

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: November 2023

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 23rd November, 2023 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 10 PLHIV (6 male & 4 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the ART Adherence, U=U, Importance of viral load and health insurance.

Sunsari:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on November 7th at Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 14 PLHIV (13 Female, 1 Male) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager and PN. Discussion was done on Viral load testing, ART continuing, Index testing, Health Insurance. We also exchange the greetings of Tihar and Chhath.

Morang:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on November 23rd at Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 12 PLHIV (6 male and 6 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Field Supervisor and PN. Discussion was done on ART adherence, Viral load testing, ART continuing, Index testing, Health Insurance. We also exchange the greetings of Tihar and Chhath.

Hygiene kit Distribution:

- Not done in this period.

Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event on November 23rd in Itahari City clinic. A total of 5 FSWs 10(1.2), 4(1.3) and 1(67) participated in the event. It was facilitated by HA, DIC Operator and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP, its continuation & HIV/STI services. Among them 3 PrEP New, 10 STI services, 10 HTC services, 3 PrEP Follow up and 1 PrEP restart. We also exchange the greetings of Tihar and chhath.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event on November 24th in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 11 FSWs 4(1.2) and 7(1.3) participated in the event. It was facilitated by FS and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP, its continuation, HIV/STI testing and its preventive measures. Among them 5 HTC/ STI and 1 PrEP_New, 1 PrEP restart during creative event. We also exchange the greetings of Tihar and Chhath.

- **Jhapa**

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Conducted creative event on 7th November, in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 11 (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, 7 Kp tested for HIV, 1 PrEP started, 3 PrEP restarted and 2 refilled. Also, 7 KPs were screened for STI, 2 were diagnosed and 2 were treated. We also celebrated & shared happiness with the clients in the auspicious occasion of "Tihar and Chhath".

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training

- Not done in this period.

Monthly review meeting:

Monthly Review Meeting (MRM) was done on November 26th, 2023 at Itahari Field Office and Birtamod city clinic of Morang, Sunsari and Jhapa. Discussion was done on following topics

- Target vs achievement
- CBS/PN wise achievement
- Areas to be focused in December.
- USAID Compliances.
- Benefits and allowances

Viral Load campaign

- **Morang:** In this period altogether 11 viral load sample collection done from Morang district in coordination with ART Center and BDS sub-IPs and send to Koshi Zonal Hospital. Also 24 reports are received in this month.
- **Sunsari:** In this period altogether 37 viral load sample were collected from Sunsari in coordination with ART Center, CCC and BDS Sub IPs and sent to Koshi Hospital for testing. Also 51 reports are received in this month among them 49 reports received with suppressed result.
- In this period altogether 29 viral load sample collection was done from Mechi ART & 3 from Damak ART center in coordination with AMDA Nepal Jhapa, BDS Sub IPs, CCC and sent to Koshi hospital.

Online / Mero Sathi / Phone follow Up:

- Jhapa : In this reporting period , 10 phone call were made for ART Adherence , support group & viral load testing. Also, 2 high risk KP & PP were communicated through online medium for HIV prevention, testing & PrEP services.
- Similarly, 5 clients booked HIV testing services through merosathi & 5 arrived in the clinic & took the services.
- **Sunsari:** In this period 4 booking in Merosathi and 4 took services. In phone follow up 11 phone call are done among them 6 arrived clinic and took services.

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- **Morang:** In this period 1 booking in Merosathi.

29th National Condom Day Celebration

In this period 29th National Condom Day was Celebration in Jhapa Morang, Sunsari and Ilam in coordination with Health Office, Municipality and stakeholders on 4th November 2023 with following activities in the district.

Jhapa:

- Informative message on importance and uses of condom was disseminated through audio jingle.
- Informative message on social media/facebook posting was done from all EpiC staffs.
- Rally program was conducted from kakadvitta Buspark around the kakadvitta bazar through the use of play card and audio messages.
- Quiz content was organized about the condom and the participants were provided with condoms and attractive pen to those who got it correct.
- A social drama was presented on the topic “*Paschatab*” played by five staff which reflected about the significance of the condom use about preventing HIV / AIDS , STIs & Unwanted pregnancy . Furthermore, promotion of Epic city clinic and its services was done through it.
- Total 2000 pieces of condom were distributed during the event.

Sunsari:

- Informative message on importance and uses of condom was disseminated through audio jingle through local online media and Areana Television.
- Informative message on social media/facebook posting was done from all EpiC staffs.
- The program started precisely on 7:00 am along with the presence of HIV focal person of Province Koshi Province Ms. Tara Subedi.
- Information stall was kept at Itahari chowk Infront of Itahari Sub-Metropolitan City
- IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration were done during the event.
- Total 10200 pieces of condom were distributed through informative stall to the clients and other people.

Morang:

- Informative message on social media/facebook posting was done from all EpiC staffs.
- Information stall was kept at Biratnagar Bus Park chowk with IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration. Almost 120 people participated in the stall and gained the information and knowledge.
- IEC materials; condom promotion, distribution and demonstration were done during the event and 2880 condoms were distributed to clients as per need.

