

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: November 2022

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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 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 9 PLHIV (2 male & 7 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the importance of ART adherence, index testing as well as importance of the viral load. The program was interactive where the question of participants was responded by our staff.

#### **Sunsari:**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup> in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 15 PLHIV (12 Female and 3 male) participated in the meeting, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. Meeting was facilitated by Case manager and PN. Discussion was done on Viral load testing, ARV medicine benefits & experience sharing, Index testing.

#### **Morang:**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 21 PLHIV (9 Female and 12 male) participated in the meeting, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. Meeting was facilitated by Case manager and PN. Discussion was done on Viral load testing, ART continuing, Index testing.

### Monthly review meeting:

Monthly Review meeting was conducted at 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November virtually with presence of Provincial Coordinator, PC, M & E, Case Manager, Lab, CBS+, PN and clinical helper of Jhapa, Sunsari and Morang district respectively. In the meeting there was discussion on the following Agenda:

- Key achievements of the project till the date.
- Key highlights of the activities in the October 2022.
- Discussion about targets for FY23.
- Issues of Data safety and security with its compliances.
- Safeguarding policy
- Planning for next month as per need to achieve targets.

### Online Activities

- 28 PLHIV were followed through phone for ART adherence, index partner testing, viral load testing and 9 KP were followed up for PrEP, HIV & STI services in Jhapa.

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- 5 Merosathi booking was done & 3 of them were tested & non-reactive.
- In case of Sunsari district 14 clients were followed through phone flow up where 12 clients took services of HIV testing and STI testing. Also 11 Merosathi bookings were done & 9 of them were tested.

#### **ARV Distribution Services**

#### **Relief Packages**

- Not done in this period.

#### **COVID-19 Isolation Kit:**

- Not done in this period.

#### **Hygiene kit Distribution:**

- In this period 11 KPs & 9 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after creative event & support group respectively in the Jhapa district in this month.
- In this period 16 KPs were distributed hygiene Kit after creative event in Sunsari district.

#### **Creative events:**

- **Sunsari**  
Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on November 15<sup>th</sup> in Itahari City clinic. A total of 14 FSWs 9(1.2), 4(1.3), 1(67) participated in the event, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. It was facilitated by DIC Operator and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP, its continuation & also demonstrated the making of rose flower. Among them 5 STI services, 5 HTC services and 2 FSW took PrEP follow services, 6 PrEP restarted, 1 PrEP new.
- **Morang**  
Conducted creative event (PrEP focused, Tihar bises) on November 25<sup>th</sup> in Biratnagar City clinic. A total of 11 FSWs 4(1.2), 7(1.3) participated in the event, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. It was facilitated by DIC Operator and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP, its continuation. Among them 3 STI services, 3 HTC services and 3 PrEP new & 3 PrEP restarted.
- **Jhapa**  
Conducted creative event on November 16<sup>th</sup> in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 10 (FSWs) were participated in the event which was facilitated by HA, DIC, CBS & P.N. Discussion was done about the importance of PrEP, its continuity, sexually transmitted Infections (STIs) & its prevention. We also played quiz contest by dividing them in groups among the participants & gifted them gifts after the game. In this event, 10 KP tested for HIV, 2 enrolled in PrEP and 2 restarted PrEP. Also, 10 KPs were screened for STI, 2 diagnosed and 2 were treated.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- Participated in the coordination and planning meeting of 16 Days Campaign Against Women Violence organized by Itahari Sub Metropolitan City on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In the meeting there was participation of Mayor and Deputy Mayor along with chief of Health section, Social Development Section and representatives of development partners working Itahari. There was discussion and planning of 16 days campaign with various activities that is to be conducted for 16 days regularly. In the meeting EpiC Project notify that EpiC Project will lead on World AIDS Day 2022 December 1<sup>st</sup> with various activities in the district and Itahari Sub Metropolitan City.
- In this period participated in the coordination and sharing meeting organized by FHI360 at Itahari Sunsari on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022. In the meeting there was participants from Provincial HIV focal Person, HIV focal person of Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari district along with implementing partners of SCI/GF and FHI360 of three districts. There was sharing was provincial status of HIV program, issues in recording and reporting. Planning of world AIDS Day 2022 for Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari with budget allocation and work division for respective organizations.
- Participated in the coordination and sharing meeting organized by Jagaran Aarogya Kendra on November 13<sup>th</sup> 2022. In the meeting there was sharing of program activities, issue and challenges faced during the program implementation along with Gender Based Violence scenario and its impact in the community our roles and responsibilities to minimize the GBV from our level.
- Participated in the opening ceremony of 16 days Campaign of Violence Against Women organized by Itahari Sub Metropolitan City on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with mass rally.
- Conducted coordination and sharing meeting at Itahari Youth Development Center (YDC) Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. In the meeting there was presence from HIV focal person of Health Office Sunsari, Health Coordinators of Dharan, Itahari and Inaruwa municipality along with participants of participants from NAP+N, Richmond Fellowship, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Shramik Mahila Sajha Manch, Jagaran Aargoya Kendra, AMDA Nepal, Human Welfare Society, Sahara Samaj, Sakriya mahila Samuha. In the coordination meeting there was sharing of program activities of EpiC Project in the district through city clinic and community. After that there was planning of World AIDS Day 2022 in the Sunsari district with open discussion and finally went in conclusion to conduct following activities in the district.
  1. Awareness rally with red ribbon distribution and interaction with media on the current situation of HIV program.
  2. Submission of HIV Program Draft to Mayor of Dharan Municipality for Budget allocation during budget planning.

