

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: July 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 8th July, 2022 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 10 PLHIV (5 male & 5 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the importance of covid-19 vaccine, 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 July 12th in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari A total of 12PLHIV (4 Male and 8 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, U=U, ART enrollment and continued of all positive cases, Index testing and Viral Load.

Morang

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on July 21th in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang a total of 14 PLHIV (7 Male and 7 Female) participated in the meeting, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. Meeting was facilitated by Field Supervisor and PN. Discussion was done on Viral load testing, healthy life style & ART enrollment and continued.

Monthly review meeting:

Monthly review meeting was done on July 22th in Jhapa and 24th July in Morang and Sunsari. In the meeting there was presence of PC, AFO, M&E, Case Manager, COVID-19 Team, Lab, CBS+, PN. In the meeting there was discussion on following agenda:

- Target vs achievement.
- Case finding vs ART enrollment
- PrEP Initiation and continuation.
- Index offer and Index testing.
- Viral load testing of all eligible clients.
- COVID-19 vaccine to all KPs and PLHIV.
- HTS_Self Testing.
- Target setting to all CBS and PN.
- PM mobilization for COVID-19 vaccination coverage to KPs and PLHIV.

Online Activities

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- Similarly, 11 KP & PPs were followed through phone & online platform for ART, HIV testing, STI and COVID-19 prevention in Jhapa. Among them 2 were reached through facebook.
- 5 merosathi bookings were done & all of them were tested.
- Also, 9 PLHIV (5 female & 4 male) were followed through phone for ART adherence, index partner testing, viral load testing and other services in Jhapa.

ARV Distribution Services

2 PLHIV were distributed ARV in the reporting month.

Relief Packages

- Not done in this period.

COVID-19 Isolation Kit:

- Not done in this period.

Hygiene kit Distribution:

- In this period 18 KPs & 10 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after creative event & support group respectively in the Jhapa district in this month.

Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on June 14th in Itahari City clinic. A total of 23 FSWs, (16(1.2), 6(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. Where 5 FSW started PrEP, 5 FSWs refilled PrEP and 1 FSW restarted PrEP. Also distributed the chura & mehendi to all participants as seasonal festival.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on June 20th in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 20 FSWs, 11 (1.3), 8 (1.2) and 1(67) were participated in the event, maintaining all the precautions including proper distancing and proper use of mask. It was facilitated CBS, PN and Field Supervisor. There was discussion on importance and benefits of PrEP and its continuation and use & benefits of condom. Where 3 FSWs started PrEP, 2 FSW refilled PrEP, 5 KPs took STI services. Also, all participants were distributed chura & mehendi to all participants as seasonal festival.

- **Jhapa**

Conducted creative event (Shrawan bisas) on 15th July in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 18 (FSWs) participated in the event where we provided them with green bangles, mehendi and welcomed green month shrawan with joy and happiness. It was facilitated by Case Manager,

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CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the importance of PrEP, its continuity, HIV Prevention as well Treatment also about COVID-19 vaccination. In this event, 7 KP tested for HIV, 3 newly enrolled in PrEP and 2 restarted PrEP. Also, 8 KPs were screened for STI, 6 diagnosed & all of the 6 were treated for STIs.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

- Not done in this period.

Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

- In this period on July 15th 2022 had a coordination meeting in Birtamod City Clinic of Jhapa on the police raid incident that took place on 9th July 2022. After that we all went to District Police Office, Chandragadhi, Jhapa and had a short meeting with Chief of District Police Office Mr. Bishwa Mani Pokhrel. During Introduction we have Introduced ourself and EpiC Project as worked for HIV/STI prevention, Treatment, care and Support services to KPs and PLHIV. President of JMMS Ms. Bimala Malla Thakuri introduced herself as human right activist and her organization works for living rights of KPs, provide awareness services to KPs on prevention of HIV/STI, provide trainings and link to KPs for alternative source of Income. So, we have come here to know the actual incident of raid and the status of case registered to KPs. Chief of District Police Office said that we have arrested all these KPs from the compliant of Health Mother Group, newly elected local leaders and registered them in the case of Immoral behavior (Abhadra Byabahar). Among 9 KPs 2 were released and 7 are in custody. The investigation is going on and after completion of investigation we will leave them as their investigation report. He also suggested to all organizations working related to KPs, reach all KPs in their hotspots and raise awareness, provide training/orientation to bring change in their behavior and link them in generating alternative source of Income
- In this period coordination and sharing meeting done in Itahari City Clinic Sunsari on 27th July between AMDA Nepal and Jagriti Mahila Mahasangh. There was presence of Program Managar Anita Subba, AFO Aakriti Shahi and AMDA Nepal staffs. There was discussion on program activities of EpiC project along with Issues and challenges faced during program implementation and working in coordination with CBOs of JMMS in the district for KPs HIV prevention, treatment, care and support activities.
- In this period EpiC Project supported in the declaration of fully immunized program for Sunsari district. In the declaration program there was presence of Law Minister, President of district Coordination Committee, Chief of District Office, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of all Palikas, all Health Office members, Health Coordinators and Incharge of Hospitals, PHCs, HPs and FCHVs. Along with this representative of all the development partners of Sunsari district, Media partners, member of civil society. In the morning there was rally program by all health

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workers around the Itahari nagar parikrama and after that scheduled declaration begins from 11 am to 4 pm.

