

ETHIOPIA

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. Ethiopia has a high rate of unemployment, widespread commercial sex work, gender disparity, population migration and entrenched cultural and traditional practices. At the same time, HIV/AIDS 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.

NASTAD ETHIOPIA

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.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUPPORT

Public Health Workforce Development

NASTAD Ethiopia is working with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), FHAPCO, regional health bureaus, regional universities and other relevant stake holders to strengthen leadership in the health system.

¹ UCSF HIV InSite website accessed October 21, 2008

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

NASTAD

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) represents the United States' chief 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 through strong partnerships, training, technical assistance and supportive supervision.



Woreda Based Planning

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 Information System (CLIS)

NASTAD Ethiopia works to support the Federal HAPCO in the development and implementation of the Community Information System (CIS) to capture non health HIV related data from the community.

REGIONAL HEALTH BUREAU SUPPORT

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. NASTAD Ethiopia:

- Provides training of trainers at the regional level, supports cascade training to the woreda level, and provides ongoing supportive supervision at the woreda level for planning, monitoring and evaluation, and mainstreaming.
- Provides technical and fiscal support for regional planning and monitoring of selected national community mobilization interventions.
- Supports implementation of regional HIV programs, through training, joint supportive supervision and joint review meetings.
- Supports adaption and implementation of U.S. evidence based HIV prevention programs reaching Most at Risk Populations (MARPs).

WOREDA HEALTH OFFICES SUPPORT

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 and care and support and referral, as well as ensure capacity building for a comprehensive and integrated system. NASTAD pays significant attention to documenting the package of TA provided, and evaluating implementation in order for lessons from these model woredas to inform planning 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.



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