



## Community Conversations and Community Planning (ART Adherence)

### Goal and Proposed Outcomes

Beginning in 2007, NASTAD Ethiopia engaged in supporting the implementation of Community Conversations by providing training for staff at HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Offices and Health Bureaus at the regional, zonal, and woreda levels on integrated ART adherence support in to the context of Community Conversations with follow-up technical assistance to the selected focus zones in each region.

### Strategy and Approach Used

Building from a best practice UNDP model, and drawing on the skills and experience of U.S. public health practitioners leading the HIV response, the Community Conversations model was refined to address a key need: ART adherence.

NASTAD worked with HAPCO and the MoH to integrate ART adherence education into the existing Community Conversation training curriculum, and then trained and mentored regional managers and coordinators in five regions (Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nationalities and Nations Peoples Region, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa) to test and institutionalize the program. NASTAD further mentored government staff in program management, including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Community Conversations to ensure quality programming.

### Results

- More than 1,350 sub-national government staff trained
- More than 31,000 people were reached with this intervention

### Products and Deliverables

- A small booklet was developed and printed in three local languages that explains community level supports for ART adherence support. Several thousand of this booklet were printed and distributed to CC facilitators and health extension workers to be used in the field
- CC program management curriculum developed and used to train CC program managers at all levels

### Summary of Outcomes and Impact

- Community support for PLHIV was enhanced through implementation of Community Conversations.
- Massive public awareness was created about the need and importance of HIV treatment adherence.
- Oromia Region government partners allocated budgetary resources to sustain on-going Community Conversation program management, which led to the expansion of the program's coverage area and overall strengthening of the quality of the intervention.
- Community Conversations, a community based intervention, was well matched with ART adherence support interventions; both efforts resulted in enhanced support and referral services for PLHIV and improved ART adherence rates.

This work was supported by the cooperative agreement #U2GPS001617 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the CDC.