Viral Load campaign

- In this period altogether 5 viral load sample collection on 7/3/2022, was done from AMDA Nepal Itahari city clinic in coordination with ART center, BDS Sub IPs, CCC and sent to Koshi Zonal Hospital.

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.

Quarterly Review Meeting:

- In this period participated in quarterly review meeting organized by FHI360 in Kathmandu from July 4-5. In the review there was presence of Project Director, Team Leader, Provincial Coordinator, Technical Unit, M&E Specialist along with PCs of all EpiC district. There was discussion on Issues, Challenges, good practices that was faced and done during conducting program activities to achieve the target in the districts and way forward to achieve the remaining target in coming quarter. During review meeting there was discussion and focused to be on sample collection and Viral load testing of eligible clients, offer all Index cases for Index testing.
During the review meeting there was sharing of success story and photos from all IPs and Sub IPs.

Monitoring visits:

- In this period monitoring visit was done by Provincial Coordinator to Birtamod City Clinic. During the visit there was discussion on monthly review meeting, visit of outreach of CBS and interaction meeting with Mechi Hospital.
- In this period short visit and interaction meeting was held in PSS city clinic Biratnagar in the presence of FHI360 Country Director Mr. Bhagwan Shrestha, Provincial Coordinator, AMDA PC, FS, PN, CBS along with PSS city clinic team. There was monitoring and short interaction with the Morang team and discussed on the Issues, challenges and best practices during program implementation.

Community monitoring Scorecard:

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- Not done in this period.

Provincial / Other GoN meeting:

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visit by GoN

- In this period there was sharing and Monitoring visit was conducted at Birtamode City clinic on 21st July 2022. In the meeting there was of Presence Deputy Mayor Mr. Nagendra Prasad Sangraula of Birtamod Municipality, Yograj Ghimire (Chief of Health office). HIV Focal person (Biswanath Shrestha), Area Police Officer, 3 ward President of Birtamod Municipality, President of JMMS, ART counselors of Damak ART center and Mechi ART center, ART doctor, Mothers group, President of Mahila Jagaran Samaj, EpiC Provincial Coordinator, Lead Nepal PC, PO of CCC, and PC, M&E, Case Manager, Lab, CBS, PN from AMDA Nepal. In the. In the meeting there was sharing of program activities that are implemented in the district by EpiC Project. After the sharing there was discussion on issues and challenges that are faced during program implementation also was discussion of the police raid event that took place on 9th July 2022 in Birtamod area. Deputy mayor said that everyone has right to live but in the name of right there should not be any negative impact in community. So, CBOs working in this area should coordinate with local governance and connect these KPs and other needy people in income generating training and activities.

After sharing and discussion, city clinic monitoring was done by Local governance representative, Chief of Health Office, HIV focal Person from registration room, counseling room, Lab room and described the process of services delivered from city clinic.

- In this period there was sharing meeting and monitoring visit in Itahari City Clinic on 22nd July 2022. In the meeting there was presence of Chief District Officer, Deputy Chief District Officer, Chief of Health Office, HIV focal Person, Chief of Social Development Section of Itahari Sub Metropolitan City, NAP+N Province Supervisor, Provincial Coordinator along with Chief of CBOs working for HIV prevention, care, treatment and support activities in Sunsari district like Astha Foundation, Sahara Samaj, Human Welfare Society, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Dharan Positive Group. In the meeting there was sharing of program activities that are implemented in the district by EpiC Project. Also shared short introduction and working areas by all CBOs to Chief of District Office. Also, a PLHIV client (other female) has problem on citizenship that her children are not getting citizenship from mother's name as addressed in constitution was shared with CDO. CDO has shared that there is going to be change in citizenship bill and if it passes from National Assembly there will be chance of getting citizenship from the name of mother.

After sharing city clinic monitoring was done by CDO, Deputy CDO, Chief of Health Office, HIV focal Person from registration room, counseling room, Lab room and described the process of services delivered from city clinic.

