

# **EpiC Nepal Project**

## **Monthly Update: February 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 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 in Birtamode Field Office, Jhapa. A total of 14 PLHIV (6 male & 8 female) participated in the meeting. Meeting was facilitated by Case Manager, CBS & PN. Discussion was done about the ART Adherence, Importance of viral load and health insurance.

#### **Sunsari**

AMDA EpiC Nepal conducted support group meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Itahari Field Office, Sunsari. A total of 13 PLHIV (2 Male and 11 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 February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Biratnagar Field Office, Morang. A total of 10 PLHIV (6 Male and 4 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 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.

#### **Ilam**

The support group meeting is conducted on 19 Feb, 2024 in the presence of HA-ART Radhe Shyam Yadav at AMDA Nepal office Ilam from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There are altogether 14 PLHIV participants in the meeting. These are the following areas which are discussed at the Meeting:

1. Adherence Counselling
2. Importance of ART
3. U=U Counselling
4. PMTCT
5. TB prevention
6. CD4 and Viral Load

### **Monthly review meeting:**

Conducted Monthly Review Meeting with presence of Provincial Coordinator from EpiC Nepal at Birtamod City clinic at 14<sup>th</sup> February. In the meeting, the following discussions were done :

- Performance high lists & cascade till the date
- Merosathi booking & Online reach
- IIT register & Unsuppressed tracker updating
- Social media influencer for promotion of EpiC Nepal

### **Quarterly Review Meeting**

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- Not done in this period.

#### Online Activities

Jhapa: In this reporting period, 14 phone call were made for ART Adherence, support group & emotional support. Also, 12 high risk KP were communicated for HIV prevention, testing & PrEP services. Likewise, 5 KPs & PP were communicated through online mediums for different HIV related services.

Similarly, 5 clients booked HIV testing services through Merosathi & 5 arrived in the clinic & took the services.

Sunsari: In this period, 13 phone follow up were done among them 5 took services in the clinic.

Similarly, 3 clients booked HIV testing services through MeroSathi & 3 arrived to clinic and took the services.

Morang: In this period, 2 clients booked HIV testing services through MeroSathi & 1 arrived to clinic and took the services.

#### Relief Packages

- Not done in this period.

#### Continued Medical Education (CME):

- In the period Continued Medical Education (CME) was conducted at Mechi Provincial hospital and Inaruwa Hospital on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 respectively. There was presence from all ward Incharge, administration. The session was launched by Sr. Pediatric Dr. Laxman Shrestha.
- Not done in this period.

#### Hygiene kit Distribution:

- Not done in this period.

#### Creative events:

- **Sunsari**

Conducted creative event (PrEP focused) on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Itahari City clinic. A total of 15 FSWs 11(1.2), 3(1.3), 1(67) 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 restart was done by 1 FSWs and 4 refilled PrEP also 9 KPs done the STI screening and 4 HIV testing.

- **Morang**

Conducted creative event on February 20<sup>st</sup> 2024 in Biratnagar Field Office. A total of 12 female 6(1.2), 6(1.3) 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 3 of the participants were screened for STI/HIV, 1 of the participants started PrEP and 2 of the participants re-started PrEP.

- **Jhapa**

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Conducted creative event on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 in Birtamode City clinic. A total of 15 (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, 14 Kp tested for HIV & STI, 7 KP started PrEP, 2 restarted & 1 refilled. Also, 14 KPs were screened for STI, 8 were diagnosed and 8 were treated.

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

- **Ilam**

In this period Stigma and Discrimination Reduction training was conducted at Ward No.7 of Suryodaya Municipality, Ilam on the presidency of Ward President Mr. Lok Bahadur Rai on February 22, 2024 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are total 28 participants from different school and health institutions i.e School Teachers, Students, and Health Personnel. The opening session is done by Sr. ANM Gopi Maya Rai from Health Office Suryodaya Municipality and The Technical Session is done by HA-ART and ART Counselor along with Peer Navigator. In the training there was sharing of current status of HIV/AIDS, its causes, mode of transmission, signs & symptoms, preventive measures, concept of HIV related stigma and discrimination, its causes, types, effects and roles of Health workers and stakeholders to minimize such HIV related stigma & discrimination in the community.

