapping for known positive listing & follow ups.
- Target division for each district to achieve 83% till July 2021.
- Safety & security of all beneficiaries & all staffs from COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Proper counseling and enrollment in biometric system of all PLHIV to minimize duplication of cases.

Online Activities

- A total of 9 KP & 26 PP was reached through online platform for HIV testing, STI, PrEP & Covid-19 prevention in Jhapa.
- A total of 3 KP & 88 PP was reached through online platform for HIV testing, STI, PrEP & Covid-19 prevention in Sunsari.
- A total of 5 KP & 15 PP was reached through online platform for HIV testing, STI, PrEP & Covid-19 prevention in Morang.
- Also 6 KPs and 6 PPs were followed through phone for HIV testing, STI, PrEP and COVID-19 prevention in Jhapa.
- Also 3 KPs and 9 PPs were followed through phone for HIV testing, STI, PrEP and COVID-19 prevention in Sunsari.

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- Also 20 KPs and 25 PPs were followed through phone for HIV testing, STI, PrEP and COVID-19 prevention in Morang.
- Also 53 PLHIV (36 male and 17 female) were followed through phone for ART adherence and viral load testing in Jhapa.
- Also 70 PLHIV (27 male and 43 female) were followed through phone for ART adherence and viral load testing in Sunsari.
- Also 86 PLHIV (45 male and 41 female) were followed through phone for ART adherence and viral load testing in Jhapa.
- A total of 18 merosathi bookings were made in Jhapa for July, among which 10 arrived and performed testing. Also, total 28 bookings were followed up for testing, including those who missed the appointments last month.
- A total of 20 merosathi bookings were made in Sunsari for July, all were followed for testing and 20 arrived and performed testing. Among them 1 case diagnosed and enrolled on ART.
- A total of 3 merosathi bookings were made in Morang for July, among which 1 arrived and performed testing.

ARV Distribution Services

- In this period 112 PLHIV were supported for pill pick up from ART center in community and home by PN, CBS, Lab, HA, HA-ART. Among them 9 were out of EpiC.
- In this period 46 PLHIV were supported for pill pick up from ART center in community and home by PN, CBS, Lab, HA, HA-ART and FS in Sunsari.
- In this period 28 PLHIV were supported for pill pick up from ART center in community and home by PN, CBS, Lab, HA, HA-ART and FS in Morang.

Relief Packages

- Not done in this period.

COVID-19 Isolation Kit:

- Not done in this period.

Creative events:

- Not done in this period.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

- Not done in this period.

Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

Stakeholder's meeting was done on 27th July between AMDA Nepal, Lead Nepal, Luvakush Ashram, ART site and Mahila Jagaran Samaj in Jhapa district at Birtamode city clinic. There was a total of 10 participants including the case management team of Jhapa. The meeting was led by PC and discussion on the following campaigns were made.

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- a. **START Campaign:** Objective of this campaign is to enroll HIV-positives into the treatment. Mobilize CBS plus to bring new HIV-positives on the treatment and PNs to bring known HIV-positives for treatment.
- b. **Know Your Number Campaign:** Objective of this campaign is to inform and aware viral load numbers to HIV-positives accelerating viral load testing and providing results. Mobilize PNs and case management to conduct this campaign.
- c. **Welcome Back Campaign:** Objective of this campaign is to bring IIT clients into the treatment. Mobilize CBS plus, PNs, ART counsellors, and case management to conduct this campaign.

Viral Load campaign

In this period Viral load sample collection was done on 25th and 26th July in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari district in coordination with BDS Sub IPs, ART Center and CCCs. During this period, a total of 53 (19 Jhapa, 19 Sunsari and 15 Morang) samples were collected and sent to Koshi Zonal Hospital. In this period 30 VL report(15 Jhapa, 7 Sunsari, 8 Morang) were received from Koshi Zonal Hospital among them all were suppressed.