- In this period there was coordination meeting was conducted at Biratnagar field Office Morang on 28th July 2022. In the meeting there was of Presence Koshi lab Incharge, Lab

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Technician, ART counselors of Koshi ART center, Provincial Coordinator of EpiC Project, PC of PSS, Morang, Program officer of Richmond Fellowship Morang, Prerena Prathisthan Nepal, CCC Sparsha Nepal, AMDA Nepal PC, M&E, FS, CBS, PN. During the meeting there was discussion done on data verification of ART centers and IPs and Sub IPs on KP wise (FSWs, MSM/TG, PWID, Others) either under reporting or no reporting, eligibility of viral load sample collection and testing, due to shortage of reagents no sample is to be collected until reagents receives. All PLHIV should be enrolled on Health Insurance due to limited treatment support cost also discussed if any complicated cases come CCC can coordinate to NAP+N for further support. Also, a meeting with HoD of Department and Wards of Koshi Hospital is planned in August 2022 for better and quick service delivery to KPs and PLHIV from Koshi Hospital.

Trainings and Orientations:

- No any training was held by FHI360 during this period.

Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Mechi ART Center**

Quarterly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of Mechi Zonal hospital on July 26, 2022. There was presence of ART counselor, Hospital Administration, PC, M&E, from AMDA Nepal and Lead Nepal, Staffs from CCC, HA-ART. During the meeting there was discussion done on data verification on KP wise (FSWs, MSM/TG, PWID, Others) either under reporting or no reporting, eligibility of viral load sample collection and testing, and possibility of house-to-house collection and details collection for reasons for VL unsuppressed result and mobilization of ART counselor and HA-ART at community for counseling for IIT cases and VL unsuppressed cases.

- **Ilam ART Center**

Quarterly ART Meeting was conducted at Ilam ART center of Ilam Hospital on July 27th, 2022. In the meeting there was presence of Medical Recorder, Hospital Administrator, Emergency Incharge, AMDA PC, M&E, Municipality staff, Program officer of Bagmati Welfare Society Ilam, HA-ART, staffs from CCC, Lab Incharge, Peer Navigator. In the meeting there was discussion on ARV medicines, kits and reagents supply and record maintained, which was not supplied timely specially in Palika level. All TB cases should be screened HIV compulsory at community level which is not done. And planned to be done in coordination with BWS. Similarly, discussion was done on the respective roles of hospital, ART center, municipality, health office and other support partners for attaining national HIV/AIDS goal.

- **BP ART Center**

Monthly meeting was conducted at BP ART Center of BP Koirala Institute of health science on July 28th, 2022. There was presence of Tropical ward Incharge, PC AMDA Nepal and HWS, CBS+, PN also ART counselor, HA-ART. During the meeting there was discussion done on data

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verification on KP wise (FSWs, MSM/TG, PWID, Others) either under reporting or no reporting, eligibility of viral load sample collection and testing, and possibility of house-to-house collection and details collection for reasons for VL unsuppressed result.

Photos



Pics: AMDA Nepal and PPS Morang Team with FHI360 Country Director and Provincial Coordinator.

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Pics with Chief and Deputy chief District Officer along with other stakeholders in Itahari City Clinic.

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Pic: Sharing meeting and Monitoring visit from Local governance and stakeholders at Itahari City Clinic, Sunsari

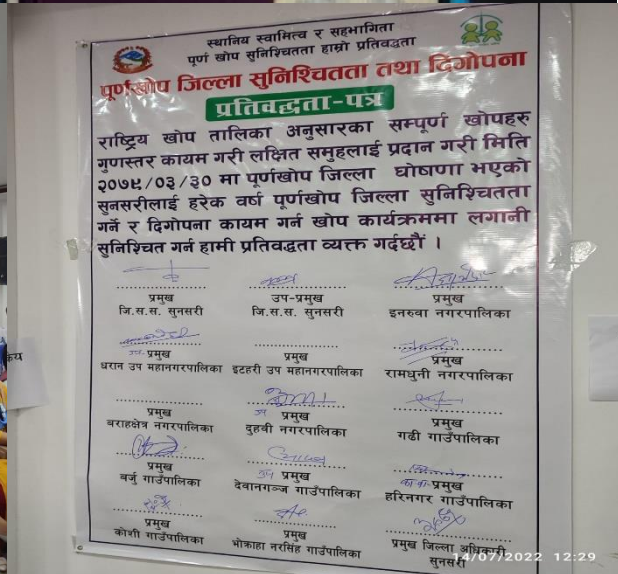


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Pic: Sharing meeting and Monitoring visit from Local governance and stakeholders at Birtamode city clinic

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Pics: Some clicks of declaration of full Immunized district Program Sunsari.

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Pic: Creative event “Shrawan bises” at Birtamode City clinic

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Pics: Coordination meeting with JMMS, Lead Nepal, WOREC Nepal, Jagaran Mahila Samaj and AMDA Nepal at Birtamod City Clinic.

Thank You