

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: May 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 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 13 PLHIV (4 male & 9 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 different WHO stages after HIV.

#### Sunsari:

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 14 PLHIV (7 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 May 19<sup>th</sup> at Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 14 PLHIV (10 male and 4 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 on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Itahari City clinic. A total of 11 FSWs 8(1.2), 1(1.3) and 2(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 5 STI services, 5 HTC services and 2 PrEP New.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 10 FSWs 4(1.2), 6(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 4 HTC/ STI and 2 PrEP\_New, 2 PrEP restated during creative event.

- **Jhapa**

Conducted creative event on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 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

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effects. In this event, 11 KP tested for HIV, 2 enrolled in PrEP, 2 refilled & 5 restarted PrEP. Also, 11 KPs were screened for STI, 9 were diagnosed and 8 were treated. Similarly, quiz session was organized and key information was shared to KPs about HIV & AIDS.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- Participated at Local Level stakeholder meeting at Damak organized by Blue Diamond Society (BDS) & supported by Save the children at May 28, 2023. The participants of the program were Deputy -Mayor from Damak Municipality, Mesu from Damak Hospital, Police Incharge, Health Section chief from Damak Municipality, ART Counsellors, FPAN, Red Cross, Richmond fellowship, Luva-kush Ashram, Reporters of local media etc. There was discussion on the issues, challenges and way forward of sexual and gender minorities (SGM) at Nepal. Similarly, the social welfare section and other participants shared way forward and their contribution to address those issues.
- Participated at Interaction program of task force for CLM organized by Richmond Fellowship in association with Sparsha Nepal at Bhadrapur Jhapa at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. The participants of the program were HIV Focal person from Health office, Representative from District Coordination Committee, President from CCC, ART counsellor from Damak & Mechi ART center and participants from Richmond fellowship. Discussion was done about the ongoing of Community Led Monitoring (CLM) program and sharing its achievement and plan for upcoming days.

#### **Viral Load campaign**

- **Jhapa**  
In this period altogether 19 viral load sample collection was done from Mechi ART & 9 from Damak ART center in coordination with AMDA Nepal Jhapa, BDS Sub IPs, CCC and sent to NPHL and Koshi hospital respectively.
- **Morang:** In this period altogether 15 viral load sample collection done from Morang district in coordination with ART Center and BDS sub-IPs and send to Koshi Zonal Hospital. Also 9 reports are received in this month.
- **Sunsari:** In this period altogether 15 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 20 reports are received in this month.

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

- **Jhapa**

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24 PLHIV were followed through phone for HIV testing, ART adherence, index partner testing, viral load testing and 6 PPs were followed through facebook for HIV testing and prevention services.

Similarly, 6 clients booked HIV testing services through Merosathi & 4 arrived in the clinic & took the services.

- **Sunsari:** In this period total 5 booking in Merosathi and 5 client took services. In phone follow up 19 phone call are done among them 6 arrived clinic and took services.
- **Morang:** In this period total 2 booking in Merosathi and 2 client took services.

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

- In this period International Candle Memorial Day was celebrated in Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam district in coordination with BDS Sub IPs, CCC, CBOs of JMMS and local government with the theme “Spread Love and Solidarity to Build Stronger Communities.”

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

#### **Monthly Review Meeting**

AMDA Nepal, Jhapa conducted monthly review meetings to review the progress and decide way forward on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May at Birtamode city clinic and Itahari city clinic respectively. In the meeting there was presence of M&E Officer, HA, HA-ART, CBS, PN, Lab staffs and DIC/M&E Associate. There was discussion on following:

- District and indicators wise target vs achievement.
- Gaps in case findings, ART enrollment, viral load testing, PrEP initiation.
- Recent notice about the use of Benzathine Penicillin.
- Data safety and security

#### **Quarterly Review Meeting**

- **Not done in this period.**

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

- **Not done in this period.**

#### **PSICA Assessment**

- In this period Program strategic Information Capacity Assessment was done by FHI360 Team Leader SI Unit Neeti Sedai on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at Itahari City clinic Sunsari. This assessment was done for gap analysis of in program management so that actions can be made to meet the gap for effective implementation of the program for direct funding of USAID. She discussion on following components with Key Personnels of the project.
  1. Human resource availability
  2. Staff Competency
  3. Planning and Budgeting

