

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: April 2023

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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 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 10 PLHIV (4 male & 6 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the importance of ART adherence, importance of the viral load and its upcoming date & health insurance program.

#### **Sunsari:**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 17 PLHIV (11 Female, 6 Male) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by PC, Case Manager and PN. Discussion was done on Viral load testing, ART continuing, Index testing, Health Insurance also shared well wishes of Holi festival to all the participants.

#### **Morang:**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 9 PLHIV (6 male and 3 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Field Supervisor and PN. Discussion was done on Viral load testing, ART continuing, Index testing, Health Insurance also shared well wishes of Holi festival to all the participants.

### Hygiene kit Distribution:

- Not done in this period.

### Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event on April 12<sup>th</sup> in Itahari City clinic. A total of 12 FSWs 5(1.2) and 7(1.3) participated in the event. It was facilitated by PC, HA, DIC Operator and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP, its continuation & HIV/STI services. Among them 7 STI services, 5 HTC services and 2 PrEP\_New, 2 FSW took PrEP follow services, 3 PrEP restarted. Along with this well wishes were shared of Holi festival to all the participants.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event on April 21<sup>th</sup> in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 12 FSWs 2(1.2), 10(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 3 HTC/ STI and 1 PrEP\_New, 1 PrEP restated, 1 PrEP follow up during creative event. Along with this well wishes were shared of Holi festival to all the participants.

- **Jhapa**

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Conducted creative event on 12<sup>th</sup> April, in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 9 (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, 8 KPs tested for HIV, 3 enrolled in PrEP and 2 restarted PrEP. Also, 8 KPs were screened for STI, 3 were diagnosed and 3 were treated. Also, participants were provided with flower & hair rubber & celebrated happiness on the occasion of the Nepali New Year 2080.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- Participated at Province Level stakeholder meeting at Damak organized by Jagirti Mahila Maha Sangh( JMMS) & supported by Save the children. The participants of the program were Damak Nagarpalika , ART Counsellors ,FPAN, Red Cross, Hotel Association, Richmond fellowship, Luvkush Ashram, Sakriya Mahila Samuha, Shreejanshil Mahiila Samuja, etc. Discussion was done about the programs & projects run by JMMS with different partners. Similarly, the gap in HIV case finding vs ART enrollment and viral load suppression was also discussed by the stakeholders and ART counselors. Besides this, there was also voices that we should also focus on Tuberculosis, Malaria along with HIV & STIs among the beneficiaries of the project.
- In this period participated in the coordination meeting organized by ministry of Health of Koshi Province Biratnagar on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In the meeting there was presence of Health Minister Ms. Nirmala Sawa Limbu, Health Secretary Dr. Sudha Devkota, Provincaial Health Director Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet and representative of all EDPs WHO, WFP, SCI, FHI360, BMNT, AMDA Nepal. In the meeting introduction and sharing of major program activities conducted by each development partners in Koshi Province was done and now onwards each activities need to be updated in the ministry of Health.
- In this period supported in the monitoring visit of Provincial Coordinator at BPKIHS ART Center and Inaruwa ART Center on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### **Viral Load campaign**

- **Morang:** In this period altogether 24 viral load sample collection done from Morang district in coordination with ART Center and BDS sub-IPs and send to Koshi Zonal Hospital. Also 23 reports are received in this month.
- **Sunsari:** In this period altogether 28 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 16 reports are received in this month.

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- **Jhapa:** In this period altogether 14 viral load sample collection was done from Mechi ART & 6 from Damak ART center in coordination with AMDA Nepal Jhapa, BDS Sub IPs, CCC and sent to NPHL and Koshi hospital respectively.
- **In Illam:** altogether 4 viral load sample was collected from Illam ART in coordination with AMDA Nepal Illam, CCC and was sent to Koshi hospital.

### **Online / Mero Sathi / Phone follow Up:**

- **Sunsari:** In this period total 7 booking in mero sathi and 7 client took services. In phone follow up 14 phone call are done among them 4 arrived clinic and took services.