Ilam:

- Play card preparation and exhibition through rally from Tudikhel Ilam to Ilam bazaar

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- Informative message and importance of proper use of Condoms were disseminated through the play cards
- Informative message on social media/facebook posting was done from all EpiC staffs.
- Total 2000 pieces of condoms were distributed
- Jingles are played on the speaker which gives message on HIV/STI and proper use of condom

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.

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:

- Coordination meeting was conducted at Birtamode City clinic at 20th November with presence of ART Counsellor from Mechi, Participants of different partners like Maiti Nepal, FPAN, Marie Stopes, Afanta Nepal, Richmond Fellowship and Luvkush Ashram. During the meeting, sharing of the targets for FY24 was done among different IPs. Also, we discussed and coordinated with partners for upcoming World AIDS Day planning in Jhapa district and divided our roles and responsibilities.

Annual Health Review Meeting:

- In this period participated in the annual health review meeting of Koshi Province organized by Province Health Directorate 7th, 8th and 9th of November 2023 at Biratnagar, Morang. In the review meeting there was presence of Ministry of Health, PHD, DoHS, Health Offices, District Hospitals, District Ayurved, Private Hospitals and development partners of Koshi Province. Hon. Chief Minister Mr. Kedar Karki was chief guest of the program. There was sharing of major achievement and with issues and challenges from Health Office, all hospitals and Development partners. Also, there was planning workshop for better health service delivery for FY2080/81 from each Palika and sharing was done. And finally, appreciation and token of love was given to all participating agencies also to Development partners for their continuous support in health service delivery and health system strengthening.

Coordination and sharing meeting

- In this period coordination and sharing meeting was conducted in of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari district on November 24th, 2023 at Youth Development Center Hall, Itahari Sunsari. In the meeting there was participation of HIV focal person of Koshi Province, Health office of Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari, Health Coordinator of Itahari, Dharan and Inaruwa Municipality, along with representatives of development partner Save the Children, FPAN, NAP+N, Maiti Nepal,

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Human Welfare Society, Lead Nepal, Human Welfare Society, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Dharan Positive Group, Shramik Mahila Sajha Manch, Jagaran Aarogya Samuha, Shrijanshil Mahila Samuha, Sakriya Mahila Samuha, Media. In the meeting there was discussion of activities that can be carried out on 36th World AIDS Day which is going to be held on Dec.1, 2023. Following activities are planned to be performed on World AIDS Day 2023

- a) Rally program in the morning with awareness of HIV program.
- b) Red Ribbon and T-shirt distribution Program
- c) Nutritional support program to family members of PLHIV.
- d) Candle light program at major chowk of city.
- e) Sharing of program activities and with key information in local media.

Community monitoring Scorecard:

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visit by GoN

- Not done in this period.

Trainings and Orientations:

- In this period Peer Navigator participated in the Motivational Counseling training organized by FHI360 at Hotel RAMDA Thamel, Kathmandu from 27th to 30th November 2023.

Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Mechi ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Mechi ART center of Mechi hospital on 28th November, 2023. In the meeting, there was presence of ART counselor, Lab Incharge, , M & E officer, HA-ART from AMDA Nepal, staff from Luvkush Ashram & Lead Nepal. In the meeting, discussion was done about the dispensing client about baseline tests and follow-up for Viral load. Furthermore, discussion was done about World AIDS Day celebration as well as coordination for EID sample collection with ART between Implementing Partners.

- **Inaruwa ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Inaruwa ART center of Inaruwa hospital on 28th November, 2023. In the meeting, there was presence of Mesu, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, Nursing Incharge, Accountant, PC, PN from AMDA Nepal, Human Welfare Society, HA-ART. In the meeting, discussion was done about follow-up of the clients whose viral load is greater than 50 copies for Viral load with 3 months & also for the EAC. And planning of World AIDS Day celebration in the District Hospital and ART Center.

- **BPKIHS ART Center**

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Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at BPKIHS center of BPKIHS hospital on 29th November, 2023. In the meeting, there was presence of HoD of Internal Medicine, Tropical ward Incharge, ART Doctor, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, NAP+N, DPG, Prayash Mahila Samuha, PC, HA-ART & PN of AMDA Nepal, M & E officer & PN of Human Welfare Society. In the meeting, discussion was done Transportation support to PLHIV during viral load testing, follow-up of the clients whose viral load is greater than 50 copies for Viral load with 3 months & also for the EAC, planning of World AIDS Day Celebration from BPKIHS ART Center and farewell of ART Counselor Nisha Shrestha and welcome of new ART Counselor Sneha Lata Shrestha.

Photos



Pics: Provincial Level Health Review Meeting of Koshi Province.

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Pics: 29th National Condom Day Celebration.



Pics: Quarterly review meeting and Planning workshop AMDA Nepal Central Office.

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Pics: EpiC Project activities sharing to Health Secretary Dr. Sudha Devkota of Koshi Province.

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Pics: Quarterly ART meeting at BPKIHS ART Center

Thank You