

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: March 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 18<sup>th</sup>,19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 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.

##### **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 Sunsari on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In the meeting there was presence of 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.
- Targets to be achieved till March for 50%.
- Sharing of findings from audit visit update timesheet, workplan, attendance sheet, leave approval, advance settlement etc.
- Reorientation on EMMP, COI, TIP.
- Target division for each district to achieve 50% till March 2021.

##### **Creative events:**

- Creative event was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> also Holi special creative done on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March in Morang, Sunsari and Jhapa district, with a total of 62 participants (FSWs) with the following objective;
  - To orient on PrEP and screened for PrEP to prevent HIV transmission.
  - To develop good relation with FSWs and their networks by playing Holi together.
  - To increase clinic flow and testing.
  - To train KPs to achieve skills for Income Generation.
- Among the total participants 27 KPs were tested but all were non-reactive, and 21 were screened for PrEP, among them 18 initiated PrEP.

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

- In this period S&D discrimination reduction training was conducted at on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 in Tribeni Chowk, Birtamode and 20<sup>th</sup> March in Tanki chowk, Budhi-Ganga-3, Morang. In the training, most of the youth population of that area were participated. This community was focused because most of the youths in that area, were reported to be in drug abuse. They were provided on knowledge on HIV/AIDS, sign & symptoms, mode of transmission, diagnosis & treatment, VL, PrEP and causes of

# **EpiC Nepal Project**

## **Monthly Update: March 2021**

---

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.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Morang, Pariwartansil Samaj. 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 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:**

- Festival campaign was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March, keeping in mind the festival of colors. Most of the migrants visit their home to celebrate Holi and this period was utilized fully focusing on testing of high risk populations and enrolling all those HIV negative KPs into PrEP. Also social media posting was done from facebook pages. During this period one case findings was done in Sunsari by online CBS.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> March at Itahari city clinic. Discussed on target vs achievement, mainly focused on case findings, ART enrollment, Viral load testing, PrEP initiation and findings of known positive. She also focused on Index testing.

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

- Community Led Monitoring was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari respectively in coordination with BDS sub IPs Lead Nepal, Pariwartansil Samaj and Human Welfare Society. Participants were mainly asked regarding how well the HTC services were provided from the site and were asked to rate 0 to 4 on the basis of their experiences. They all seem to be quite satisfied with all the services they received. The only complain they had was regarding the distance of city clinic from their Drop-in center to receive PrEP, STI and other services.
- Likewise, in course of Community monitoring at Inaruwa Hospital and Ilam Hospital KII was taken with the ART counselor on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 respectively. ART counselor was asked about the current services provided by the ART site and if there were any services to be improved for increasing the number of testing and treatment of beneficiaries. According to him, all the PLHIVs once enrolled take their medicine on time and most of them are continuing their treatment without any barrier.

## **EpiC Nepal Project**

### **Monthly Update: March 2021**

---

- Similarly Community Monitoring sharing of Morang for first quarter was done in the ART center of Koshi Zonal Hospital. In the sharing there was presence of ART counselor, Lab Incharge, lab staffs, Medical recorder, COVID-19 Province one Health Coordinator, PC AMDA EpiC Project, HA ART, and PN, Social mobilizer from Sparsha Nepal CCC Morang. Sharing of findings from Community monitoring scorecard of Morang district. which was done among TG and FSWs component about EpiC Project HIV and STI services delivery and satisfaction. Most of the participants shared their satisfaction on the HIV and STI services delivery from the EpiC Project.

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

- In this period participated in the stakeholders meeting in Sunsari organized by Mahila Sahayogi Samuha on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In the meeting there was participation from Itahari Municipality, Area police office, Civil Society, Nepal Patrakar Mahasang Ithari, Shramik Mahila Sajha Manch, Prasyash Mahila Samuha, FPAN, Astha Foundation, Ithari 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 rise voice of FSWs in the country.

#### **Quarterly Review Meeting**

- Not done in this period.

#### **Monitoring visit by GoN**

- In this period monitoring visit was done on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from Inaruwa Hospital Medical Supritendent Dr. Santosh Rai, ART counselor Pramod Mehta, Health Coordinator Ghanshyam Sigdel, HIV focal Person from Itahari Sub Metropolitan City. They visited Itahari city clinic of Epic Project at 2:00 pm, they were sanitized and temperature was recorded in the entrance and maintained in the dairy. They monitored the process of service delivered from our city clinic. PC visited them from registration room how we register the new clients and make different file 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 and was visited in the Lab room, testing process, cold chain maintained, Process of waste management in the clinic and from outreach. Also 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.
- Mr. Jagat Baniya (Sr. Medical technologist NPHL), Mrs. Sweety Upadhya (Lab Technical NPHL) & Mr. Binay Kumar Yadav (Lab Technologist Koshi Hospital) visited Itahari city clinic of Epic Project at 10:30 am, they were sanitized and their temperature was recorded in the entrance and maintained in the dairy. 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 file 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 and he was visited in the Lab room, testing process, cold chain maintained, Process of waste management in the clinic and from outreach, recording of Viral load report & EID sample. Then after we all had an interaction in the meeting hall in presence of Mr. Jagat Baniya (Sr. Medical technologist NPHL), Mrs. Sweety Upadhya (Lab Technical NPHL) & Mr. Binay Kumar Yadav (Lab Technologist Koshi Hospital) AMDA PC, M&E Officer, Case Manager, Lab Assistant, CBS, PN and DIC

