



Save the Children

BHUTAN

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SKPA - 2

The Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia Program 2 (SKPA-2) is a multi country Global Fund-funded catalytic grant implemented in Bhutan. SKPA-2 aims to promote sustainable services for key populations including sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, and people who use drugs, at scale to stop HIV transmission and AIDS-related deaths by 2030. The objectives are to, 1) accelerate financial sustainability, 2) improve strategic information availability

and use, 3) promote programmatic sustainability, and 4) remove human rights and gender-related barriers to services. The Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO) is the principal recipient, and Save the Children as a sub-recipient is leading the SKPA implementation in Bhutan. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) provide the program with technical support.

Training KPs

A training on the Comprehensive Key Population Service Package that includes peer counselling, HIV self-testing, strategies for outreach, and laboratory diagnosis information for the community members of Chithuen Phendey, Lhak-Sam, QVoB, and Pride Bhutan was conducted in August 2022. The training was jointly facilitated by the National HIV/Hepatitis & STIs Control Program.

HIV Self-Testing

The community-based HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) study among key populations is a major achievement of the SKPA program. The findings showed high acceptability and recommended its introduction and scale-up. HIVST can help enhance access and uptake of testing which can potentially contribute towards bridging the current case detection gap.

Baseline Assessment

The Baseline Assessment of the SKPA-2 Program was conducted in October 2022. The National HIV/Hepatitis & STIs Control Program, Bhutan CCM, key population organizations and the National Assembly of Bhutan were consulted. The assessment will help develop a pathway to sustainability and ensure that SKPA is harmonized with the national HIV response.

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