

Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia

Wise Up HIV Prevention Program
Quarterly Narrative Report
(October-December 2013)

Reported to: DKT Ethiopia

Reported by: Belayneh Mazengiaw
(Program Manager)

21 January 2013
Addis Ababa

**Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia
Wise Up HIV Prevention Program
Quarterly Narrative Report**

Reporting Period: October to December, 2013

Reported by: Belayneh Mazengiaw

Position: Program Manager

Reported to: DKT Ethiopia

Brief Summary of Project Background:

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). It is aimed at expanding HIV prevention services among sex workers and their clients. This is planned to be made happen by bringing HIV prevention services to venues associated with transactional sex so that we can reach sex workers and their clients and address the underlying factors, like limited access to condoms and other information and services that go hand-in-hand with HIV transmission.

Sex workers training, condom promotion events, drop-in centers service provision, stakeholder meetings, trainings for police officers and establishment owners, establishment of referral systems are among the major activities and services launched by the program to prevent HIV/AIDS. Recognizing that many women and girls rely on transactional sex because they have few alternatives for making a living, the program also incorporates income generating activities. The program operates in 28 towns found in all regions of the country.

Current Project Implementation Sites:

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).

A total of 32 DICs are found throughout the country.

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

- Training for female sex workers, #2690 sex workers.
- Training for other vulnerable groups, #925 individuals.
- Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions, #192 sessions.
- Condom promotion events, #32 events.
- Conduct bi-annual stakeholders meeting, #960 participants.
- Provide BDS training for the new SHGs, #100 sex workers.
- Orientation workshop for law police officers, #60 police officers.
- Orientation workshop for health facility workers, #480 health workers.
- Counseling and referral services, #960 sex workers.
- Provision of DIC services for sex workers, #24000 visits.
- Basic literacy/numeracy program in DICs, #100 sex workers.
- Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials, #25,600 materials.

Description of Accomplishments made based on the planned activities/targets:**A. Training for female sex workers**

Sex workers in many places are highly vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) due to multiple factors, including large numbers of sex partners, unsafe working conditions and barriers to the negotiation of consistent condom use. Alcohol, drug use and violence in some settings may further exacerbate their vulnerability and risk. Preventing infection among sex workers thus has the potential to both improve the health of individual sex workers as well as to slow HIV and STI transmission among wider populations.

To this end, provision of trainings for sex workers remains a top priority in the wise up program. Trainings were there in all the 32 DICs every month in this quarter. Thus, 2619 sex workers recruited from different venues were trained and certified up on the completion of the two days training. 107 trainings for sex workers were conducted in the reporting period.

The training covers the following major points:

- Appropriate Condom Use,
- Condom Negotiation skills,
- HIV/AIDS and STIs
- Standing for common vision,
- Challenges and opportunities in the lives of sex workers,
- Sharing success stories.

After the completion of the training, we expect the following changes on the sex workers:

- They will protect themselves from HIV/STIs through more consistent and correct use of condoms with their clients, partners and boyfriends.
- They will be more assertive in their interactions with clients, partners and boyfriends, especially in negotiating condoms use but also in protecting themselves from emotional and physical harm.
- They will also recognize the need for clinic visits and the timely treatment of STIs.



Training at Adigrat



Training at Axum

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. Other important MARPs are the regular or non paying clients of sex workers with whom condom use is low. Recognizing that the key role these groups play in HIV transmission, the Wise Up program include targeting of HIV prevention interventions to sex workers' clients and regular or non paying clients to promote safer sexual practices. Thus, 775 (522 M and 253 F) individuals are trained in 31 trainings of which daily laborers are those who make the major part of the group. The uniformed, house maids, "delala" and "woyalas" were also part of the groups addressed by the training.

At the end of the two days training, the trainees pledged to pass the information they gained to their colleagues.

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, 60 participants (39 M and 21 F) from the police and persons from the justice office participated in the sensitization workshop conducted in 3 DICs (Mekelle, B/Dar and Hawassa).

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.



Training at Bahir Dar



Training at Mekelle

D. Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions

As part of the HIV prevention activities, coffee ceremony sessions have been done twice a month at all DICs. It is envisioned to convey and address key messages to the ultimate target groups so that more FSWs will involve discussing their particular issues actively. It is also aimed to reinforce the basic topics covered in the two days sex workers training. In each session specific issues are raised and presented for discussion and open dialogue. The outreach workers are there to guide and facilitate the discussion sessions. Sometimes, active sex workers also facilitate and lead the sessions.

More importantly, the coffee ceremony helps to promote the DICs and the services so that they feel it as their home and build confidence to come into DICs freely. Therefore, 5243 sex workers are reported to have participated in 214 coffee ceremony sessions. A single sex worker may be counted twice or more times as they may participate in two or more sessions with different topics of discussion. Among the topics discussed through group discussions, debates, question and answer sessions include: alcohol, drug and substance abuse; business skills; hygiene; HIV/AIDS/ STIs; family planning; HIV prevention and condom use; positive living; risky behaviors and life skills among others. Sometimes the sex

workers themselves come up with topics of their choice for discussion, give testimonies of the topics discussed.



