

EpiC Nepal Project

Monthly Update: September 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 September 8, 2022 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 9 PLHIV (2 male & 7 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the importance Health Insurance, Viral load testing, ART adherence and Index Testing. The program was interactive where the question of participants was responded by our staff. And all the participants were distributed hygiene kit.

Sunsari

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on September 16th in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 10 PLHIV (6 Female and 4 male) 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. Had well wishes of upcoming Dashain to all the participants also provided hygiene kit to all the participants.

Morang

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on September 18 ,2022 in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 10 PLHIV (5 Male and 5 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 & ART enrollment and continued. We also distributed the hygiene kit to all participants.

Monthly review meeting:

Monthly review meeting was done on September 25th in Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Ilam through online platform. 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:

- Upcoming program and areas to be focused and addressed.
- Approaches to cover and meet target 95-95-95.
- PrEP Initiation and continuation.
- Index offer and Index testing.
- Viral load testing of all eligible clients through VL Testing campaign.
- COVID-19 vaccine to all KPs and PLHIV.
- HTS_Self Testing.
- Target setting and ways to achieve the targets CBS and PN.

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Online Activities

- 19 PLHIV (8 female & 11 male) were followed through phone for ART adherence, index partner testing, viral load testing and other services in Jhapa.
- 13 Merosathi bookings were done & 8 of them were tested.
- In case of Sunsari district 9 clients were followed through phone flow up for ART, HIV testing and STI testing. Also 6 Merosathi bookings were done & all of them were tested.

Relief Packages

- Not done in this period.

COVID-19 Isolation Kit:

- Not done in this period.

Hygiene kit Distribution:

- In this period 9 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after support group respectively in the Jhapa district in this month.
- In this period 10 KPs & 10 PLHIV were distributed hygiene kit after creative event & support group respectively in the Morang district in this month.
- In this period 2 KPs and 10 PLHIVs were provided hygiene kit after Creative event and support group meeting in Sunsari.

Creative events:

- **Sunsari**
Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on September 20th in Itahari City clinic. A total of 11 FSWs 9(1.2), 1(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. Among them 8 STI services, 3 HTC services and 6 FSW took PrEP follow services. We exchange the wishes of upcoming Dashain with each other.
- **Morang**
Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on September 14th in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 13 FSWs, 9 (1.3), 4 (1.2) 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. We also distributed the hygiene kit to all participants.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Training:

- **Sunsari**
Stigma and Discrimination reduction training was conducted in Jana Marga Tole, Jhumka, Sunsari on September 22nd with participation of 21 people from different sectors. The program was facilitated by the Field Supervisor, CBS plus & PN about different aspects of HIV/AIDS, real scenario in the present context and way forward for reducing stigma and

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discrimination for people living with HIV in the community. The participants also raised different questions, queries about the session and provided us wonderful feedback to conducted the program in upcoming days.

- **Ilam:**

Training on stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS was conducted by AMDA Nepal on 13 September 2022 from 2 pm to 4 pm at Ilam hospital ilam. The training was divided into 3 Phase initially from 2:00 pm to 2:15 pm inauguration was started by the medical officer Mr. Shiwin Chapagain of Ilam Hospital and after that training start Officially by Facilitator ART counselor Mr. Mahendra Rajbanshi and HA-ART Mr. Radhe Shyam Yadav. A break of 15 minutes was given and training was successfully completed by 4 PM.

The total number of participants was 34 among them 18 were male and 16 were female. Participants were from different PLHIV groups, Emergency ward, Indoor ward, Maternity ward, Administration section and LUV KUSH Aashram.

According to participants, this program was a new program to them and they learned a lot about the meaning of HIV/AIDS, the Difference between HIV&AIDS, the route, and medium of transmission, signs & symptoms, and stigma & discrimination due to HIV/AIDS.

Pre-evaluation, post-evaluation, feedback, and closing speech were given by Medical Officer Mr. Siwin Chapagain.

Monthly joint inter-Network meeting:

- In this period participated in the annual health review meeting of Itahari Sub Metropolitan City on September 9th 2022. In the meeting there were from Health office Sunsari, Health coordinator, 20 ward Health Incharge, Itahari Hospital, Participants from development partners. In the meeting there was sharing of target vs achievements, burn rate, issues and challenges faced and upcoming program planned activities for coming FY2079/80. AMDA Nepal EpiC Project also shared project objectives, working areas, activities, achievement, Issues and challenges faced during program implementation and upcoming program activities for FY2023.
- In this period participated in the annual health review meeting of Biratnagar Metropolitan City on September 7th 2022. In the meeting there were from Health office Morang, Health coordinator, 19 ward Health Incharge, Koshi Hospital, Participants from development partners. In the meeting there was sharing of target vs achievements, burn rate, issues and challenges faced and upcoming program planned activities for coming FY2079/80. AMDA Nepal EpiC Project also shared project objectives, working areas, activities, achievement, Issues and challenges faced during program implementation and upcoming program activities for FY2023.
- In this period participated in the annual health review meeting of Sunsari District September 13th & 14th 2022. In the meeting there was presence of Province Health minister Hon. Jayram Yadav as a chief guest, presence of Chief District Officer Mr. Indra

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Dev Yadav, Health office Sunsari team, Health coordinator of all Palikas, School Health nurses of all Palikas, representatives of development partners, representatives of FCHVs from all Palikas. In the meeting there was sharing of target vs achievements, burn rate, issues and challenges faced and upcoming program planned activities for coming FY2079/80. AMDA Nepal EpiC Project also shared project objectives, working areas, activities, achievement, Issues and challenges faced during program implementation and upcoming program activities for FY2023.