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:

- Mr. Sanjeet Pandit (Laboratory Specialist, FHI 360), Mr. Bijay Bajrachariya (SCI Global fund representative) & Mr. Ujjwal Laghu (Microbiologist, NPHL) visited Itahari city clinic & Birtamod city clinic of Epic Project at 10 am & 3:30 pm on 22nd July 2021 respectively. They were sanitized and their temperature was recorded in the entrance and maintained in the dairy.
- A short introduction & welcome session was conducted with the team and M& E officer has shared the short overview and scenario of EpiC Project. Team work towards the beneficiaries for the HIV prevention program as well as strong coordination is the essence of project activities. Then, they monitored the process of service delivered from our city clinic. They visited from registration room how we register the new clients and make different clients for every individual and send clients to clinic. They were taken in the clinic room and Case Manager explains the process and services from clinic room. They also checked the Emergency kit, other medicine stocks, expiry charts and clinic registers. After that they

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visited Lab room, testing process, cold chain maintained, Process of waste management in the clinic and in the outreach, recording of Viral load report, EID sample, EQAS was explained, stock book and verification with expiry. Also checked the temperature records of the refrigerator. They also discussed the exact method including the timing for autoclave. Then after we all had a very quick interaction session among all staffs.

Discussion was done on:

- HIV and STI testing services.
- VL Testing services.
- VL sample collection sites, Cold chain Maintenance and way of transferring VL samples.
- VL sample labeling, amount of sample to be collected.
- Test kits used and maintained in the stock book.
- Difficulties faced during VL testing and sample collection.
- Waste management process.
- Current case finding and ART enrollment scenario of Jhapa district.
- Challenges faced by CBS and PN in the field.
- Post Exposure Prophylaxis.

Suggestion

- To regular follow-up ART sites for Viral load reports.
- Importance of case management team meeting among the team.
- To compulsory carry capillary tube in the CLT box.
- To always return used Self-test kits to the lab in a zip lock bag.
- To prepare graphs after the temperature are recorded in the file esp. in Jhapa case.
- Monitoring visit should be done at every level & aspects by PC, M&E, LA, HA.
- Strong Recording & reporting of clinical activities.

They were very much impressed to see our clinic well managed and a good team spirit among all the staffs. Also, they were impressed on service delivered from our city clinic & overall recording and reporting of clinical services. Likewise, they were happy to know that, some of our old clients even come to our city clinic by themselves without any referral as well.

Lastly, they were thankful for making their short visit a fruitful one and also for all the hard work and dedication to work, by all the staffs even in this period of pandemic.

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Community monitoring Scorecard:

- Not done in this period.

Provincial / Other GoN meeting:

- Not done in this period.

Quarterly Review Meeting

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visit by GoN

- Dr. Sudha Devkota observed the city clinic and the workplace of Pariwartanshil Samaj clinic on 24th July 2021 Ms. Muskan Shrestha and Mr. Rohit Uranw facilitated Dr. Sudha during the visit. She visited from registration room how we register the new clients and make different client file for every individual and send clients to clinic. Then she was taken to clinic room and Case Manager explains the process and services from clinic room. After that she was visited Lab room, testing process, cold chain maintained, drug expiry chart. Dr. Sudha commented that the location of the city clinic and setting is well managed.
- Discussing on the agenda, Mr. Rohit Uranw and Ms. Muskan Shrestha presented about the working modality jointly in the district and work progress/achievement of EpiC project from Oct. 2020 to 20th July 2021. Dr. Sudha suggested that target setting is done to driven the project activities in the to meet the national goal. But do not generate false data/case in the name of achievement. We have been facing issues of duplication nationwide and strongly advised not to misguide cases and create false data. We shared that the issue of duplication is being taken very seriously and there has been a recent development of strict guideline and follow series of level for preventing duplication issues. Also, Dr. Sudha suggested that self-testing shall also be included in the statistics for HIV testing number instead number of kit distribution and would co-ordinate with fhi360 for that.
- Discussing on the agenda, Key Populations specially from the LGBTIQ community are hard to retain in the services as they go to India for making their living (earning purpose) for at least 3-4 months in a year. Dr. Sudha asked to further investigate upon the population who frequently migrate to India for their living (earning purpose) and find out their income so that we can make them capable to generate similar income within the country through trainings/skills development (tailoring skills and sewing machine distributions, shop installation etc). Dr. Sudha also asked us for submitting the document to NCASC so that both NCASC can collaborate with donor agencies and local government to solve the issue for sustaining clients in prevention, treatment and care services.
- Also discussed on recording and reporting from ART center is biased for MSM, MSW and reported as male. Which directly halts the planning of program for LGBTIQ population nationally. Dr. Sudha advice Mr. Deepak Dahal Statistic Officer of NCASC to addressed in the recording and reporting system.
- She also focused in bringing out the hidden Key population and creating safer environment and this needed dissemination of information to the general public for reduction of stigma.

