

Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia

Wise Up HIV Prevention Program
Quarterly Narrative Report
(July-September 2013)

Reported to: DKT Ethiopia

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Introduction:

Wise Up is DKT's generic condom promotion and HIV prevention program implemented by Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia targeting female sex workers, their clients and other most at-risk populations (MARPs). The program is aimed at raising awareness on HIV transmission, prevention and scaling up services for sex workers. The program also aims at empowering sex workers with safer alternative sources of income to reduce dependency on finances raised from commercial sex work which exposes them to HIV infection.

Sex workers training, condom promotion events, drop-in centers service provision, stakeholder meetings, trainings for police officers and establishment owners, counseling and referral services are among the major activities and services launched by the program to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Project Implementation Sites: The program operates in 28 towns found in all regions of the country by establishing 32 DICs.

Tigray (Mekelle, Axum, Alamata, Adigrat and Shire), **Amhara** (D/Markos, B/Dar, Gondar and Dessie towns) **Afar** (Awash 40 town), **Oromiya** (Dukem, Adama, Assela, Shashemene, Robe, Wolliso, Jimma and Nekempte towns), **SNNPR** (Hawassa, W/Sodo, Arba Minch and Mizan towns) **B/Gumuz** (Assosa town), Gambella (Gambella town), **Dire Dawa City Administration**, **Harari** (Harar town), **Somali** (Jigjiga town), **Addis Ababa** (5 DICs).

Activities planned to be done during the reporting period (quarter):

- Training for female sex workers
- Training for other vulnerable groups
- Training for police /law enforcement officers
- Orientation for bar owners
- Life skill training for Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- Condom promotion events
- Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions
- Counseling & referral service provisions
- Provision of DIC services for sex workers
- Provision of basic literacy/numeracy program in DICs
- Scholarship program for sex workers
- Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials
- Activities related to cooperatives/SHGs

Brief description of accomplishments:

A. Training for female sex workers

In the reporting period, 2509 female sex workers recruited from different sex work settings (bars, hotels, streets and araki bets) trained on the basics of HIV, STIs, appropriate condom use and negotiation skills and other topics using the training manual in 102 trainings. All are aged above 15.

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A.Ababa	Gambella	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of SWs trained	398	300	100	620	346	73	372	75	75	75	75	2509



Training at Assosa



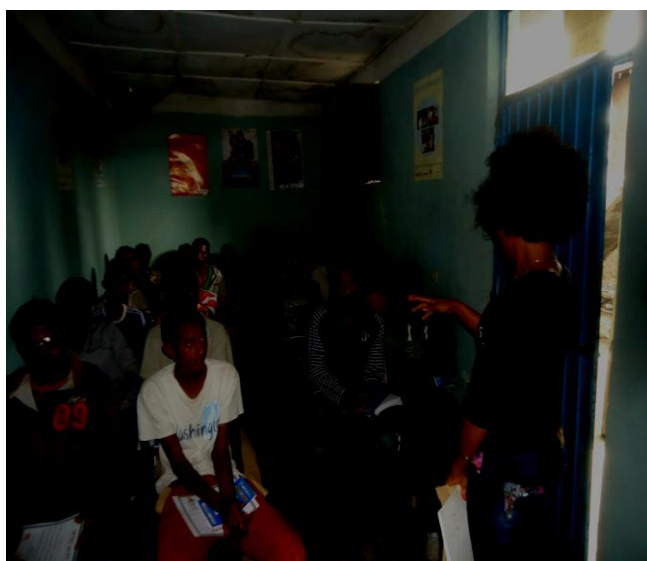
Training at Nekempte

B. Training for other vulnerable groups

Daily laborers, uniformed services, taxi and truck drivers, people with disabilities, in-school youth and people who travel for business and professional work are mostly considered as potential clients of sex workers and because of different reasons considered vulnerable to HIV. The regular or non paying clients of sex workers with whom condom use is low are also other at risk population groups. Recognizing that the key role these groups play in HIV transmission, the Wise Up program has arranged two days basic training with a focus on HIV, STI and consistent and correct condom use themes.

Thus, a total of 792 individuals (555 M & 237 F) trained in all the DICs. Daily laborers still account for the major part of the participants. The uniformed, house maids, “delala” and “woyalas” were the second largest group addressed by the training.