- In this period participated in the annual health review meeting of Jhapa District on September 21st & 22nd, 2022. In the meeting there was presence from Health office Jhapa team, Health coordinator of all Palikas, School Health nurses of all Palikas, Mechi Hospital, representatives of development partners. In the meeting there was sharing of target vs achievements, burn rate, issues and challenges faced and upcoming program planned activities for coming FY2079/80. AMDA Nepal EpiC Project also shared project objectives, working areas, activities, achievement, Issues and challenges faced during program implementation and upcoming program activities for FY2023.
- In this period participated in the meeting of Community Led Monitoring activities organized by Richmond fellowship on 16th September 2022 at Health Office Inaruwa. In the meeting there was presence of Chief District Officer Mr. Indra Dev Yadav, Chief District Health Administrator Sagar Prasai, HIV focal person Urmila Rai, Vaccine Focal person, ART counselors of BPKIHS Dharan and Inaruwa Hospital, Administrative Officer and representatives of partner organization AMDA Nepal, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Jagaran Aarogya Samuha. In the meeting there was discussion on current scenario of HIV AIDS in the district and nationwide. Objectives of formation of Task Team for CLM and the roles and responsibilities of Task team members during and after program implementation of CLM.
- In this period conducted orientation on assessment of services delivery/utilization by KPs to all field staffs of AMDA Nepal and HWS at Itahari City Clinic on 13th September 2022. This orientation was facilitated by M&E officers of AMDA Nepal and HWS Sunsari also supported by M&E specialist Yubaraj Sapkota and Provincial coordinator Salina Joshi. In the orientation there was discussion on the objectives, need, procedure and tools used in survey.

Viral Load campaign

- In this period altogether, 12 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Jhapa 10 from Mechi hospital and 2 from Damak hospital respectively and 23 VL report received with suppressed results in coordination with ART center, BDS Sub IPS, CCC & was sent to NPHL.
- In this period altogether, 35 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Morang and 5 VL report received with suppressed results in coordination with ART center, BDS Sub IPS, CCC & was sent to NPHL.

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- In this period altogether, 42 viral sample was collected from AMDA Nepal, Morang and 8 VL report received with suppressed results in coordination with ART center, BDS Sub IPS, CCC & was sent to NPHL.

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.

Monitoring visits:

- In this period monitoring visit was conducted by NCASC Director Dr. Sudha Devkota at Birtamod City Clinic, Jhapa on September 9th 2022. In the visit there was discussion on EpiC project objectives, working areas, services provided by EpiC project, Issues and challenges faced during program implementation. During the discussion Dr. Sudha was excited to know the impact and outcome of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Recency Testing initiated by EpiC Project. And reasons of low viral load testing in the district.
- In this period monitoring and supportive supervision visit was done by Provincial Coordinator Ms. Salina Joshi from September 9th to 14th in City Clinic of Jhapa, Ilam field office and Sunsari field office also supported in the monitoring visit of NCASC Director Dr. Sudha Devkota in Btm City Clinic.

Community monitoring Scorecard:

- Not done in this period.

Provincial / Other GoN meeting:

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Monitoring visit by GoN

- In this period monitoring visit was conducted by NCASC Director Dr. Sudha Devkota at Birtamod City Clinic, Jhapa on September 9th 2022. In the visit there was discussion on EpiC project objectives, working areas, services provided by EpiC project, Issues and challenges faced during program implementation. During the discussion Dr. Sudha was excited to know the impact and outcome of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Recency Testing initiated by EpiC Project. And reasons of low viral load testing in the district.

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- Coordination meeting and monitoring visit was done by Tropical ward Incharge Ms. Ranjana Achariya and ART Counselor of BPKIHS Ms. Nisha Shrestha and Inaruwa Hospital Mr. Pramod Mehta in Itahari City Clinic on September 23rd, 2022. During the visit they suggested to follow up for RPR reagents and Inj. Benzathine for smooth service delivery of STI cases. Also had a interaction meeting with all staffs and shared the project extension for FY2023 and areas to be more focused in coming fiscal year. They have suggested to cover boarder areas of Sunsari district which is little missing from our project also regular follow up for Viral load unsuppressed clients and newly diagnosed clients for ART adherence.

