

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: October 2022

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 14th October, 2022 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 7 PLHIV (4 male & 3 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 October 14th in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 16 PLHIV (11 Female and 5 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 October 20th in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 14 PLHIV (8 Female and 6 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 done on October 1st in Sunsari at YDC meeting hall, Itahari. In the meeting there was presence of PC, AFO, M&E, Case Manager, COVID-19 Team, Lab, CBS+, PN, Clinical Helper of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam district. In the meeting there was discussion on following agenda:

- Introduction to new and old EpiC staffs.
- Upcoming program and areas to be focused and addressed.
- Approaches to cover and meet target 95-95-95.
- Roles and responsibilities of all staffs
- Targets of sharing of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam district for FY2023
- Farewell to discontinued staffs

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Online Activities

Jhapa:

3 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 & 1 merosathi booking was done & tested.

Sunsari:

In case of Sunsari district 11 clients were followed through phone flow up where 8 clients took services of HIV testing and STI testing. Also 5 Mero sathi bookings were done & all of them were tested.

Relief Packages

- Not done in this period.

COVID-19 Isolation Kit:

- Not done in this period.

Hygiene kit Distribution:

- In this period 14 KPs & 7 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after creative event & support group respectively in the Jhapa district in this month.
- In this period 11 KPs & 14 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after creative event & support group respectively in the Morang district in this month.
- In this period 5 KPs & 14 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after creative event & support group respectively in the Sunsari district in this month.

Creative events:

- **Jhapa**

Conducted creative event (tihar bises) on 20th October in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 14 (FSWs) were participated in the event where we celebrated & got entertained at the occasion of tihar festival. Participants also learned about the process of making rongeli during the event. It was facilitated by HA, DIC, CBS & P.N. Discussion was done about the importance of PrEP, its continuity, HIV Prevention as well Treatment also about COVID-19 vaccination. In this event, 5 Kp tested for HIV, 5 enrolled in PrEP and 2 restarted PrEP. Also, 7 KPs were screened for STI, 4 diagnosed and 2 were treated.

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused, Tihar bises) on October 18th in Itahari City clinic. A total of 14 FSWs 10(1.2), 4(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 8 STI services, 3 HTC services and 5 FSW took PrEP follow services, 1 PrEP restarted, 1 PrEP new.

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- **Morang**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused, Tihar bises) on October 18th in Biratnagar City clinic. A total of 11 FSWs 5(1.2), 6(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 5 FSW took 3 PrEP restarted.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

- Not done in this period.

Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

Viral Load campaign

Sunsari:

In this period altogether, 9 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Sunsari and 48 VL report received where 2 with unsuppressed results in coordination with ART center, BDS Sub IPS, CCC & the sample was sent to NPHL.

Day Celebration

In this period 28th National Condom Day was celebrated on 15th October 2022 in Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam district in the coordination with Health Office, Local Governance, stakeholders with various activities as below:

Activities:

Jhapa:

- Informative message on importance and uses of condom was disseminated through audio clip.
- Also, Information stall was kept at Mukti chowk area with IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration. Almost 65 people participated in the stall and gained the information and knowledge.
- Total 2500 pieces of condom were distributed.
- Candle lighting in memory of those who lost their lives due to HIV/STI was done in the middle of Mukti chowk in support of Traffic Police.

Ilam:

- Play card preparation and exhibition through rally from Tudikhel to Ilam Chowk Bazar. Informative messages and importance of proper condom use disseminated through the play cards.
- Total 1500 pieces of condom were distributed.
- Finally, candle lighting was done in the middle of Ilam Chowk Bazar.

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Sunsari:

- Information stall was kept at Itahari chowk with IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration. Almost 37 people participated in the stall and gained the information and knowledge.
- IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration were done during the event.
- Total 1800 pieces of condom were distributed through informative stall to clients and other high-risk males.

Morang:

- Information stall was kept at Biratnagar Bus Park chowk with IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration. Almost 102 people participated in the stall and gained the information and knowledge.
- IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration were done during the event and 3000 condoms were distributed to clients as per need.
- In the evening candle light ceremony was conducted at Roadscross chowk, Biratnagar. All the participants lighted the candle.

Challenges

- Though stalls were set for IEC materials and free condom distribution, there was still hesitation in people to talk about Condom and its use, in public area. Hence, we could not distribute condom in the expected quantity.

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:

Not done in this period

Community monitoring Scorecard:

- Not done in this period.

