



NEPAL FACT SHEET

LINKAGES ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF HIV SERVICES FOR KEY POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY HIV (LINKAGES) PROJECT

Nepal has been facing a concentrated HIV epidemic since 1988. 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 people as key populations (KPs) at higher risk of acquiring and spreading the virus. In Nepal, there are approximately 32,735 people including 1,197 children that are infected with HIV, with an estimated overall adult HIV prevalence of 0.17% (National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, 2016).

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 nearly 25 years. LINKAGES Nepal is building on this learning and experience, and is designed to support local and global goals to control the epidemic and achieve an AIDS-free generation. The LINKAGES project supports the Government of Nepal's Health Sector Plan (2016–2021), and USAID Nepal's Country Development Cooperation Strategy. The LINKAGES Nepal project is part of the global LINKAGES project supported by 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. The project works in 16 districts (119 local bodies) in five provinces in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal, local nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, national networks of KPs, people living with HIV (PLHIV), and their community-based organizations (CBOs).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The goal of the project is to 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. The project has three result areas:

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.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The project activities below will contribute to the goal and results areas of LINKAGES.

- HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) prevention education, referral and follow-up through offline and online platforms (use of information and communications technologies), and condom promotion and distribution
- HIV testing and counseling (HTC) services including early infant diagnosis (EID) services
- STI examination and treatment services
- HIV Case management services and referral to and follow-up for anti-retro viral therapy (ART) and viral load test services
- Support and education for counseling for ART adherence and retention
- HIV-related stigma and discrimination reduction

PLANNED RESULTS

Key Indicators and Targets (October 2016 to June 10, 2019)

Indicators	Target
Number of KPs reached for HIV prevention	207,400
Number of KPs received HIV testing and counselling services	101,500
Number of HIV self-test kits distributed	3,000
Number of individuals enrolled on pre-exposure prophylaxis	180
Number of KPs examined for sexually transmitted infections	43, 000
Number of PLHIV enrolled in ART	800
Number of PLHIV receiving care and support services in the community	1,700
Number of condoms distributed	23 million
Number of lubricants distributed	3.4 million