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3. Distribution of Nutrition package and Hygiene kit to 25 PLHIV families in the presence of Mayor of Itahari Municipality.
4. Candle light Day Ceremony at Itahari chowk at the evening.
5. Awareness jinjle through local radio station for 3 days (Saptakoshi FM, Popular FM, Bijaypur FM).

#### **Viral Load campaign**

- In this period altogether 37 viral load sample collection was done from Mechi ART center in coordination with AMDA Nepal Jhapa, BDS Sub IPs, CCC and sent to NPHL.
- In this period altogether, 29 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Sunsari. No viral report received.
- In this period altogether, 35 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Morang. Total 33 viral report received this month.

#### **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:**

- In this period monitoring visit was done at Itahari City clinic on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by HIV Focal Person of Province Health Directorate Dhankuta. She monitored the process of service delivery from city clinic from registration to pre-test and post-test counseling and lab services along with recording and reporting.  
After monitoring visit had sharing and discussion of services provided by EpiC Project in the district along with Target vs achievement, issues and challenges.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- Participated in PMTCT services recording and reporting orientation organized by Province Health Directorate. In the orientation welcome remarks to the participants were given by Provincial Health Director Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet along with roles and responsibilities of private hospitals in PMTCT services during ANC/delivery and PNC visit and its recording and reporting mechanism. Any kind of support needed to improve health services and recording

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and reporting mechanism Health Directorate is always there to build up public-private relationship to improve health services delivery and strengthen reporting mechanism.

Overall Epidemiological status of HIV/AIDS nationally and province level sharing was done by Mr. Kumar Dhakal Sr. Program Coordinator of Save the Children along with HIV prevalence in Nepal, concentrated epidemic, risk groups, HIV Testing services and its treatment therapy, necessity and objectives of PMTCT services in achieving to end HIV epidemic by 2030 and importance of private hospitals to maintain record and report PMTCT services in national system.

Status of PMTCT services reporting in DHIS-2 by private hospitals was shared by Mr. Mukunda Dahal, Statistics Officer of Province Health Directorate along with importance of recording and reporting and deadline of reporting in DHIS-2.

Private hospitals presentations on PMTCT services delivery i.e., ANC/PNC counselled, HIV Tested and referral positive of cases for FY 2078/79 and FY2079/80 was presented with Issues and challenges.

HMIS register of MNCH program and its recording and reporting form was presented with process of recording and reporting by PMTCT service provider and Lab of private hospitals by Mr. Rakesh Panthi M&E Coordinator Save the Children.

Issues and action points of the orientation was presented and discussed by Mr. Rohit Kumar Uranw, Project Coordinator AMDA Nepal EpiC Project.

Overall, how was the orientation program and points to take and apply now onwards in recording and reporting of PMTCT services was shared from participants Mr. Dharani Khanal, Hospital Manager of Morang Cooperative Hospital.

Summarization of the program and vote of thanks to all the participants for presence in the orientation in short period of time was given by Tara Devi Subedi and lastly closing was also done with group photos.

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

- Not done in this period.

#### **Trainings and Orientations:**

- In this period CBS plus participated in the motivational Interviewing training organized by FHI360 at Hotel Ramda, Thamel Kathmandu from November 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- In this period orientation provided by SI unit on Data Safety and Security, changes in Mero Data of IIT, Transfer out client, Dispensing site on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

#### **Monthly ART center Meetings**

- **Inaruwa ART Center**

Quarterly ART meeting was conducted at Inaruwa ART Center Sunsari on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. During the meeting following agenda were discussed in the presence of Mesu Dr. Devraj Ghimire, Lab Incharge, Emergency Incharge, OMCM, MCH ward Incharge, administration, ART ART Counselor, HA-ART, AMDA, HWS PC.

