

# Nepal Fact Sheet

## Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Nepal

Nepal has been facing a concentrated HIV epidemic since 1988. The National HIV Strategic Plan (NHSP) 2016–2021 identifies people who inject drugs, female sex workers and their clients, migrant workers and their spouses, men who have sex with men, male sex workers, transgender people, and prisoners as key populations (KPs) at higher risk of acquiring and spreading the virus. In Nepal, there are approximately 29,500 people, including 1,171 children, infected with HIV, with an estimated overall adult HIV prevalence of 0.13% (National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, 2019).

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) (Cooperative Agreement No. 7200AA19CA00002) is a five-year, global project funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with a period of performance from April 15, 2019 to April 14, 2024. Nepal's current implementation plan covers fiscal year 2021 (FY21) — from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

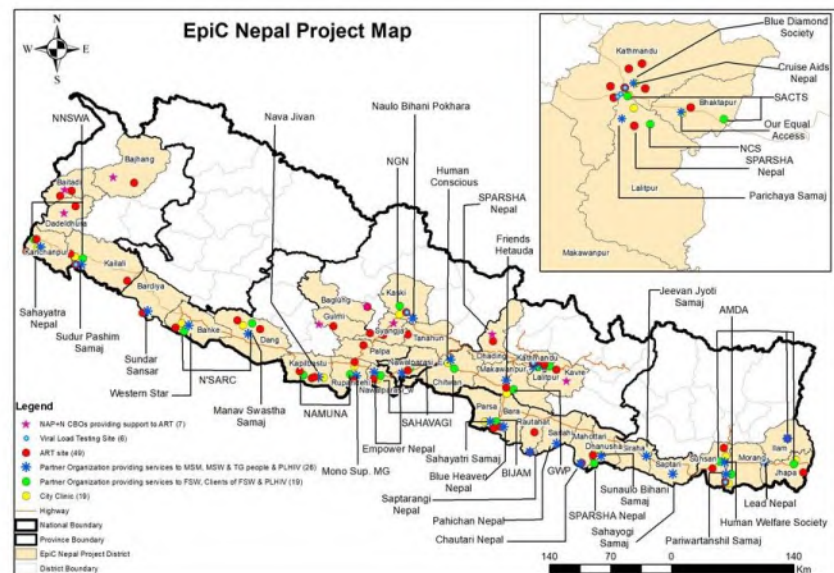


Figure 1. EpiC Nepal project districts

USAID has a longstanding history of consistent support for Nepal's health priorities and has played a significant role in the success of HIV-related programming in Nepal for more than 25 years. EpiC Nepal is building on this learning and experience to support local and global goals to control the epidemic. The project is focused on attaining and maintaining HIV epidemic control among KPs, priority populations (PPs), and other high-risk people; improving program management, including health information systems (HIS); and strengthening the capacity of local implementing partners (IPs).

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

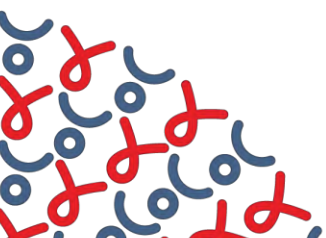
EpiC's overarching goal is to deliver efficient, affordable, results-based technical assistance and direct services—tailored to local contexts and epidemiology—that are effective in surging, scaling, and sustaining HIV services and systems for long-term epidemic control. EpiC has four objectives, which focus on filling existing gaps HIV prevention, case-finding, and treatment and on building long-term sustainability.

- **Objective 1.** Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among at-risk adult men, women, and PPs
- **Objective 2.** Attain and maintain HIV epidemic control among KPs
- **Objective 3.** Improve program management, including HIS and human resources for health (HRH), and financial systems to ensure attainment and maintenance of epidemic control
- **Objective 4.** Support the transition of prime funding and implementation to capable local partners to meet the PEPFAR goal of 70% of funding to local partners by 2020

### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The activities under each of EpiC Nepal's objectives address the needs and gaps among at-risk populations through:

- Optimizing differentiated HIV prevention efforts, including risk assessment and segmentation, prevention education, and condom and lubricant promotion and distribution
- Generating demand and providing referrals for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Maximizing efficient HIV case detection through “targeted low-testing and high-yield,” including index testing, HIV self-testing, the enhanced peer outreach approach, and online-to-offline approaches
- Optimizing treatment initiation on the same day or within seven days of diagnosis
- Increasing viral load testing and suppression by (1) supporting improved adherence and retention and (2) following up and returning to care and treatment those who have been lost to follow-up
- Supporting scale-up of tuberculosis preventive therapy
- Ensuring the safety and security of beneficiaries and partners and using client satisfaction and community-led monitoring — LINK (online feedback tool), community score cards — and responding to adverse events
- Improving the quality and client-centeredness of HIV services
- Adopting the Government of Nepal's (GoN) public health protection standards to develop strategies and guidelines to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the program
- Documenting and sharing data-driven and evidence-based results, lessons learned, and good practices from project implementation experience
- Using a real-time online management information system to record and report services provided to individuals across the continuum of prevention, care, and treatment
- Reviewing, adapting, implementing, and monitoring a capacity-building plan



- Working for a policy and regulatory environment that supports social contracting, private sector engagement, and increased mobilization of domestic resources
- Supporting the national HIV program in strengthening HIV laboratory diagnostics and treatment service delivery and systems, procurement and supply chain systems, and strategic information systems
- Aligning with and contributing to the GoN's national HIV response to ensure strong coordination and collaboration among government and nongovernmental stakeholders, which include community-based organizations and national networks of KPs and people living with HIV (PLHIV) at provincial, district, and local levels

## PLANNED RESULTS

### Key Indicators and Targets (October 2020 to September 2021)

Indicators	Target
Number of individuals reached with HIV prevention	27,803
Number of individuals who received HIV testing and counseling services	19,460
Number of individuals diagnosed HIV positive	1,048
Number of PLHIV enrolled in antiretroviral therapy	3,300
Number of PLHIV receiving care and support services in the community	6,379
Number of PLHIV with suppressed viral load (<1000 copies/ml)	14,438
Number of HIV self-test kits distributed	6,000
Number of individuals enrolled on PrEP	2,881
Number of individuals diagnosed with and treated for sexually transmitted infections	1,033
Number of condoms distributed	4.3 million
Number of lubricants distributed	2.5 million

This brief was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The contents are the responsibility of the EpiC project and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, PEPFAR, or the United States Government. EpiC is a global cooperative agreement (7200AA19CA00002) led by FHI 360 with core partners Right to Care, Palladium International, Population Services International (PSI), and Gobe Group.