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Provincial / Other GoN meeting:

- In this period coordination meeting was done at Itahari Sub Metropolitan City on 14th October 2022. In the meeting there was presence of Chief of Health Section, Statistics Officer, TB program Officer and logistics officer along with AMDA Nepal PC, HWS PC, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Aastha Foundation, Prayash Mahila Samuha. During the meeting there was discussion on planning of 28th National Condom Day 2079 and activities to be done. Lastly there was discussion to condom Information and distribution Stall at Itahari Chowk and Candle Light Day at the evening in the Itahari Chowk.

Monitoring visit by GoN

- Not done in this period

Trainings and Orientations:

- In this period participated in 1 day training of Safe Guarding at Bishwa Hotel, Birgunj October 11th organized by FHI360. In the training there were participants of Project Coordinators and Board Members of IPs and Sub Ips of Province One, Madhesh Pradesh and Makwanpur District along with Team Leader, Provincial Coordinator, Sr. HR Manager and GSEI Advisor. In the training there was discussion on Code of conduct and ethics, PSEA Policy, safeguarding of children policy and Combating trafficking in Person policy

Monthly ART center Meetings

BPKIHS ART Center

Quarterly ART meeting was conducted at BPKIHS ART Center Dharan on October 17th, 2022. During the meeting following agenda were discussed in the presence of HoD of Internal Medicine Dr. Robin, Lab Incharge Dr. Shyam, Tropical ward Incharge Ms. Ranjana Achariya, NAP+N Province Supervisor Mr. Roman Rai, ART Counselor, HA-ART, AMDA, HWS PC, M&E and PN.

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. Dr. Robin said the Viral load machine is not functioning due to lack of manpower and reagent, he will consult with Hospital Director for functioning of Viral load machine in BPKIHS during their monthly. Also suggested if Hospital director approves for functioning of VL machine, EpiC project can support manpower, reagent and other necessary equipment's for VL testing in BPKIHS or not.
3. Lab report: During the discussion all HIV positive report details information should be kept in lab and to be informed ART center immediately and link up to treatment.
4. Internet Issues: Due to internet issue data entry was halt in DHIS-2 Tracker August & September, this issue will also be discussed during meeting with Hospital Director by Dr. Robin, EpiC Project cannot support/Pay for Subishu, NCell and NTC for Internet service delivery.

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Ilam ART Center

Coordination and sharing meeting was done on 21stOctober 2022 at Ilam Hospital and ART Center. During the meeting following agenda were discussed in the presence of Mesu of Ilam Hospital Dr. Prabhu Shah, Chief Of Ilam Health Office Mr. Aditya Shakya, Medical recorder, CCC, ART Counselor, HA-ART, AMDA PC, M&E and PN.

- 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.
- Need to focus on migrants and index testing for more case detection and ART enrollment.
- Stigma and discrimination training should be increased and planned in all Palikas of Ilam district.
- Recording and recording need to be updated as per need and need to follow up for Bimonthly supply from NCASC.

Koshi ART Center

Quarterly ART meeting was conducted at Koshi ART Center Biratnagar on October 19th, 2022. During the meeting following agenda were discussed in the presence of Chief of Koshi Hospital, Lab Incharge Mr. Pranav Yadav, Lalit Chaudhary, Metron Ms. Sunita Yadav, Emergency Incharge, ART Counselor, HA-ART, AMDA, PSS PC, M&E and PN.

- Program Sharing: Sharing of FY2022 target vs achievement with issues and challenges along with sharing of new targets of FY2023 for Morang district of EpiC Project.
- EpiC project can support manpower, and other necessary logistics support for VL testing in Koshi Hospital.
- Lab report: During the discussion all HIV positive report details information should be kept in lab and to be informed ART center immediately and link up to treatment.

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Photos



Pics: IEC materials and condom distribution stall at Itahari Nagar Palika chowk.



Pics:

Candle Light ceremony on 28th National Condom Day 2079

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Pics: Informative rally during 28th National Condom Day 2079 at Birtamod and Ilam Bazar.



Pics: IEC materials and condom distribution stall at Biratnagar Bus Park

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Pics: Coordination and sharing meeting with Ilam Hospital and ART Center



Pics: Creative Event at Birtamod City Clinic

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Pics: Quarterly ART Meeting at BPKIHS ART Center, Dharan



Pics: Quarterly ART Meeting at Koshi ART Center, Morang

Thank You