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1. Program Sharing: Sharing of FY2022 target vs achievement with issues and challenges along with sharing of new targets of FY2023 for Sunsari district of EpiC Project.
2. Viral Load Testing: There was discussion on more focused to be in viral load sample collection and reporting. All and every client should compulsorily need to collect VL sample. No need to provide medicine more than three months, every client needs to consult doctors at least in every three months.
3. EpiC project can provide logistics and necessary support as per need in strengthening ART sites.
4. Also had discussion on World AIDS Day 2022, Mesu had decided to participate from District Hospitals and ART center in the program.

#### Photos



Pic: Creative event at Birtamode City clinic



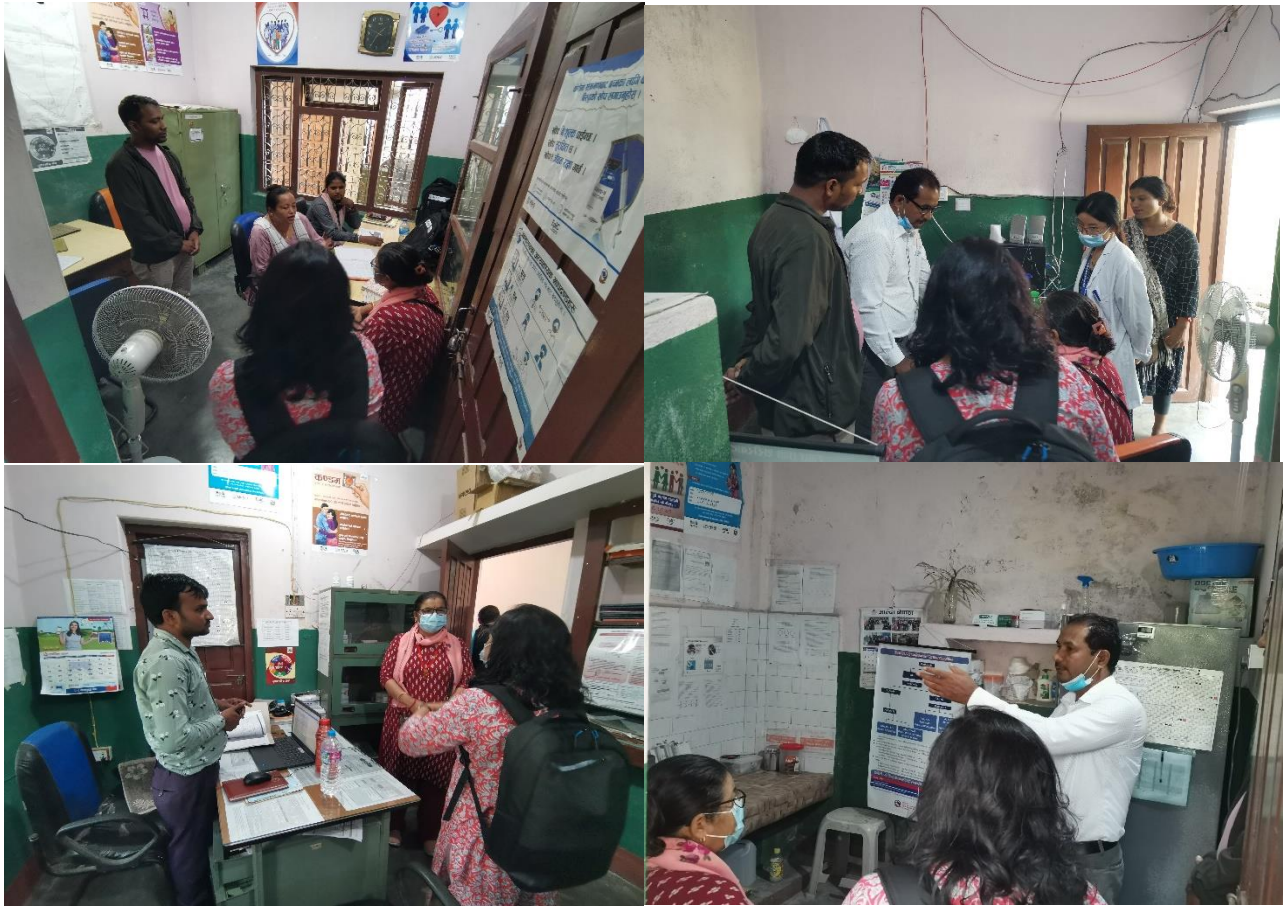
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Pic: PMTCT services recording and reporting orientation organized by PHD.

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Pics: Monitoring visit by Provincial HIV focal Person to Itahari City Clinic.



Pics: Participation in coordination and sharing meeting of Jagaran Aarogya Kendra at Itahari.



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Participated in the Opening Ceremony of “16 Days Campaign Violence Against Women” organized by Itahari Municipality.



Participated in the planning meeting of “16 Day Campaign of Violence Against Women” organized by Itahari Municipality.



Pics: Coordination and sharing meeting organized by EpiC Project in Itahari, Sunsari.