

LINKAGES Across the Continuum of HIV Services for Key Populations Affected by HIV (LINKAGES) Nepal Project

The **LINKAGES Nepal Project** is part of the global LINKAGES Project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and implemented by FHI 360 in partnership with Pact, IntraHealth International, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

OVERVIEW OF HIV EPIDEMIC IN NEPAL

Nepal has been facing a concentrated HIV epidemic. The National HIV Strategic Plan (NHSP) 2016–2021 identifies people who inject drugs (PWID), female sex workers (FSWs) and their clients, migrant workers and their spouses, men who have sex with men (MSM), male sex workers (MSWs) and transgender (TG) people as key populations (KPs) at higher risk of acquiring and spreading the infection. In Nepal, there are approximately 39,397 adults (including 1,589 children) infected with HIV, with an estimated overall adult HIV prevalence of 0.20%.¹

LINKAGES NEPAL PROJECT

USAID has a long 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 23 years. LINKAGES Nepal is building on this learning and experience and is designed to support global goals to control the epidemic and achieve an AIDS-free generation, and to align with the Government of Nepal's priorities, the new National HIV Strategic Plan 2016–2021, and USAID Nepal's Country Development Cooperation Strategy. The project works in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal, local nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, and national networks of KPs and people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their community-based organizations (CBOs).

LINKAGES Nepal Project's approaches to contribute to 90-90-90² by 2020:

- Reach, test, treat, and retain (RTTR).
- Mobilize local NGOs and national networks of KPs and their CBOs.
- Create links with government HIV facilities.
- Use new and innovative methods and technologies.

LINKAGES Nepal Project will use the continuum of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services as the strategic framework to contribute to the 90-90-90 goals by 2020.

Goal:

Accelerate the ability of governments, KP organizations, and private-sector providers to collaboratively plan, deliver, and optimize services that reduce HIV transmission among KPs and extend life for those who are living with HIV.

Project Duration:

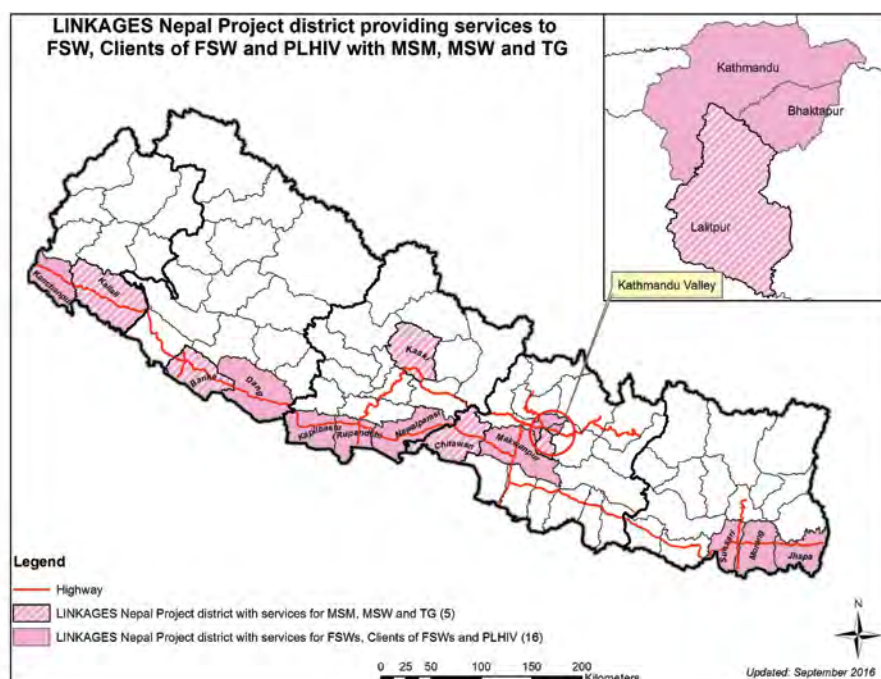
October 2016 to March 2018

Project Coverage:

16 districts

Project Partners:

