

20 Years of USAID Support to the National HIV and AIDS Response Shows Remarkable Progress

3rd September 2013, Kathmandu: Today, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized a special event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of its partnership with the Government of Nepal and other stakeholders in supporting the national response to HIV and AIDS. The event was attended by key stakeholders from the Government of Nepal, other development partners, USAID officials, civil society and media.



During the event, the Chief Guest, Dr. Naresh Pratap K.C., Director of National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC) and Special Guest Ms. Sheila Lutjens, Acting Mission Director of USAID Nepal, unveiled the theme-tagline “एड्स रहित पुस्ताका लागि २० वर्षदेखि सहयात्रा” (“20 Years of Partnership Towards an AIDS-free Generation in Nepal”), which will be actively used to promote USAID’s longstanding partnership with various stakeholders and increase awareness of Nepal’s commitment to a comprehensive and evidence-based HIV and AIDS response. Speaking at the event, Ms. Lutjens remarked, “20 Years of Partnership Towards an AIDS-free Generation in Nepal – this is not a mere phrase but a true reflection of our united and ongoing dedication to the achievement of that ambitious yet attainable goal of an AIDS-free generation, both in Nepal and around the world.”



During his closing remarks, NCASC Director Dr. K.C. thanked all stakeholders including USAID for their continued support to the Government of Nepal-led National HIV Response. He remarked, “Under the leadership of the Government of Nepal and the support from our partners, we have standardized HIV-related prevention to care, support and treatment services throughout the country. As we enter the third decade, I call upon all our key stakeholders, donors and other stakeholders for their continued support to achieve the goals set by the existing Nepal’s National HIV and AIDS Strategy to reduce new infections by 50%, Reduce AIDS-related deaths by 25% and reduce new infections among children by 90% by 2016”.



USAID also announced a series of special events at both the national and district levels to commemorate the progress made over the past 20 years, and more importantly, to further strengthen the relationship with the Government, local and international partners, civil society, academia, and media. This will encourage all to move forward reinforcing Nepal’s efforts to realize the promise towards an AIDS-free generation.

In the past two decades, USAID has invested more than US \$80 million as part of its remarkable legacy of effective HIV/AIDS programs with the successful implementation of six tailored and evidence-based HIV projects in the country (including the ongoing Saath-Saath Project) and other projects as well. USAID’s continuous contributions through these pioneering projects have made real impact in preventing new infections and in increasing access to quality services for key affected populations.