

# EpiC Nepal Project

## Monthly Update: May 2024

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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 May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 14 PLHIV (4 male & 10 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the mental health counselling, Tuberculosis and health insurance.

###### **Sunsari**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari A total of 16 PLHIV (2 Male and 14 Female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case manager and PN. Discussion was done on Health Insurance, U=U, ART enrollment and re enrollment of all positive cases, Mental Health, importance of Index based partner testing and about viral load.

###### **Morang**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang a total of 13 PLHIV (4 Male and 9 Female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by field Supervisor and PN. Discussion was done on Health Insurance, U=U, ART enrollment and re enrollment of all positive cases, Mental Health, importance of Index based partner testing and about viral load.

###### **Illam**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 in Illam Field Office. A total of 11 PLHIV (5 Male and 6 Female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by HA-ART and PN. Discussion was done about ART Adherence, viral load and importance of U=U among the participants.

##### **Monthly review meeting:**

Conducted Monthly Review Meeting with presence of Provincial Coordinator from Epic Nepal at Itahari City clinic and Birtamod city Clinic at May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 respectively. In the meeting, the following discussions were done:

- Performance high lists & cascade from Oct to April 2024.
- OCIA
- Target vs achievement
- EAC, AHD, Mental Health.
- Compliances of USAID
- Benefits and allowances
- Areas to be focused
- SIMS visit and Preparation.

##### **Quarterly Review Meeting**

- Not done in this period.

##### **Online Activities**

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

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Sunsari: In this period, 15 phone follow up were done among them 5 took services in the clinic. Similarly, 7 clients booked HIV testing services through Mero Sathi & 8 arrived to clinic and took the services.

Morang: In this period, 2 client booked HIV testing services through Mero Sathi & 1 arrived to clinic and took the services

### **Relief Packages**

- Not done in this period.

### **COVID-19 Isolation Kit:**

- Not done in this period.

### **Hygiene kit Distribution:**

- Not done in this period.

### **Creative events:**

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on May 22<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Itahari City clinic. A total of 15 FSWs (1.2-13, 1.3-2) participants. It was facilitated by DIC Operator and CBS. There was discussion on importance of PrEP and its continuation, HIV/STI testing, Mental Health. In this event PrEP new 1, PrEP restart 1 and 10 refilled PrEP also 15 KPs done the STI screening and 6 HIV testing.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 13 female (1.2-5, 1.3-8) participants participated in the event. It was facilitated CBS, PN and Field Supervisor. There was discussion on importance of PrEP and its continuation, HIV prevention & treatment. In this event 1 of the participants were screened for STI/HIV and 1 client are PrEP new.

- **Jhapa**

Conducted creative event on 26<sup>th</sup> May, in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 12 (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 the program, happiness was shared among the participants in the occasion of Nepali New Year 2081. In this event, 8 Kp tested for HIV & STI, 4 KP started PrEP & 1 restarted. Also, 8 KPs were screened for STI & 2 of them were diagnosed.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- In this period conducted jointly district level coordination meeting at Hotel Triyuga, Itahari Sunsari on May 3rd, 2024. In the meeting DAO of Sunsari Mr. Jaya Narayan Acharya was chief guest along with Sunsari Health Administrator HIV focal person of district, ART Counselors, Health coordinators of 12 Palikas, chiefs and representatives of NGOs/INGOs working in HIV program in the district. There was sharing of EpiC project activities in the district along with current status of HIV in national, province and district. Goal of National HIV Strategy Plan by 2026 and by 2030 and activities conducted in the district to achieve 95-95-95 and current status of ART services and

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status in Inaruwa and BPKIHS in the district. Along with there was discussion on issues and challenges of HIV program ( CABA support deduction in Koshi province, shortage of reagents for VL testing, supply of kits and medicine from province), issues of identification card of PLHIV for enrollment in Health Insurance and other programs of government.

- In this period participated in the workshop of online child sexual abuse prevention organized by Voice of Children Nepal at Inn Tourist Hotel Itahari on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There was presence from Karuna foundation, Maiti Nepal, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Jagaran Aarogya Samuha, Shramik Mahila Samuha, Youth Development Center, Ilaka police office, Itahari Municipality. In the meeting there was orientation on online child sexual abuse methods, causes, preventive measures and Toll-free numbers for reporting of such events.
- In this period participated in the stakeholders meeting in Dharan Municipality Office on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 organized by Dharan Positive Group. In the meeting there was presence of Mayor, Ward president, ward member along with NAP+N, Prayash Mahila Samuha, Human Welfare Society, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, AMDA Nepal, Richmond Fellowship. In the meeting there was sharing of activities conducted by DPG, status of HIV clients and ID Users in Sunsari district and role of local government to achieve national goal by 2026 and 2030. Also, allocation of budget for HIV and ID Users for program in upcoming fiscal year 2081/82.
- In this period participated in the Sharing Meeting at Biratnagar Metropolitan Hall organized by Biratnagar Metropolitan Health section on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In the meeting there were participants from the all NGO/INGO representatives of Biratnagar along with Morang health office Incharge and health section staff of Biratnagar metropolitan. There were details sharing of activities of metropolitan in 080/081, coordination activities with the help of NGO/INGO. Where metropolitan asked the what kind of coordination/help can be done by different NGO/INGO in coming FY 081/82. Every NGO/INGO represent their thoughts related to it. We also proposed for the S & D training to FCHV of Biratnagar metropolitan.