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Trainings and Orientations:

- Orientation on Data review and verification mechanism was conducted by SI unit on 8th July, which included the participation of PC, M&E staffs and HA ART.
- Counseling session on Building Mental Health and Self Care was conducted by FHI to all the EpiC staffs on 2nd and 3rd week of July.
- Orientation on conducting 3 campaigns- StART, known your number and welcomeback campaign was given virtually on 22nd July, in order to expedite the program and address the missed opportunity, in which PC, M&E, HA, HA-ART and LA participated virtually.
- Density Mapping Orientation was given by Kiran Sir to all the DIC and online CBS of Jhapa and Sunsari district on 28th July.

Monthly ART center Meetings

- In this period monthly meeting with BPKIHS ART center done in the presence of HOD Dr. Roshan, Lab In charge Dr. Shyam, Tropical ward In charge Laxmi Ghimire, ART counselor, HA ART, NAP+N Province Coordinator Roman Rai and PC, M&E of AMDA Nepal and Human Welfare Society on 26th July 2021. In the meeting there was discussion on Start Campaigns Objective of this campaign is to enroll HIV-positives (newly diagnosed, known positive, missing, LTFU) into the treatment, Viral load testing and timely dispatch of report to the clients. Mobilize CBS plus to bring new HIV-positives on the treatment and PNs to bring known HIV-positives for treatment in coordination with ART centers, CCC, Private clinics, lab, hospitals and other organizations.
Also, there was discussion on logistic support to ART centers and and Pediatric wards for effective services delivery.

Target Vs Achievement

S.N.	Indicators	Target FY 2021	Achievement In July.2021	Cumulative Achievement (Oct 2020-July 2021) FY2021
1	KP_Prev	823	87	694(83%)
2	PP_Prev	686	90	828(120%)
3	HTS_TST_FSWs	576	62	439(76%)
4	HTS_TST_PPs	530	48	418(78%)
5	HTS_TST_POS_FSWs	12	2	10(83%)
6	HTS_TST_POS_PPs	37	3	57(152%)
7	TX_New_FSWs	12	4	11(91%)
8	TX_NEW_PPs	171	12	101(59%)

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9	TX_PVLS(D)	561	8	320(57%)
10	TX_PVLS(N)	537	8	292(54%)
11	STI_Screening	274	99	547(199%)
12	STI_Diagnosis & Treatment	76	41	238(309%)
13	PrEP_New	144	29	145(100.06%)
14	Condom distribution	223872	11411	1491342(66%)
15	Stigma & discrimination reduction training	300	0	176(58%)

Photos:



Pics: Stakeholder's meeting for 3 campaign discussion

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Monitoring visit by Lab specialists from FHI, SCI and NPHL at Itahari and Birtamod city clinic.

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Sharing of project activities, implementation modality and progress of the district.

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EpiC Project Morang team with Dr. Sudha Devkota



Pic: Tablet handover to ART counselor, MZH

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Pic: Monthly ART center meeting in BPKIHS, Dharan.

Thank You.