## EpiC Nepal Project

### Monthly Update: March 2021

---

Operator. Welcome, round of introduction and short description was done by AMDA PC Rohit Kumar Uranw implemented with technical support of FHI coordination with AMDA Nepal.

Discussion was done on:

- HIV testing services.
- Support in ART initiation, VL Testing services.
- VL sample collection sites, Cold chain Maintain.
- 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.

Suggested

- To report the VL data base sheet along with VL sample.
- To report the issues regarding VL sample collection & its report received.

They were very much impressive on service deliver from our city clinic & overall recording and reporting of clinical services.

Lastly, they thankful for to our team for quick visit and work collectively to achieve the target.

#### Trainings and Orientations:

- In this period participated in the use of stigma and discrimination reduction toolkit training organized by FHI360 in Kathmandu Everest Hotel from 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. In the training there is participation of Project Coordinators from IPs and Sub IPs of EpiC Project. The training was facilitated by SBC specialist Kiran Bam, Anuradha Sharam and Shushil sir with active group interaction and group work with use of tool kit for training planning and conduction in the community, facility and district level.

#### Monthly ART center Meetings

- Monthly meeting with ART centers was conducted in 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Inaruwa ART center. In the meeting there was presence of ART doctor, ART counselor, Lab technician, Medical recorder, Staff Nurse, AMDA PC. Discussion was done on the ART dispensing sites of EpiC Project for MSM/TG from Ithahari City Clinic coordinating parent ART center Inaruwa for ART adherence, Biometric entry of all PLHIV cases from ART center, free support for ART initiation from Inaruwa hospital, Enrollment of PLHIV in Health Insurance.

#### Target vs achievement

S.N.	Indicators	Target FY 2021	Achievement In March.2021	Cumulative Achievement (Oct 2020-March 2021) FY2021
1	KP_Prev	823	170	510(61%)
2	PP_Prev	686	148	612(89%)
3	HTS_TST_FSWs	576	131	309(53%)
4	HTS_TST_PPs	530	84	295(55%)

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

5	HTS_TST_POS_FSWs	12	2	8(66%)
6	HTS_TST_POS_PPs	37	6	45(121%)
7	TX_New_FSWs	12	2	7(58%)
8	TX_NEW_PPs	171	10	71(41%)
9	TX_PVLS(D)	561	60	247(44%)
10	TX_PVLS(N)	537	55	229(42%)
11	STI_Screening	274	122	349(127%)
12	STI_Diagnosis & Treatment	76	50	187(246%)
13	PrEP_New	144	40	91(63%)
14	Condom distribution	223872	31,283	1,26,140(56%)
15	Stigma & discrimination reduction training	300	56	176(58%)

# EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: March 2021

Photos:



Pic: Monitoring visit by NPHL team to EpiC Itahari city clinic

VISITOR'S BOOK      आगन्तुक पुस्तिका					
S.No. सि.नं.	DATE मिति	VISITOR'S NAME आगन्तुकको नाम	ADDRESS AND PHONE No. ठेगाना र टेलिफोन नं.	REMARKS टिप्पणी	S.No. सि.नं.
	२०७१/१०/१८	Prof. Dr. Sublal K. Shrestha	Kathmandu, Nepal	limited clinic for staff time. Deflated reputation of clinic	
	Jan 22, 2021	Salina Joshi	FHI 360 Nepal EpiC Project Kathmandu, 9851097118	keep up the good work "Remember" Implementing "Fidelity"	
	March 05, 2021	Sweety Upadkaya	NPHL / EpiC Project Kathmandu, 9847551518	Impressive, keep up good co-ordination & good work	

Pic: Feedback from NPHL team visit



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

---



Pic: Holi Special Creative event in Jhapa.



Pic: Stigma and Discrimination reduction training in Tribeni, Btm, Jhapa

# EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: March 2021

---



Pic: Conducting Community Led Monitoring.



Pic: Key Informant Interview, Ilam district hospital, ART site.



## EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: March 2021

---



Pic: Tablet support to ART counselor of Inaruwa Hospital by Sr. PO of EpiC Project.



Pic: weekly meeting

Thank You

## EpiC Nepal Project Monthly Update: March 2021

---



Pic: Monitoring visit from Inaruwa Hospital and Itahari Sub metropolitan City



Pic: Participated in the use of Stigma and Discrimination reduction training tool kit

Thank You

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

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