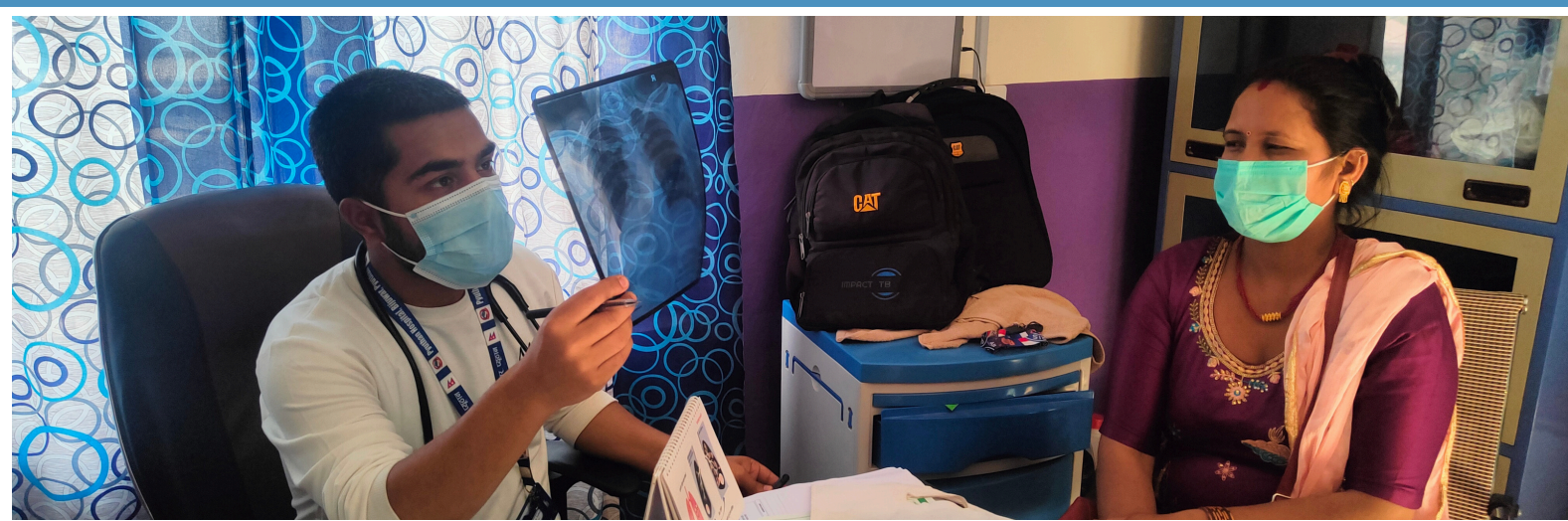




# Comprehensive Strategy for Retention in TB Infection Cascade of Care (CRITIC)



**Background**  
Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease which affects a lot of people in Nepal. Many people are infected with the bacteria but are not yet sick with the disease. If these people take preventative therapy to kill the bacteria, they have a reduced chance of becoming sick with TB in the future.  
In collaboration with the National TB Control Centre the CRITIC study will research better ways to treat TB infection in adults who have a family member with TB in Nepal. We are using a treatment called 3HP, that needs to be taken once a week for three months, and is recommended by the World Health Organisation. Treating people with 3HP will stop them getting sick in the future and stop the TB disease spreading in communities.

**CRITIC Study** is a multi-country initiative being implemented in Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This collaborative effort is being led by the Indian Council of Medical Research and The Union South-East Asia Office (USEA) and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Project Duration:**  
March 2024 – March 2027

**Partners:**  
Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), National Health Research Council (NHRC), Provincial Health Directorate (PHD), Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL), Health Offices (HOs), Palika, and TB partners.

**Project Site:**  
Rupandehi and Nawalparasi West Districts, Lumbini Province, Nepal



**Goal of the Project:**  
To develop a comprehensive, patient-centric intervention strategy to improve retention in TB infection cascade of care for high TB risk groups in Nepal.

**Objectives:**

- To assess the effectiveness of the WHO four-step person centered TB infection cascade of care in high-risk groups for improving retention in TB screening and Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy (TPT) to provide evidence for scale-up in Nepal.
- To determine the usefulness portable Chest X-ray in improving the cascade of care for TB screening and TB Preventive Therapy initiation for high-risk groups in Nepal.
- To explore the challenges and enablers for clients and providers of 3HP therapy, attending for drug collection and follow-up
- Generate patient-centered, evidence-based recommendations for administration of 3HP for future scale up program.





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## Expected Outcomes:

- Acceptability: Stakeholder and provider perceptions of the strategy.
- Perceived Usefulness (Appropriateness): The perceived utility of the strategy's components.
- Feasibility: The extent to which the strategy can be implemented as planned.
- Uptake: The proportion of identified and eligible participants who received and completed TB Preventive Therapy

## Project Modalities:

**Step 1: Identification and Screening**  
Health care personnel will identify target populations for TB preventive therapy (TPT) and screen for TB using accurate tools, such as chest X-ray (CXR). Those with positive TB screens will be promptly evaluated by skin test to detect TB infection.

1

**Step 2: Treatment of TB Infection with TB Preventive Therapy**  
Trained personnel will interpret test results and, if positive, confirm eligibility for TB Preventive Therapy. Patients will receive counseling, registration, and start preventive therapy during the same visit.

2

**Step 3: Follow-up during TB Preventive Therapy**  
Health care personnel will monitor TB Preventive Therapy, identify and report adverse events early, and support the patient through TB preventive therapy completion.

3

**Step 4: Completion of TPT**  
The final TPT outcome will be recorded and reported.

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