

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: July 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 13th July, 2023 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 11 PLHIV (1 male & 10 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the U=U, importance of viral load and health insurance.

Sunsari:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on July 9th at Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 16 PLHIV (11 Female, 7 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.

Morang:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on July 14th at Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 16 PLHIV (8 male and 8 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.

Hygiene kit Distribution:

- Not done in this period.

Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event "Shrawan bisesh" on July 16th in Itahari City clinic. A total of 16 FSWs 7(1.2), 5(1.3) and 4(67) 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 1 PrEP New, 6 STI services, 6 HTC services and 3 PrEP Follow up. In the event, we shared mehendi & bangels to the clients and shared happiness with them for upcoming month of shrawan.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event "Shrawan bisesh" on July 13th in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 11 FSWs 8(1.2), 3(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 2 PrEP_New, 1 PrEP Follow up during creative event. In the event, we shared mehendi & bangels to the clients and shared happiness with them for upcoming month of shrawan.

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- **Jhapa**

Conducted creative event “Shrawan bisesh” on 14th July, in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 14 (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 Kp tested for HIV, 1 enrolled in PrEP, 1 refilled & 2 restarted PrEP. Also, 8 KPs were screened for STI, 3 were diagnosed and 1 were treated. In the event, we shared mehendi & bangels to the clients and shared happiness with them for upcoming month of shrawan.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

- In this period HIV related stigma and discrimination reduction training was conducted at Bhasi. Health Post of Ramdhuni Municipality in coordination with Mahila Sahayogi Samuha on July 21st 2023. In the training there was presence of Ward president of 2, 3 and 5, Health Post Incharge, Health workers of Health post, Medical doctor of Nagar Aspatal Jhumka, FCHV, and KPs of Jhumka hotspot. In the training there was AMDA PC shared the basic concept of HIV/AIDS, its causes, symptoms, treatment, preventive measures, national HIV strategy plan to end HIV epidemic by 2030 with brief discussion on HIV related stigma and discrimination, its impact and effects, causes and role of local leaders, health workers, civil society to minimize HIV related stigma and discrimination from society. After that there was sharing of life experience of HIV positive by Peer Navigator Prithi Maya Limbu, how HIV clients are treated in the community, what problems are they facing and what kind of issues need to be focused in coming days by local government and role of all stakeholders to minimize HIV related stigma and discrimination from society. Also, a sharing by president of JMMS Ms. Bimala Malla Thakuri on problems with issues and challenges facing by FSWs in the community and government of Nepal should address their rights on Health, education, nutrition, employment and other basic needs so as to live as normal live as other.
- And finally ward president Mr. Mahesh Chaudhary was very thankful for conducting this kind of program in Bhasi Health Post and get updated on HIV/AIDS current status. This orientation was very helpful for FCHVs and Health workers to identify high risk KPs and PPs for early diagnosis and treatment and will treat as other clients. This kind of program need to be done in different areas of palikas and will support from Ramdhuni Muicipailty.

Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

- Participated at Community System Strengthening for support on networking of community groups through regular meeting at provincial level organized by Prayas Mahila Samuh itahri at Pathibhara hotel in Itahari on July 25th . The participants of the program were Chief of Health section office itahri nagarpalika, Sparsh Nepal, HWS, Luv Kush Aashram, DPG, Mahila sahyogi samuh. Discussion was done about the community system strengthening process where PMS shred their achievement and threats, participants give their opinion and suggestion.

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- Participated in the HIV related Stigma and discrimination orientation to health workers and elected bodies organized by Provincial Health Directorate, Dhankuta on July 11th,2023. There was sharing of basic concept of HIV/AIDS, its causes, symptoms, treatment, preventive measures, national HIV strategy plan to end HIV epidemic by 2030 with brief discussion on HIV related stigma and discrimination, its impact and effects, causes and role of government, local leaders, health workers, civil society to minimize HIV related stigma and discrimination from society.
- In this period participated in the Provincial level HIV data verification workshop and coordination meeting organized by Province Health Directorate, Dhankuta at YDC training hall Itahari on July 5th&6th 2023. In the workshop there was presence of Province Health director, Province HIV focal Person, ART counselors of all ART sites of Koshi Province, representative from development partners working on HIV/AIDS program. There was discussion on reporting status with on time, completeness of reporting on
 - i) ANC 1st visit
 - ii) PMTCT-Counselled
 - iii) PMTCT-Tested
 - iv) PMTCT-Positive
 - v) PMTCT-A
 - vi) Total no. of pregnant women tested for HIV during ANC, L&D and Post natal.
 - vii) Total no. of pregnant women identified as HIV positive.Along this HIV/STI services data was presented by ART counselor of respective districts, which includes reporting on time, completeness of reporting on
 - i) Ever enrolled on ART.
 - ii) Currently on ART
 - iii) Eligible for Viral Load Testing
 - iv) Viral load sample collected and report received
 - v) Viral load suppressed and unsuppressed.
 - vi) Missing and lost to follow up cases
 - vii) Transfer out and Death cases
 - viii) STI diagnosis and treatment.

After that sharing from EpiC Project was done from Sr. Provincial Coordinator Ms. Salina Joshi on areas of supporting from HIV/STI in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support services in Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam district of Koshi Province from AMDA Nepal and BDS Sub IPs.