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

- In this participated in the coordination meeting organized by Dharan Positive Group on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Dharan CC Center. In the meeting there was presence from Dharan Municipality, ART Center, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Prayash Mahila Samuha, FPAN, Richmond, NAP+N. In the meeting there was discussion on preparation and celebration of International Condom Day supported in Sunsari district.
- In this period participated in the meeting organized by AHF Nepal at Koshi ART Center on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2024. In the meeting there was presence of Koshi ART Center, PSS, Sparsha Nepal, Richmond Fellowship. In the meeting there was sharing and discussion of program activities of AHF Nepal and areas to be supported for PLHIV clients during treatment and ART adherence.
- In this period participated in International Condom Day Celebration program organized by AHF Nepal in Morang, Ilam and Sunsari. In the event there was awareness campaign and promotion of condom use also distribution of Condom for high risk KPs and PPs.
- In this period participated in the coordination and sharing meeting organized by Prayash Mahila Samuha on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 at hotel Pathibhara Itahari. In the meeting there was presence from Itahari Municipality, Dharan Municipality, Mahila Sahayogi Samuha, Human Welfare Society, Dharan positive Group, ART Center Dharan and Inaruwa, Sparsha Nepal, Jagaran Aarogya Kendra, Richmond Fellowship. In the meeting there was sharing of program activities of Prayash Mahila Samuha, Stationary distribution to 25 PLHIV children of Sunsari district and Viral load transportation support cost to PLHIV family members supported by Itahari Municipality.
- In this period participated in the stakeholders meeting at Health Office Sunsari organized by Health office Sunsari on February 29<sup>th</sup> 2024. In the meeting there was presence of chief of DCC, chief of DAO, Mesu of district Hospital Sunsari, Health Office Sunsari, development partners, Local media reporters. In the meeting there was sharing of effective implementation of Measles-

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Rubella vaccination campaign in Sunsari district from March 4<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Sunsari for 9 months to 15 years children and role of stakeholders to make the campaign fruitful and effective for 100% coverage in the district.

- Participated at Coordination meeting with stakeholders at 16<sup>th</sup> February in Damak, Jhapa organized by Lead Nepal. The participants of the program were Provincial Coordinator from EpiC Nepal, Deputy Mayor, Health Incharge from Damak Municipality, representative from ward, Luvkush Ashram, FPAN, M & E officer from AMDA, Richmond Fellowship, Reporters etc.

#### **Viral Load campaign**

- Not done in this period.

#### **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:**

- Clinical mentoring visit was done on ART site from FHI360 Consultant Sr. Pediatric Dr. Laxman Shrestha on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Mechi Provincial Hospital, BPKIHS ART Center and Koshi ART Center. Dr. visited ART along with hospital maternity ward and laboratory department, also meet with the medical superintendent and different Incharge, doctors of Mechi, Koshi and BPKIHS. He also advised for proper waste management, management of viral load collection place, ART data display monthly wise and proper tracking of VL unsuppressed children.
- Monitoring visit was conducted from AMDA Nepal, Central office at Itahari City Clinic and Birtamod City clinic in February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> respectively. Visit was done by newly elected President, Secretary and administration. Monitoring of done services of EpiC Project from city clinic and sharing of major achievements with issues and challenges.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- Not done in this period.

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

- In this period Training on Going Online was conducted at Kathmandu by FHI360 on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> to DIC operators, Online CBS and Case managers respectively.

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

- **Mechi ART Center**

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Monthly ART center meeting was conducted at Mechi ART center of Mechi hospital on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024. In the meeting, there was presence of Hospital Administrator, ART counselor, Lab Incharge, M & E officer, HA-ART from AMDA Nepal, staff from Luvkush Ashram and Richmond Fellowship. In the meeting, discussion was done about requesting for DNA PCR machine for viral load to NCASC. Also, discussion was done about copayment issues in the national health insurance being implemented at the hospital.

- **BPKIHS ART Center**

In this period conducted Quarterly ART Meeting at BPKIHS ART Center on February 16, 2024. In the meeting there was presence of HOD of Internal Medicine, Tropical Ward Incharge, ART Doctor, ART Counselor, HA-ART, staffs from Dharan Positive Group, Prayash Mahula Samuha, Human Welfare Society, & AMDA Nepal etc. In the meeting there was discussion about the achievements and highlights of the ART center till the date. Also, discussion was done about problems faced by ART center. Along with preparation for SIMS visit by USAID and areas to be prepare for visit.

- **Ilam ART Center**

The Second ART quarterly of Ilam was conducted on 27 Feb 2024 at the administration office of Ilam Hospital on the Presence of Medical Superintendent Dr. Prabhu Sah. Inauguration of the meeting is done by DHO Officer Mr. Aaditya Shakya and the data related to ART is presented by HA-ART Mr. Radhe Shyam Yadav. There are a total 23 Participants from Ilam Hospital, Health office, Ilam Municipality, and staff from development partners.

Closing session is done by Dr. Prabhu Shah.

# These are the following Agenda which was discussed in The Meeting

- CD4 machine should be procured by Ilam hospital
- Elective Cesarean section Delivery should be done at Ilam hospital of PMTCT cases.
- Need to coordinate and follow up with Central Team for Viral load testing.
- Need to focus for in Migrants populations for more case detection in Ilam district

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### Photos



Pics: Monitoring visit by AMDA Nepal Central Team at EpiC City Clinic.



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Pics: CME and Clinical Mentoring by Dr. laxman at ART sites.

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**Pics: CME and Clinical Mentoring of ART sites by Dr. Laxman**



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**Pics: HIV related stigma and discrimination reduction training at Ilam.**

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Pics: Quarterly ART Meeting at Ilam ART Center

**Thank You**