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4. Process management
5. Process autonomy
6. System and Tools
7. Client Level Data
8. PEPFAR Data quality improvement.
9. Data use

#### **Monitoring visits:**

- In this period monitoring visit was done by Sr. Lab Specialist Mr. Sanjit Pandit from FHI360 at Itahari City Clinic. He monitored the lab room from process of HIV/STI testing, Stock register maintained, monitoring checklist, waste management, store room, temperature chart, Drug and Kit expiry chart maintained and used on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- In this period monitoring visit was done by Technical Specialist Dr. Prashana Khatiwada. from FHI360 at Itahari City Clinic. She monitored the Clinic room from process of pre-test and post-test counseling, mental health screening, HTC register, IIT register, Drug expiry chart, Emergency kit box, store room, temperature chart on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- In this period monitoring visit was done was done by FHI360 Team Leader of SI unit Neeti Sedai at Birtamod City Clinic of Jhapa on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. She had discussion with CBS, PN and DIC on Issues, challenges and problem on Biometric Installation of beneficiaries at community during outreach and at city clinic. Along with feedback and suggestions to improve the Biometric Installation from city clinic.
- In this period supportive monitoring visit was done from FHI360 consultant Mr. Shushil Chhetri and Mr. Ratna Kayastha. They done supervision of pre-test & post-test, mental health counseling by Case Manager in the city clinic supervision along with CBS + and PN counseling for Mental health, ART adherence, viral load testing and PrEP\_CT, Index Testing.
- **Community monitoring Scorecard:**
- Not done in this period.

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

- Not done in this period

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

##### **Team Building & Program Management:**

- Participated at 3-day Team building & program management session at May 10-12 at Kathmandu Nepal organized by EpiC Nepal. The participants of the program were Provincial Coordinator from FHI 360, Chairperson & Secretary from AMDA Nepal, chief Administrator, Finance Controller, Project Coordinator, program manager, M & E officer, Admin officer, Logistic officer, admin assistant. The first day was about team building among the staffs and second & third day was about program management. The program was very fruitful to the board member & key staffs of the AMDA Nepal where we learnt about the team building among the organization, project management cycle, M & E framework and Result chain analysis.

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- In this period 1 day orientation was provided on HIV Treatment and Viral Load Literacy to all CBS+, PN, Lab, Case Managers, HA-ART DIC Operators and M&E officer of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam district at respective districts with BDS Sub-IPs. The orientation was facilitated by FHI360 consultant Mr. Shushil Chhetri and Ratna Kayastha.

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

- **Mechi ART Center**  
Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Mechi ART center of Mechi hospital on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. In the meeting, there was presence of ART counselor, Lab Incharge, Incharge from CCC & staff from Luva-kush Ashram, HA-ART and staffs from AMDA. In the meeting, discussion was done about IIT register and its maintenance in the ART center. Similarly, discussion was done about the DNA PCR machine for viral load & its follow-up which is being planned to bring by Luva-kush at the Mechi hospital.
- **BPKIHS ART Center**  
Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of BPKIHS Hospital on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. In the meeting there was presence of HoD of Internal Medicine, Medical Doctor, Lab Incharge, Tropical Ward Incharge, ART Counselor, HA\_ART, PCs of EpiC Project, CHBC Coordinator of DPG. Meeting was started by the round of introduction, brief description on EpiC Project, Viral load testing, EID sample collection and follow up for report IIT and transfer out clients tracking and reporting. Along with halt of Benzathine penicillin Injection treatment from City Clinic of EpiC Project and will refer for nearest ART sites for treatment and support.
- **Ilam ART Center**  
Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of Ilam Hospital on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 cases finding, Index testing, Viral Load sample collection and testing, ARV distribution, IIT and transfer out clients tracking and reporting.

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## Photos



Pics: Monitoring and supportive supervision by FHI360 at Itahari City Clinic.

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Pic: International Candlelight Memorial Day Celebration 2023



Pics: Participating in HIV treatment and Viral Load Literacy Orientation.

Thank You