Trainings and Orientations:

- In this period HA-ART of Inaruwa ART Center participated in 6 days HIV case management training on September 4- 9, 2022 organized by FHI 360 to case managers at Kathmandu.
- In this period HA-ART of Mechi ART Center participated in 3 days HIV Care and Counseling training on September 5-7, 2022 organized by FHI 360 to case managers at Kathmandu.
- In this period participated in 2 days training of ONHIS at Hotel Yellow Pagoda on September 14th & 15th organized by FHI360. In the training there were participants of M&E officers from EpiC project IPs and Sub IPs, HA-ART of NAP+N. There was discussion and orientation on ONHIS entry forms and formats. Also instructed to complete entry of all forms till November 2022.

Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Mechi ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at ART center of Mechi Zonal hospital on September 18th, 2022. There was presence of ART counselor, M&E from AMDA Nepal, Lab Incharge staff from Lead Nepal and Luv Kush Ashram (CCC), HA-ART. During the meeting, discussion was done on the role of the AMDA lab staff in recording & reporting in hospital, viral load testing, data base updates in google drive and reports in upcoming days, IIT follow-up etc.

- **BPKIHS ART Center**

Quarterly ART meeting was conducted at BPKIHS ART Center Dharan on September 20th, 2022. There was presence of HoD of Internal Medicine, Tropical ward Incharge, President of BDS, AMDA & HWS PC, HWS CBS+, PN also ART counselor, HA-ART. In the meeting there was discussion EpiC project activities and scope of areas, eligibility of viral load sample collection and testing, viral load result and explained the details review of ART center by ART counselor. As well as there was instruction how to create suitable environment for PLHIV while receiving different services of Inaruwa Hospital.

- **Ilam ART Center**

ART center's monthly meeting in September was conducted on 11 September 2022 from 11:00 AM to 2 PM in the presence of Province 1 Provincial coordinator Mrs. Salina Joshi at

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Ilam ART center along with presence from Health Office, Ilam Hospital, Luv Kush Ashram, BWS, ART Counselor, HA-ART Discussion was done on review of the previous meeting, coordination to be done with NCASC and Ilam hospital for ART counselors should be placed in the ART center from 10 am- 5 pm, coordination with the Health Office for the program related to HIV/AIDS , coordination with Ilam hospital for basic health care services of PLHIV.

Photos

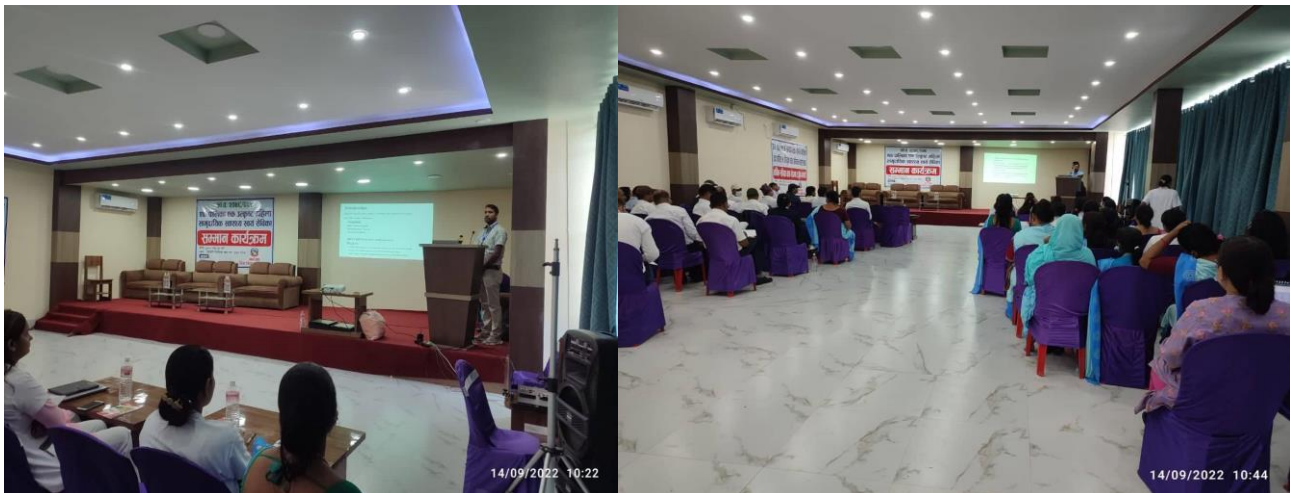


Pics: A group photo with NCASC Director Dr. Sudha at Birtamod City Clinic, Jhapa.

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Pics: Participated in the training organized by fhi360



Pics: Participated in Annual Health Review Meeting.

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Pics: Creative event meeting at Itahari City Clinic & Brt. Field Office.



Pics: Monthly ART meeting at BPKIHS and Ilam ART Center.

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Pics: Stigma & Discrimination Orientation to Health workers of Ilam Hospital and CBOs.

Thank You