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A..Ababa	Gambella	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of individuals trained	125	100	25	198	95	25	124	25	25	25	25	792



Training at Alamata



Training at Assosa

559 outreach activities were done in all the 32 DICs to recruit the sex workers and to visit happenings in hotels, bars and other sex work settings important for our work.

C. Sensitization workshop for Police /Law Enforcement officers

To help police officers understand the situation and needs of the sex workers, this program has developed strategies to address the police and law enforcement agencies’ negative attitudes and practices. These strategies include educational training and seminars on issues such as harm reduction as well as establishing and maintaining contact with local police officials and justice bodies to raise awareness of the program’s work. Thus, 615 participants (456 M and 1159 F) from the police and persons from the justice office participated in the sensitization workshop conducted in all DICs. Topics of discussion in the workshop were:

- Presentation on the Wise Up program: objectives, strategy, activities, services, operation areas and achievements made so far by the Wise Up Program.
- Sessions on the basics of HIV/STIs,
- Sessions on condom: facts, myths and correct demonstration,
- Roles of police officers & justice bodies in combating harassment and violence,
- Roles and responsibilities of the law enforcement in HIV Prevention activities,
- Information on the service providers in the given areas for referral services,
- Any other issues as found necessary depending on the local context of each site.



Workshop at Alamata



Workshop at Gondar

D. Orientation workshop for establishment owners and managers

613 (367 M and 246 F) bar owners and managers oriented about the Wise Up Program. Presentation was made on the Wise Up program: objectives, strategy, activities, services, operation areas and its achievements. Roles of the bar owners/managers in condom use promotions and HIV prevention activities for sex workers were also part of the topics discussed.



Workshop at Jigjiga



Workshop at Bahir Dar

E. Life skill training for Self Help Group members

Establishing Self Help Groups (SHGs) of sex workers around primary social and economic needs such as literacy, saving schemes, etc is a key to ensure that sex workers benefit from development policies and programs. It has also a great role in addressing the stigma and discrimination which reduces sex workers' potential for economic independence and social inclusion. To this end, 10 new sex workers' self help groups were formed in this reporting period and two days Life Skill training is provided to 100 sex workers who are members of the SHGs. The training is conducted in 9 DICs: Mizan, Nekempte, D/Markos, Shire, Assela, W/Sodo, Dukem, Gondar and Robe.

To help the group members effectively and efficiently manage their business, life skill training was arranged for 10 SHGs. 100 sex workers who are member of the self help groups participated in the two days life skill training.

F. Condom promotion events

Wise Up has been consistently promoting the use of condoms since its inception. The promotion is done with both educational and entertaining events such as mass rallies, music, drama, quizzes, workshops, races, etc in partnership with local circus clubs and music bands, and other local prominent figures so that various safer sex messages and themes are passed from organizers to the general public. Messages also transferred through the distribution of different IEC/BCC materials.

59 condom promotion events were organized and 130,218 individuals (83,675 M & 46,543 F) estimated to have been reached by the events.



Event at Debre Markos



Event at Nekempte

G. Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions

The coffee ceremony sessions are aimed at addressing key messages and reinforcing the topics discussed in the two days basic training. Additionally, the ceremony is also used as a mechanism to attract sex workers to visit the DICs.

The most discussed topics in the different DICs through debates, question and answer sessions include: alcohol; drug and substance abuse; business skills; hygiene; HIV/AIDS/ STIs; family planning; HIV prevention and condom use; risky behavior reductions and life skills. Sometimes the sex workers are asked to come up with topics of their choice for discussion, give testimonies of the topics discussed.

During this reporting period, 219 coffee ceremony sessions were conducted and 5242 female sex workers participated in the sessions. The same sex worker may participate in different sessions on different topics.



Coffee Ceremony at Jijiga



Coffee Ceremony at D/Markos

H. Counseling and referral services

Referral linkage with local health service providers is functional in all DICs. Hence, 938 sex workers received counseling on HIV testing, STI treatment and other related issues at DICs. From these, 718 sex workers were referred to the nearby health facilities for different reasons of which HCT and STI treatment account for the major reasons. Among the referred sex workers, 502 were confirmed reaching the referral site (got services).