#### **Viral Load campaign**

- Morang: In this period 25 viral load sample collection done and 56 viral load report received.
- Sunsari: In this period 32 viral load sample collection done and 63 viral load report received
- In Illam, altogether 15 viral load sample was collected from Illam ART in coordination with AMDA Nepal Illam, CCC and was sent to Koshi hospital.
- In Jhapa, 42 viral load sample was collected from Mechi ART center & sent to Koshi 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.

#### **Monitoring visits:**

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- In this period Psychosocial Counselor Nisha Dahal visited itahari city clinic on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively. She participated in the creative event and support group meeting to support and address in mental health issues and problems.

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

- In this period monitoring visit was done.

#### **Provincial / Other GoN meeting:**

- In this period monitoring visit was done by Acting Director of Social welfare Society Mr. Dipendra Pant, Team leader Dr. Yogendra Shah and Chief Administrator Mr. Sudesh Regmi from May 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The team visited EpiC Project field Office Itahari. There was sharing of EpiC Project activities conducted by AMDA Nepal in the district, with targets and achievements, discussion on issues, challenges and best practices. After that the team monitored the registration process, Lab room, counseling room and services provided from these rooms and had interaction with Lab staffs, Clinical Helper, case manager on Viral load testing, STI diagnosis and treatment, cold chain maintained, waste management process.

After that they had a meeting with Health section of Itahari Municipality (Chief of Health Section Mr. Dinesh Chaudhary and Vaccine focal person Mr. Rohit Timisina), there was discussion of EpiC project activities in the Itahari Municipality. Mr. Chaudhary express that EpiC project is working well in the district with timely reporting and sharing of EpiC project activities during monitoring visit and coordination and sharing meeting and coordinates and leads HIV program in the district and local level.

Monitoring team also visited district hospital Inaruwa and had interaction with the Hospital administration and ART center team on HIV program and support activities of EpiC Project in ART center. Hospital mgmt. team has responses EpiC project roles is crucial in effective implementation of HIV program in the district in case detection, ART enrollment, ART adherence, viral load testing, EID sample collection, HR support for regular service delivery and timely recording, reporting and logistics support as per need in HIV program also supports in regular meeting and review of HIV program. So EpiC project is playing vital role in ART service delivery from district hospital.

Team also visited Birtamod city clinic there was sharing of the activities of the program as well as challenges and ways to overcome them were discussed with field staffs. Also, team had interaction with key beneficiaries on satisfaction of services delivered by EpiC Project in the district from EpiC Project along with feedbacks and suggestions from beneficiaries were taken for further improvement the project.

Team also visited Biratnagar field office and had interaction with field staffs on project activities in the district with issues and challenges and areas to improve and address in upcoming days for quality of services delivery and sustainability of HIV program.

Overall impression of SWC visit was fruitful and meets their expectations on EpiC project activities and linkages with local government for sustainability of HIV program as they expected from project.

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

- In this period AFO participated in the Finance related workshop in Pokhara organized by FHI360 from May 21-23, 2024.
- In this period Lab personnel participated in the HIV & STI testing and laboratory diagnosis training from May 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 organized by fhi360 at Chitwan.

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#### Monthly ART center Meetings

- **Koshi ART Center**

Quarterly ART meeting was conducted at Koshi ART center on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. In the meeting, there was presence of Emergency Incharge, Lab Incharge, ART Counselor, Province, PC, M & E officer, HA-ART, CBS, PN from EpiC Project along with Program officer of Sparsha Nepal and Richmond Fellowship. In the meeting there was sharing of findings of current status of HIV/AIDS, National Strategy to meet 95-95-95 by 2026 and end AIDS Epidemic by 2030, current achievement on 95-95-95 in Nation, province and district level and current status of Koshi hospital. Along with need to increase in follow up for IIT cases, need to increase baseline test of all clients in a regular basis 6/6 months for early detection of early detection of AHD.

- **Inaruwa ART Center**

Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Inaruwa ART center on May 22<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In the meeting, there was presence of Hospital Administrator, Nursing Incharge, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, Provincial Coordinator, PC, HA-ART, CBS, PN from EpiC Project. In the meeting there was sharing of findings of current status of HIV/AIDS, National Strategy to meet 95-95-95 by 2026 and end AIDS Epidemic by 2030, current achievement on 95-95-95 in Nation, province and district level and current status of Inaruwa hospital. Along with support of EpiC Project in ART centers and Hospitals for quality-of-service delivery, viral load testing, case confirmation and enrollment, ART meeting, logistics and HR support as per need.

- **Ilam ART Center**

The ART Monthly Meeting of May was conducted on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Ilam ART Center of Ilam Hospital in the Presence of Mesu. Dr. Prabhu Shah, Medical recorder, Information Officer, Administrator, ART Counselor along with PC, HA-ART, PN from AMDA Nepal and PC, paramedics, CHBC mobilizers. In the meeting there was introduction of newly recruited HA-ART and handover of ART program with overall performance and areas of improvement. Also need to focus on index testing, coverage of new areas and follow up for IIT cases and regular conduction of viral load testing.

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## Photos





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Pics: Monitoring visit from Social Welfare Society to EpiC Project.

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Pics: District Level Coordination Meeting at Sunsari.



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**Pics: Monthly ART Meeting at Inaruwa and Ilam ART Center.**

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Pics:Stakeholder meeting at Dharan Municipality Office

**Thank You**