

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: February 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 February 10th, 2023 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 7 PLHIV (5 male & 2 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion on Opportunistic Infections (OIs) as well as nutrition was done at the meeting. Similarly, Discussion was done about the importance of ART adherence, importance of the viral load & health insurance program. Similarly, the program was interactive where the question of participants was responded by our staff.

Sunsari:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on February 16th in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 14 PLHIV (14 Female) 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 February 24th in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 13 PLHIV (8 male and 5 female) 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.

Hygiene kit Distribution:

- Not done in this period.

Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on February 21th in Itahari City clinic. A total of 15 FSWs 10(1.2), 3(1.3), 2(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 6 STI services, 6 HTC services and 2 PrEP_New, 2 FSW took PrEP follow services, 1 PrEP restarted also 1 case finding.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on February 26th in Biratnagar City clinic. A total of 10 FSWs 3(1.2), 7(1.3) participated in the event, maintaining all the precautions including

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proper distancing and proper use of mask. It was facilitated by FS and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP, its continuation. Among them 5 HTC, 2 STI and 2 PrEP_New, 1 PrEP restated during creative event.

- **Jhapa**

Conducted creative event on 9th January in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 15 (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. Also, litmus paper games were played with the participants in the program. In this event, 8 Kp tested for HIV, 4 enrolled in PrEP and 4 restarted PrEP. Also, 8 KPs were screened for STI, 1 PrEP follow up.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

Morang

- In this period HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination orientation was provided to Health workers of Madan Bhandari Memorial Hospital of Urlabari Morang on 24th February 2023. In the orientation 42 participants were present among them 24 male and 18 were female. The orientation was facilitated by Project Coordinator, along with lab Assistant. Participants were provided orientation on introduction of HIV/AIDS, its causes, mode of transmission, its treatment with preventive measures, global and National scenario, concept of stigma & discrimination, causes and its impact to PHLIV, his family, community and nation and role of Health workers and other people to minimize stigma and discrimination in the hospital and in the community.

Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

Viral Load campaign

- **Jhapa:**
In this period altogether 14 viral load sample collection was done from Mechi ART & Damak ART center in coordination with AMDA Nepal Jhapa, BDS Sub IPs, CCC and sent to NPHL along with 27 VL report received with 2 unsuppressed results.
- **Sunsari:**
In this period altogether, 29 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Sunsari. 14 viral reports received.
- **Morang:**
In this period altogether, 15 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Morang. Total 6 viral report received this month.

Festival campaign social media posts and Day Celebration:

- Not done in this period

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Objective 3: Improve program management including HIS and HRH and financial systems to ensure attainment and maintenance of epidemic control; and

Quarterly Review Meeting

- Not done in this period

Data Quality Assessment:

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visits:

- In this period monitoring visit was done by Provincial coordinator of FHI360 Ms. Salina Joshi on February 23-24, 2023 at Birtamod City Clinic and Mechi ART Center. Also conducted MRM.

Community monitoring Scorecard:

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visit by GoN

- Not done in this period

Trainings and Orientations:

Biometric Integration Orientation:

- One day orientation on Biometric Integration was conducted on 13th February at Kathmandu organized by FHI360 Nepal. In the program there was presence of 6 selected Implementing partners (IPs) where the biometric integration program would be implemented. The participants of the program were M & E officers and Field staffs (CBS & PN). There was presence of the M & E specialist from FHI360 who oriented on the process and procedure to obtain, record and maintain the biometric from the beneficiaries during the project implementation.

ONHIS Refresher Training:

- Four-day refresher training on HIV and ART tracking system was conducted from 14th February to 17th February at Kathmandu by FHI360 Nepal to all IPs and Sub-IPs of the EpiC Nepal Project. The participants of the program were the Case managers and M & E officers who were oriented about different aspects of recording, reporting and data entry through tracker. During the program, the data entry in merodata and tracker was compared and action plan was made to complete the left over of forms during the given time. Similarly, Discussion about different confusions in the forms, recent changes in the tracker, differences in hard copy & tracker were discussion in different program stages and forms.

CME Session:

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- CME session was conducted at 24th February at Mechi hospital which was facilitated by Dr Laxman Shrestha. There were altogether 38 participants including Mesu, Doctors from different departments, Nursing supervisor, Lab Incharge, Hospital Administrator, Medical recorder, Provincial Coordinator of FHI360, ART Counselor, M & E Officer & HA-ART from AMDA Nepal & staff of Luvkush Ashram. During the program, the recent findings as well as studies and facts about HIV/AIDS , Drug regimes, different conditions of pediatric HIV were discussed .

Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Mechi ART Center**
Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Mechi ART center of Mechi hospital on 22nd February, 2022. In the meeting, there was presence of ART doctor, Administrator, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, PC, M & E officer from AMDA , CCC Incharge, HA-ART and staffs from AMDA & Luv kush Ashram. In the meeting, discussion was done about planning for viral load (which is planned for every Tuesday), human resources for viral load in the hospital and its management. Similarly, discussion was done on CME session which was planned in Mechi hospital. Also, coordination between hospital, different organization and ART center for was done for attainment of the national HIV/AIDS goal.
- **BPKIHS ART Center**
Quarterly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of BPKIHS Hospital on February 24th,2023. In the meeting there was presence of Medical Doctor, Lab Incharge, Tropical ward Incharge, President of BDS, 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.
- **Ilam ART Center**
Quarterly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of Ilam Hospital on January 21st, 2023. In the meeting there was presence of Mesu, emergency Incharge, medical recorder, Lab Incharge, MCH Incharge, Health Coordinator, HIV /TB focal person from DHO, ART Counselor, PC, AFO, 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. Along with logistics support to ART center as per need.

Photos

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Pics: S&D reduction orientation at Madan Bandari Memorial Hospital

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Pics: Conducting CME at Mechi Hospital by Dr. Laxman Shrestha