I. Provision of DIC services for sex workers

Establishment of Drop-In-Centers is a major intervention strategy in reaching the sex workers with basic HIV prevention services and related messages. The drop-in centers provide rest, basic literacy, counseling, referrals and care and treatment services, personal hygiene services (shower and laundry facilities) and as an outlet for condom and IEC material provisions. The DIC and its services helped us to develop trust with the sex workers thereby creating a good opportunity to be engaged in more intensive behavior change activities. A total of 50,426 visits were made by the sex workers to utilize the different services of the DICs. The major services and the number of visits made by sex workers to the DICs for different services are presented in the table below:

Number of visits by major service types

No.	Services Provided	# of visits
1	Rest & Entertainment	15,041
2	Laundry & Shower	15,132
3	Health Education	2190
4	Counseling	938
5	Cooking	2503
6	Condom & IEC materials provision	7237
Total Beneficiaries		43,040

Number of visits by region

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A.Ababa	Gambell ^a	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of visits	8933	3237	540	8678	4552	1049	10,342	239	3457	3205	476	50,426

J. Basic literacy/numeracy program in DICs

80 sex workers were enrolled for the basic literacy program which lasts for three months. The program is designed for those who cannot read and write at all and aimed at enabling them to read and write after the completion of the program.

K. Scholarship program for sex workers

Similarly, this is also a plan to provide opportunities for sex workers who drop their education by financial reasons but still have interest to continue their education or have an interest to attend short term vocational trainings. Thus, 12 eligible sex workers (in Mekelle) are already recruited for the purpose.

L. Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials

29,238 different IEC and 9661 promotional materials were distributed to sex workers, other vulnerable groups and individuals in the reporting period.

M. Issues related to Cooperatives/SHGs

In this reporting period, 42 cooperatives/SHGs having 434 active members (sex workers) are engaged in income generating activities. Technical support and follow up has been given to strengthen their existing activities and to invest in new IGAs. They all have made a total profit of 136,324 birr in this quarter. They also saved 106,955 birr. Their total accumulated capital reached to 899,185 birr (in cash).

N. Social Marketing

16 cooperatives are engaged in condom sale activities. As a result, 151,368 condoms sold in this quarter. Besides, 29,502 dkt branded condoms distributed freely to the sex workers.

Best practices seen in the reporting period:

- Smooth relationship and strong partnership with government and nongovernment bodies in almost all sites demonstrated by resource sharing. For example, our outreach workers are frequently approached by HAPCO, Health offices, the police and prison administrations and non-governmental organizations to share the experience of the Wise Up program and as a resource person for HIV and related trainings, workshops and similar occasions. Our DICs in turn got training opportunities, financial and material support for the cooperatives to strengthen their activities.
- Provision of free mobile HIV counseling and testing services for the sex workers at some DICs. Axum, Dire Dawa and Assela are good examples of this.

Summary of achievements against plans made in the quarter

No.	Activities	Measurement	Plan	Achievement	%	Remark
1	Training for female sex workers	# of sex workers	2550	2509	98%	
2	Training for other vulnerable groups	# of participants	799	792	99%	
3	Training for police officers	# of participants	644	615	95%	
4	Life skill training for SHGs	# of participants	100	100	100%	
	Orientation for bar owners	# of participants	640	613	96%	
6	Condom promotion events	# of events	64	59	92%	
7	Coffee ceremony sessions	# of sessions	192	219	114%	
9	Provision of referral service	# of sex workers	960	718	75%	
10	Provision of DIC services for sex workers	# of visits	24,000	50,426	210%	
11	Basic literacy/numeracy program	# of sex workers	100	80	80%	enrolled
12	Scholarship for sex workers	# of sex workers	10	-	-	In the recruitment process
13	Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials	# of materials distributed	25,600	38,899	152%	

Activities Planned to be done in the next quarter:

- Training for female sex workers
- Training for other vulnerable groups
- Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions
- Condom promotion events
- Referral services
- Provision of seed money to eligible SHGs
- Conduct bi-annual stakeholder meeting
- Provision of DIC services for sex workers
- Basic literacy/numeracy program in DICs
- Scholarship program for sex workers
- Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials

Major Issues that need follow up at DKT level:

- Bajaj for the remaining 11 sites.
- Lack of Condoms.
- Condom costume (condom man).