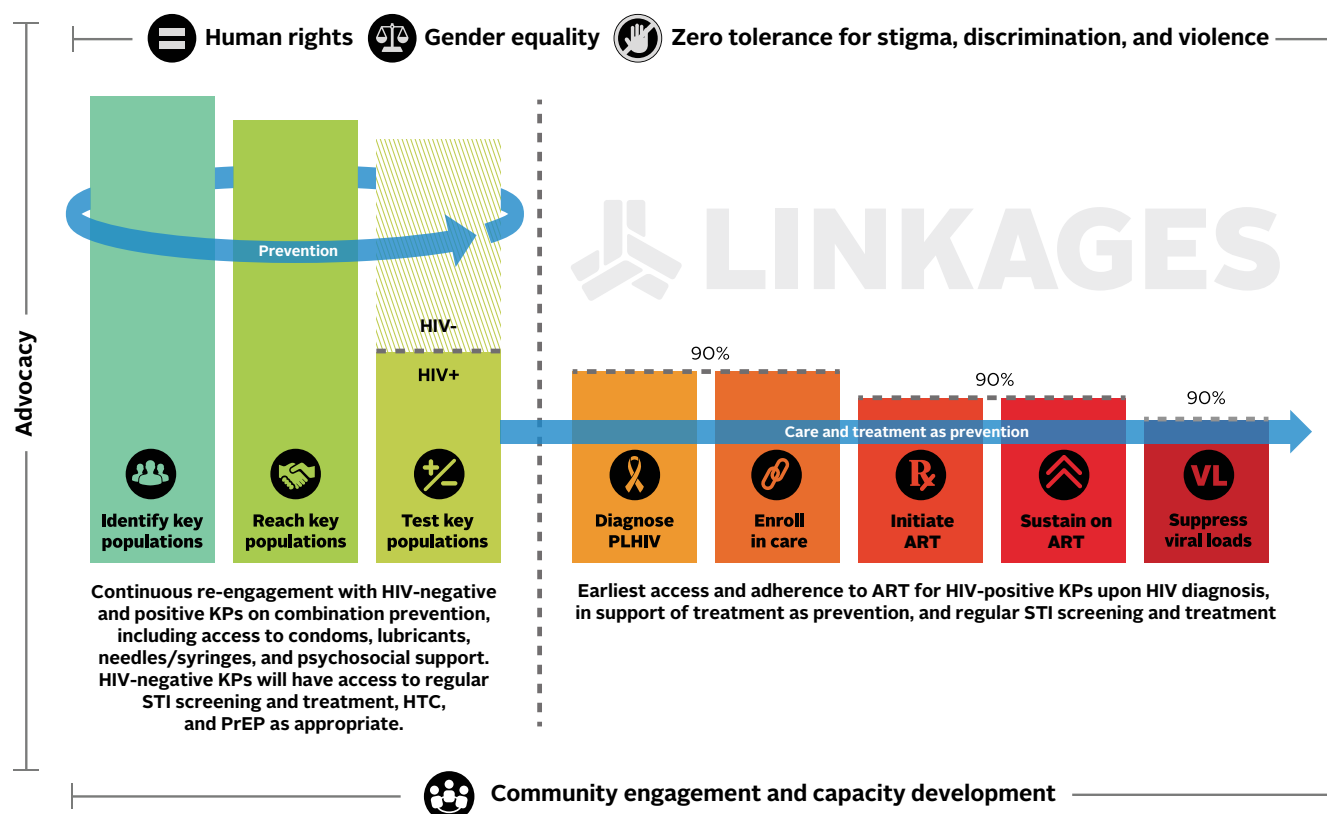
24 implementing partner agencies.



¹ Latest estimates carried out by National Centre for AIDS and STD Control and reported as National HIV Infection Estimate 2015.

² UNAIDS' ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. By 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 90% of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression.

The LINKAGES Prevention, Care, and Treatment Cascade



KEY INDICATORS AND TARGETS

(OCT 2016 TO DEC 2017)

INDICATORS	TARGET
Number of KPs reached for HIV prevention	142,700
Number of KPs received HTC services	57,200
Number of KPs examined for STIs	28,500
Number of PLHIV enrolled in care	639
Number of PLHIV enrolled in ART	575
Number of condoms distributed	13.96 million

The project activities will contribute to the following three global results areas of LINKAGES.

RESULT 1: Increased availability of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment services, including reliable coverage across the continuum of care for KPs.

RESULT 2: Demand for comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment services among KPs enhanced and sustained.

RESULT 3: Strengthened systems for planning, monitoring, evaluating, and ensuring the quality of programs for KPs.

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