



GLOBAL FUND **HIV** PROGRAM FACTSHEET **BHUTAN**

2019-2022

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

GOAL

Promote sustainable services for key populations (KPs) at scale to stop HIV transmission & AIDS-related deaths by 2030

OBJECTIVES

- Mitigate service delivery gaps, contribute to enabling environment, & increase financial stability
- Strengthen strategic information and community systems

BUDGET: USD 915,714.28

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

National AIDS Control Program (NACP) of the Ministry of Health, Lhak-Sam, Pride Bhutan, and Chithuen Phendhey Association

TARGET POPULATIONS

- Gay and bisexual men
- Transgender people
- Sex workers (SW)
- People who inject drugs (PWID)
- People living with HIV (PLHIV)

HIV EPIDEMIC SITUATION, 2020 (UNAIDS)

- 1,300 adults living with HIV
- HIV incidence rate is 0.1 per 1000 uninfected population
- Less than 100 adults newly infected with HIV

Source: [UNAIDS 2021 Factsheet: Bhutan](#)

2021-2023 TARGETS

- Mitigate service delivery gaps by scaling up outreach and improving access to services
- Strengthen strategic information by generating information and data to inform program design
- Strengthen community systems through community-based research, building key population organizations' organizational capacity, and community mobilization
- Contribute to the enabling environment and address barriers to access
- Increase financial sustainability by ~~securing domestic investment~~, exploring innovative approaches, leveraging partnerships, and identifying alternative funding

REGIONAL COVERAGE

Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor Leste

OVERVIEW

The Bhutan national response to HIV is geared to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 with targets to increase the proportion of persons living with HIV (PLHIV) who are diagnosed to more than 95%, the proportion of those diagnosed on treatment to 100%, and the proportion with sustained viral suppression to more than 95%.

The engagement of key populations (KPs) in HIV response and KP-targeted programming is still in its nascent stages, with most related programs funded through non-domestic sources. As a sub-recipient, Save the Children Bhutan is leading the implementation of the Global Fund's HIV multi-country grant for key populations in Asia, called the Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia (SKPA) Program. The program is designed to build the capacity of KP organizations (KPOs), enhance service access, and promote sustainable services for KPs. The Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO) is the principal recipient.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Support KP mapping and estimation, develop monitoring & evaluation framework, develop database management, and conduct community-based monitoring
2. Implement community-based HIV self-testing (CB-HIVST) demonstration study, review HIV service package and capacity building, support demand generation activities, and develop interactive web app
3. Support capacity and institutional development, community-based monitoring, COVID-19 preparedness support, and social mobilization support for KPOs
4. Conduct funding landscape analysis, develop resource mobilization strategy, determine costing of key KP services, and implement allocative efficiency analysis
5. Develop advocacy plan, strategy and community feedback mechanisms, review gender-related barriers for KP services, and conduct health worker and media personnel sensitization on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE)/KP needs & priorities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INNOVATIONS

January 2022 - June 2022

- Successfully implemented the community-based HIV self-testing (CB-HIVST) demonstration project that informed the endorsement of HIVST as a national policy. The scale-up of HIVST should enhance access and uptake of testing to potentially bridge the case detection gap and increase HIV knowledge.
- Developed a one-stop interactive web-based application for providing HIV services to assess users' risks, provide basic counselling, book online testing, and link users to key services.
- Supported the HIV Allocative Efficiency Analysis, providing practical recommendations to support the NACP to make best decisions for budget allocation across HIV interventions to maximize investments' impact.
- Strengthened the institutional capacity of the KPOs through several trainings on proposal writing, project management, legal literacy, and policy and governance document development support.
- Implemented community-based monitoring led by KP members aimed to assess HIV service quality.
- Completed KP size estimation study, which also assessed preventive and risk behaviours crucial for program design, delivery, and monitoring.
- Reviewed gender-related barriers and implemented recommendations.
- Developed KP service package, and formulated and implemented KP advocacy strategy.
- Conducted sensitization programs on SOGIE, HIV, and KP-related needs and issues for health workers, media fraternity, and community members.
- Supported Pride Bhutan in its CSO registration process and supported community forums, outreach, and networking events.