### **Festival campaign social media posts and Day Celebration:**

- 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**

#### **Quarterly Review Meeting**

- In this period participated in the quarterly review meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Birgunj organized by FHI360. There were presence from IPs and Sub IPs of Koshi, Madhesh and Bagmati Province along with Team Leader, Provincial Coordinators, Project Coordinators, M&E Officers along with NAP+N. There was sharing of Target Vs achievements, Issues and Challenges, Way forward to achieve 75% till June 2023 from FHI360 along with all IPs and Sub IPs.

#### **Data Quality Assessment:**

- In this period Data Quality Assessment was done on April 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Itahari city clinic. DQA was done for the period April 2022 to September 2022 (SA2). During DQA following indicators were verified:
  1. No of new KPs/PPs reach for April to June.
  2. No of Individuals who received HTC services for July- September.
  3. No of individuals who were identified and tested for Index Testing for April-June.
  4. No of KPs/PPs who were tested HIV positive for July to September.
  5. No of KPs/PPs newly diagnosed positive who were tested for recent infection for June-September.
  6. No of Individual HIV tested with self-kit or April to September.
  7. No of HIV positive KPs newly enrolled on ART for July to September.
  8. No of HIV positive KPs who received community care services for June.
  9. No of Individuals who received HIV testing services from July to September.
  10. No of KPs who received STI services from city clinic from July to September.
  11. No of KPs who received PrEP services from city clinic for August.

#### **Monitoring visits:**

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- In this period monitoring visit was done by Lab Consultant Mr. Kanchan Gautam at Itahari city clinic on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from FHI360. He monitored process Infection and prevention Control (IPC), (EMMP) waste disposal and management, Vaccination, cold chain maintains, SOPs and guidelines at Itahari City Clinic on March 3, 2023.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- In this period monitoring visit was done by Provincial Health Directorate Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet, Lab Team of Koshi Hospital and Health Office Sunsari at Itahari City Clinic on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Monitoring was done from Registration room, process of registration, services delivered from clinic with pre test and post test counseling by case manager, HIV, STI, PrEP testing services in the lab room, cold chain maintained, temperature chart, SOPs and guidelines. After the visit had sharing the project activities with target vs achievements with major issues and challenges faced during program implementation. Also had feedback for timely EID report, reagents and test kits supply along with transportation support for PLHIV during Viral Load sample collection.

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

- In this period and CBS plus and PN participated in CLT/HTS\_Self and Mental Health Training organized by FHI360 at Kathmandu on April 17<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- In this period 1 day orientation was provided by FHI360 to all Lab staffs on IPC and Waste management at Itahari, Sunsari on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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

- **Mechi ART Center**  
Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Mechi ART center of Mechi hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. In the meeting, there was presence of Provincial Coordinator from FHI 360, Hospital Administrator, ART counselor, Lab Incharge , M & E from AMDA , President and staff from Luvkush Ashram, HA-ART and staffs from AMDA .In the meeting, discussion was done about planning for viral load , management of the staff and place for viral load. Similarly, discussion was done about the DNA PCR machine for viral load which is being planned to bring by Luvkush at the Mechi hospital.
- **BPKIHS ART Center**  
Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of BPKIHS Hospital on April 7<sup>th</sup>2023. In the meeting there was presence of Medical Doctor, Lab Incharge, Tropical Ward Incharge, ART Counselor, HA\_ART, PCs of EpiC Project. Meeting was started by the round of introduction, brief description on EpiC Project, Viral load testing, EID sample collection with report, IIT and transfer out clients tracking and reporting. Along with logistics support to ART center.

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- **Ilam ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of Ilam Hospital on April 23rd, 2023. In the meeting there was presence of emergency Incharge, medical recorder, Lab Incharge, MCH Incharge, ART Counselor, HA\_ART, PN, Luvakush Ashram, BWS. In the meeting there was discussion ways to increase number of case finding, Index testing, Viral Load sample collection and testing, ARV distribution, IIT and transfer out clients tracking and reporting.

### Photos



Pics: Monitoring visit by Provincial Health Director at Itahari City Clinic.

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Thank You