After that floor was opened for fruitful discussion for participants and discussed on all eligible for viral load testing clients should be listed from ART sites and follow up for viral load testing should be done with the help of supportive partners, all Viral load unsuppressed case should be listed by respective ART sites and make plan for follow up for ART adherence and keep update with the help of supporting partners in the district, all PLHIV clients should be enrolled on health Insurance for support in treatment also coordination should be done with local governance for budgeting for PLHIV people in awareness program, treatment support, income generating activities, nutritional support etc.

And Chief guest of this workshop NCASC Director Dr. Sanjay Thakur suggested for timely and complete reporting on DHIS-2 Tracker of HIV/STI services for proper planning and

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budgeting of the program. Along with NCASC will sort out the issues arising on ARV stock with test kits and reagent immediately on all sites. He is visiting all sites to know the ground reality, issues, challenges so that proper planning and budgeting can be done from NCASC at national level.

Viral Load campaign

- **Morang:** In this period altogether 35 viral load sample collection done from Morang district in coordination with ART Center and BDS sub-IPs and send to Koshi Zonal Hospital. Also 12 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 57 reports are received in this month.
- **Jhapa:** In this period altogether 19 viral load sample collection was done from Mechi ART & 1 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:

- **Sunsari:** In this period 1 booking in mero sathi. In phone follow up 16 phone call are done among them 5 arrived clinic and took services.
- **Morang:** In this period no booking in mero sathi.
- **Jhapa:** 24 PLHIV were followed through phone for HIV testing , ART adherence, index partner testing, viral load testing and 4 KPs were followed through phone for PrEP and HIV testing. Similarly, 1 KP was followed through facebook for HIV testing and prevention.
- Similarly, 7 clients booked HIV testing services through merosathi & 7 arrived in the clinic & took the 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 July 24th to 26th, 2023 at Yellow Pagoda, Kathmandu organized by FHI360. There was presence from Project coordinators of all IPs and Sub IPs of EpiC Project, Provincial coordinators, Team Leaders and from SI unit. There was sharing of Target Vs achievements, Issues and Challenges, areas to be focused for FY23Q4 with maintaining quality of services. Also prepared way forward to achieve 100% till September 2023 by all IPs and Sub IPs in Viral load testing, and

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PrEP. There was sharing of RAMRO Photo and success story of the quarter was displayed from all Ips and sub IPs along with RAMRO IP and Sub IP of the quarter.

Data Quality Assessment:

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visits:

- Monitoring visit was conducted by Technical Specialist Dr Prasanna Khatiwada and Salina Joshi on 17th July on Birtamode City. During the visit, Viral load Unsuppressed tracking sheet, IIT Register, Index testing, Client files were reviewed and appropriate suggestion were provided. Also went to Mechi ART center and Ilam ART center for supportive supervision for viral load testing, IIT clients, death issues and biometric enrollement.

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Community monitoring Scorecard:

- Not done in this period.

Monitoring visit by GoN

- Not done in this period.

Trainings and Orientations:

- In this period Case Manager were participated in the orientation of clinical case management and mental health on July 25th to 28th, 2023 at Kathmandu organized by FHI 360.

Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Mechi ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Mechi ART center of Mechi hospital on 28th July, 2023. In the meeting, there was presence of ART counselor, Lab Incharge, M & E officer, HA-ART & case manager from AMDA Nepal, Incharge from CCC & staff from Luvkush Ashram. In the meeting, discussion was done about the management of the workplace during viral load event in the hospital. Also, we discussed about the reporting of data from the ART center, enrollment in the health insurance program and follow-up to the missing & Lost to follow up clients.

- **BPKIHS ART Center**

Quarterly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of BPKIHS Hospital on July 21st 2023. In the meeting there was presence of Medical Doctor, Lab Incharge, Tropical Ward Incharge, ART Counselor, HA_ART, President of PMS, DPG Program Officer, NAP+N supervisor, 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 updates on logistic supports to ART center. Also, ART center has requested for AC in the ART counseling room if possible.

- **Ilam ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of Ilam Hospital on July 30th, 2023. In the meeting there was presence of emergency Incharge, medical recorder, Lab Incharge,

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MCH Incharge, ART Counselor, HA_ART, PN, Luvakush Ashram. In the meeting there was discussion ways to MMD, CD4 testing, increase number of case finding, Index testing, tracking of viral load unsuppressed clients and proper implementation of 180 days package to newly enrolled clients.

Koshi ART Center

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center by in Koshi Hospital on July 13th, 2023. In the meeting there was presence of newly appointed Mesu, Matron, ART doctor, Administrator, M&E, Lab Incharge, Lab assistant, ART counselor, SPARSHA Nepal, Richmond fellowship, HA-ART, Peer Navigator. Meeting was started by the round of introduction, brief description of activities of EpiC Project and supportive to ART center to strengthen the service delivery of the sites. Also, all the participants shared their organization goal, working areas and areas to be addressed by koshi Hospital and ART sites to PLHIV clients for easy access of services to newly appointed Mesu. Newly appointed Mesu also committed to address the issues as much as from his side.

Photos



Pics: Participating in ARmFY23Q4 at Hotel Yellow Pagoda , Kathmandu.

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Pics: HIV related stigma and discrimination reduction orientation at Bhasi Health Post

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Pics: Monitoring visit by Technical Specialist and Provincial coordinator at Birtamod City Clinic.

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Pics: participating in Provincial level data review workshop and coordination meeting.

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Pics: HIV related Stigma and discrimination reduction orientation to Health workers and elected members at Sunsari.

Thank You