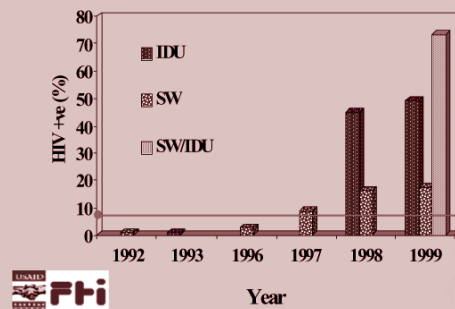


## Background

Nepal faces a rapidly expanding HIV/AIDS epidemic. This is attributable to an active sex trade, increasing number of HIV infected injecting drug users, and substantial male labor migration. Recent studies confirm that Nepal has gone from a low-prevalence country to one with a concentrated epidemic in one or more high-risk groups. For example, HIV-1 seroprevalence has been rising rapidly in association with high risk behaviors, with current levels of 40% amongst the nation's injecting drug users and approaching 20% amongst Kathmandu's female sex workers (FSWs). In the absence of effective public health interventions, HIV prevalence in Nepal may increase to the level of making AIDS the leading cause of death in the 15-49 year old population.

HIV Prevalence among injecting drug users and sex workers - Kathmandu

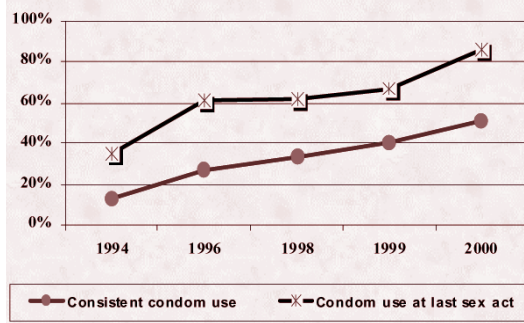


## Strategy

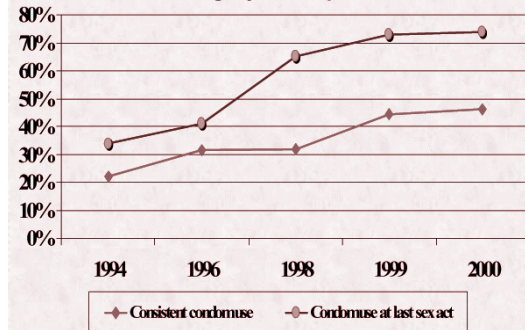
Funded by USAID/Nepal, the overall goal objectives for the FHI Nepal country program are:

- Increased risk reduction behaviour among target populations;
- Improved utilization of quality sexually transmitted infection (STI) services;
- Improved capacity in policy development, surveillance and evaluation;
- Develop a strategy to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the migrant population; and
- Work with the Ministry of Health and other donors to develop a five year strategy on HIV/AIDS.

FSWs Report on Last and Consistent Condom Use in Terai Highway Area of Nepal



Clients Report on Last and Consistent Condom Use in Terai Highway Area of Nepal



## Program Accomplishments

Significant accomplishments of FHI/Nepal under AIDSCAP I (1993-1997) and AIDSCAP II (1997-2002) projects along the major east-west highways of the 16 terai districts.

### Bi-lateral (USAID funds)

- Stimulus Advertisers implemented the communication and media strategy on AIDS awareness campaign "Condom Lagau-AIDS Bhagau (Wear condom to drive away AIDS)."
- Nepal Chemists & Druggists Association trained 1,939 Chemists and health care providers on drug dispensing and condom promotion practices.
- Nepal Medical Association developed a training curriculum and trained 163 practitioners on STI case management.
- Family Planning Association of Nepal provided integrated and quality STI services to 16,537 STI patients.
- Nepal CRS Company implemented the condom promotion and distribution program.
- Thompson Nepal is implementing the Second Generation HIV/AIDS Media campaign slogan "Condom Bata Suraksha-Yaun Swastha ko Raksha".



- Targeted Behavior Change Intervention (BCI) for reduction of risk behaviors among the high-risk population group implemented by the following implementing agencies: General Welfare Pratisthan; Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) Hospital; Trinetra Community Development Foundation; Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH).

Research conducted: (1994-2001)

By New ERA;

- A Baseline Study of Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) and Clients on the Land Transportation Routes from Naubise to Janakpur and Birgunj
- A Qualitative Study of Chemist Shops on the Land Transportation Routes from Naubise to Janakpur and Birgunj
- Baseline Study of STI Services Provided by Chemists in the Land Transportation Routes from Naubise to Janakpur to Birgunj
- Rapid Qualitative Assessment of AIDSCAP project Behavior Change Among CSWs and their Clients
- Quantitative Study: An Evaluation of Interventions Targeted to CSWs and clients on the Land Transportation Routes from Janakpur and Birgunj to Naubise
- Qualitative Study: An Evaluation of Interventions Targeted to CSWs and clients on the Land Transportation Routes from Janakpur and Birgunj to Naubise
- Health Care Provider study
- Behavioral Surveillance Survey (BSS) Round 1
- BSS Round 2
- STI and HIV Prevalence Survey Among Female Sex Workers (FSWs) and Truckers on Highway Routes in the Terai
- BSS Round 3 (Aug 1999- May 2001)
- BSS among FSWs and their clients in Kathmandu

By SACTS;

- FSWs Sero-prevalence study in the Kathmandu valley

## The Challenges

- Concentrated epidemic, high vulnerability
- Rapidly unfolding epidemic among certain groups
- Predictable pattern with windows of opportunity closing fast

## Future Program Priorities

- Expanded East-to-West highway initiative from current 16 districts to 22 districts and all major transportation routes North-South
- Far-Western Region of Nepal
- The Nepal Initiative
- Partner agencies

## Partners Agencies:

Bi-lateral funded partners

National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Family Planning Association of Nepal, Nepal Chemists and Druggists Association, Nepal Medical Association, Nepal Contraceptive Retail Sales Company, Lifesaving and Lifegiving Society, Crehpa, Nepal CRS Company (P) Ltd., New ERA, Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services, Howard/Delafield International, General Welfare Pratisthan, Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) Hospital, Trinetra Community Development Foundation, Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH), Stimulus Advertizers, ORG-Marg

USAID through IMPACT funded partners

Nepal Social Marketing and Distribution (P) Ltd., Thompson Nepal

ANE funded partners

National Network Against Girls Trafficking (NNAGT), Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (BPWT), STD/AIDS Counseling and Training Service (SACTS)

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