

Global Program Country Profile: Ethiopia

NASTAD

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) represents the United States state and territorial health department program directors responsible for coordinating, administering, and managing HIV prevention, care, and support services. NASTAD's Global Program works to build the organizational, programmatic and human resource capacity of its regional/state public sector AIDS program counterparts across the world. In Ethiopia NASTAD works in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Program (CDC/GAP) as part of the unified U.S. response to the HIV pandemic through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

HIV/AIDS IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa, and one of its most ethnically diverse, with approximately 80 nationalities with 200 different dialects making up its population of nearly 80 million. Eighty-five percent of the population is rural and agriculture accounts for 80 percent of total employment. Ethiopia is also one of the poorest nations in the world and approximately 44.2 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.¹ Health service infrastructure is limited, poorly maintained, and unevenly distributed.

A number of underlying factors contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia including poverty, illiteracy, stigma and discrimination of those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS; high rate of

unemployment; wide spread commercial sex work; gender disparity; population movement and harmful cultural and traditional practices. HIV/AIDS, in turn, contributes to the poverty of the individual, family, community and the nation at large.²

Ethiopia implements its national response to HIV through the Ministry of Health and its HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (HAPCO). At the regional level, Regional Health Bureaus / HAPCOs provide guidance, support and direction to Woreda/District Health Offices. It is at the woreda level that most HIV program activities are implemented.

ACTIVITIES

NASTAD Ethiopia provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Bureaus to strengthen their leadership, planning, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation of their jurisdictional HIV programs. In collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau, NASTAD also provides technical assistance and support to the Woreda Health Office for their HIV program implementation.

SUPPORT MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Applied Public Health Program Management Training NASTAD Ethiopia is working with FMOH, FHAPCO, regional health bureaus, regional universities and other relevant stake holders to strengthen leadership in the health system by designing a training for woreda health managers.

¹ UCSF HIV InSite website accessed October 21, 2008.

² Ethiopian Strategic Plan for Intensifying Multi-Sectoral HIV/AIDS Response (2004-2008)

Woreda Based Planning engages woredas in broad integrated health sector planning. NASTAD Ethiopia provides support to the Ministry of Health for the national woreda based planning process, and works with selected regions for aggregation and reconciliation of woreda plans into regional plans.

Community Level Information System (CLIS)

NASTAD Ethiopia works to support Federal HAPCO in the development and implementation of the CLIS to capture non health HIV related data from the community.

SUPPORT REGIONAL HEALTH BUREAUS

NASTAD Ethiopia has entered into relationships with five regional health bureaus (Addis Ababa, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromia, and SNNPR), and placed staff within these bureaus who work to enhance regional management of HIV programs, and in particular, regional management and technical support of woreda health offices.

- Provide training of trainers at the regional level, support cascade training to the woreda level, and provide ongoing supportive supervision at the woreda level for planning, monitoring and evaluation, and mainstreaming.
- Sponsor and organize regional partnership forums.
- Provide technical and fiscal support for regional planning and monitoring of selected national community mobilization interventions.
- Support implementation of regional HIV programs, through training, joint supportive supervision and joint review meetings.
- Support adaption and implementation of U.S. evidence based HIV prevention programs reaching Most at Risk Populations.

SUPPORT WOREDA HEALTH OFFICES

In collaboration with regional health bureaus NASTAD Ethiopia has established one model woreda in each region, to which a NASTAD Ethiopia project officer has been assigned. In this way, NASTAD Ethiopia is able to focus its technical assistance for social mobilization, care

and support and referral, and ensure capacity building for a comprehensive and integrated system, including the woreda based planning process described above. NASTAD pays significant attention to documenting the package of TA provided, and evaluating implementation in order that lessons learned from these model woredas may be replicated by the regions in additional woredas. For example, at the woreda level, NASTAD Ethiopia supports

- Implementation and evaluation of community level ART adherence projects.
- HIV prevention social marketing.
- Technical and fiscal support for local implementing partners to promote testing and access to care for HIV positive pregnant women.



CONTACT INFORMATION

NASTAD Global Program
Global.Program@NASTAD.org
www.NASTAD.org

June 2011