Coffee ceremony at Axum DIC

Coffee ceremony at Adama DIC

E. Provide Business Development Skill (BDS) training for Self Help Group members

To help the group members effectively and efficiently manage their business, Business Development Skill training was arranged for 10 SHGs. 100 sex workers who are member of these self help groups participated in the two days training. The training is conducted in 9 DICs: Mizan, Nekempte, D/Markos, Shire, Assela, W/Sodo, Dukem, Gondar and Robe. Startup capital is provided to 4 SHGs found eligible to run their business independently. Capacity assessment of the SHGs and rapid market assessment was done with the involvement of experts from small and micro enterprise before the provision of the seed money.

F. Condom promotion events

The promotion of consistent and correct condom use has been a longstanding strategy in the response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The generic “Use a condom every time” message has been featured in many health communication campaigns promulgating consistent condom use. Likewise, Wise Up has been consistently promoting the use of condoms since its inception. And hence, to reach the larger community with messages on correct and consistent use of condoms, safer sex and other key issues related to HIV and STIs, the program incorporated condom promotion events to be organized once in every two months.

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, music bands, event organizers and other prominent figures so that various safer sex messages and themes are to be passed from organizers to the general public. Messages are also transferred through the distribution of different IEC/BCC materials.

31 condom promotion events are organized in all Wise Up Program operational areas and 46,509 individuals are estimated reached with safer sex messages by the events. In most cases, the events used to be conducted along with international and national holidays and events where many individuals are expected to attend. “I am a serious woman, I don’t play with my health, no condom, no love, Bring a condom along, use a condom every time you have sex”, and “Get it, carry it and use it” are the message themes mostly displayed on the banners to encourage preparations to practice condom use.

G. Conduct bi-annual stakeholders meeting

A total of 736 participants (503 M & 233 F) participated in the meetings in all the DICs. Among the participants were local leaders, hotel/bar owners, representatives from different government offices, health facilities and NGOs. The meeting was aimed at: orienting the stakeholders about the Wise Up program, its achievements and activities, soliciting buy-in and support for the smooth implementation of the program and to advocate for non-violent and non-discriminatory treatment of sex workers. The meeting was also a good opportunity to promote consistent and correct condom use.

H. Orientation workshop for health facility workers

The orientation session was aimed at creating awareness on the health workers about the Wise Up program and provision of friendly services for sex workers through referral networks. The participants were drawn from government, private and NGO health facilities where networking and partnership is established. This was the second workshop conducted with a focus on referral services: challenges for low referrals, friendliness of the services and discussions on how to increase the number of sex workers seeking the service. Service cost has been the major reason mentioned for low number of referrals. Thus, a total of 409

(180 M and 229 F) health facility workers participated in the workshop aimed at strengthening the referral system.

I. Provision of counseling and referral services

The referral system is just established with local health service providers. Referral slip to track the service is already in place. 1129 sex workers have got counseling service. Of these counseled sex workers 828 are referred to nearby health facilities for different reasons of which HIV Counseling and Testing and STI treatment account the major reason. Of the referred, 719 were confirmed reaching the referral site.

J. Provision of DIC services for sex workers

Establishment of Drop-In-Centers is a major intervention strategy in reaching the sex workers with HIV prevention and related messages. Besides this, the drop-in centers provide rest, basic literacy, houses outreach workers, act as a hub for network and referrals to STIs, and care and treatments services, personal hygiene services (shower and cloth washing facilities) and as an outlet for condom and IEC material provision. As a result trust will be developed with the sex workers over a period of time thereby creating a good opportunity to be engaged in more intensive behavior change activities. The major services provided by our DICs and the number of sex workers benefitted are presented in the table below:

No.	Services Provided	# of visits
1	Rest & Entertainment	16,480
2	Laundry & Shower	18,952
3	Health Education	2485
4	Counseling	1129
5	Cooking	4897
6	Condom & IEC materials provision	28,256
Total visits		72,201

K. Introduce basic literacy/numeracy program in DICs

This is a pilot program planned to be introduced in selected DICs. The program is designed for those who cannot read and write at all and aimed at enabling them to read and write after attending a 3 months literacy program. To this end, 100 sex workers were enrolled and have been attending the program since October, 2013. Preparation to graduate them is finalized. The graduation is scheduled to happen on the 4th week of January with the presence of key stakeholders and other invited individuals. 134 sex workers reported as completing the program and waiting for the final graduation ceremony.

L. Introduce scholarship program for sex workers

Similarly, this is a plan to provide opportunities for sex workers who drop their education by financial reasons but still have interest to continue their education. The scholarships include continuing formal education, short term vocational trainings, art and other related depending on their interest. Thus, 32 sex workers are sponsored for scholarship opportunity in different fields of study based on their interest. Bajaj driving license, catering, hair dressing are their common areas of interest. The duration of the course ranges from 3 to 6 months. Currently, all are attending the vocational trainings.

M. Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials

A vital activity in the previous years of the Wise Up program was the distribution of information, education and communication materials on HIV and sexually transmitted infection prevention, as well as on other health and social issues. Information is critical to help people understand how HIV is transmitted and how it can be prevented. These IEC and promotional materials are distributed through outreach activities, during trainings and events and in drop in-centers. Therefore, 37,449 different IEC and 11,876 promotional materials are distributed to sex workers and other target groups in the reporting period.

N. Issues related to Cooperatives

In this reporting period, both existing and newly established SHGs reached 59 (10 newly established in the reporting period) having 485 members. Of these, 37 are legally registered and engaged in income generating activities. The remaining 22 are SHGs not legally registered and not engaged in income generating activities yet. But, they start saving and technical support is being offered to strengthen them. Depending on the availability of budget, they will be provided with financial support to help them start business of their

choice. They all made a profit of 93,206 birr. They also saved 146,499 birr. They have accumulated a total capital of 1,088,007 birr (in cash).

O. Safer Life 2013 Campaign

A month long celebration of the World AIDS Day by calling it “safer life campaign” used to be conducted in the entire Wise Up program operational sites (including A.A) is one of the best practices that Wise Up program registered in the last five consecutive years. The campaign is conducted for the 6th time in the month of December. Most of the activities of the campaign were geared towards reaching sex workers and their potential clients. The activities were many and diverse depending on the context and peculiar feature of each operational area. Candle night, condom demo, WAD Inaugurations, DIC talent search, Road shows, sport competitions, panel discussions, cartoon and photograph exhibitions and dart competitions were among the major activities commonly done by most DICs.

During the month long campaign, correct and consistent use of condom, provision of

opportunities for mobile HIV Counseling and Testing, provision of information on HIV and AIDS, condom demonstrations, risk reduction conversations and messages about safer sexual practices were presented. The events were accompanied by drama, music and other entertaining elements through which the target groups can learn a lot from. Around 315,525 (202,146 M and 113,361 F) individuals reached directly by the campaign. 1.5 million individuals estimated reached indirectly through both print and electronic media.

Utmost effort was exerted to get the campaign covered in different medias both electronic and print so as to provide further boost to the campaign and reach out more people. *F.M 96.3, F.M 97.1, Sheger 102.1, Afro F.M 105.3, F.M 98.1, Capital, Addis Zemen and Ethiopian Herald newspapers were among these.* Different regional F.M radio, TV and other



media outlets have also given a wide coverage for the safer life campaign. Pictures showing the different activities done in the safer life campaign is found in our websites: tlhethiopia.org & wiseupprogram.org.

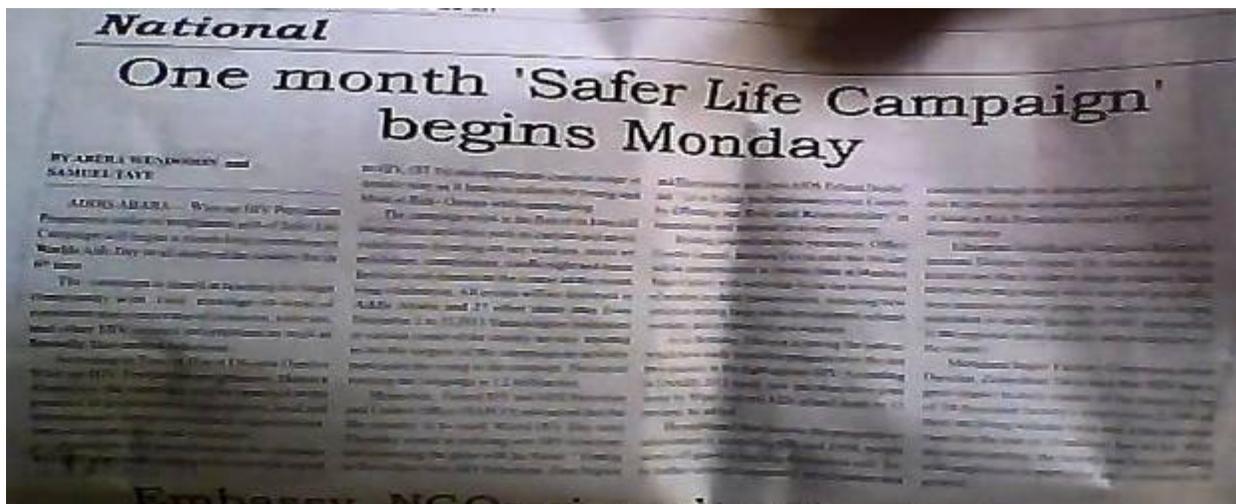
The following are examples of the wide media coverage of Safer Life Campaign 2013.

Media Coverage: Print
Addis Zemen Newspaper



Headline: Commemorating World AIDS Day the whole month will vast its reachable
Publication - Addis Zemen
Type - Daily Newspaper
Language - Amharic
Circulation - 16,000 copies per issue

The Ethiopian Herald



Headline: One month 'Safer Life Campaign begins Monday'

Publication - The Ethiopia Herald

Type - Daily Newspaper

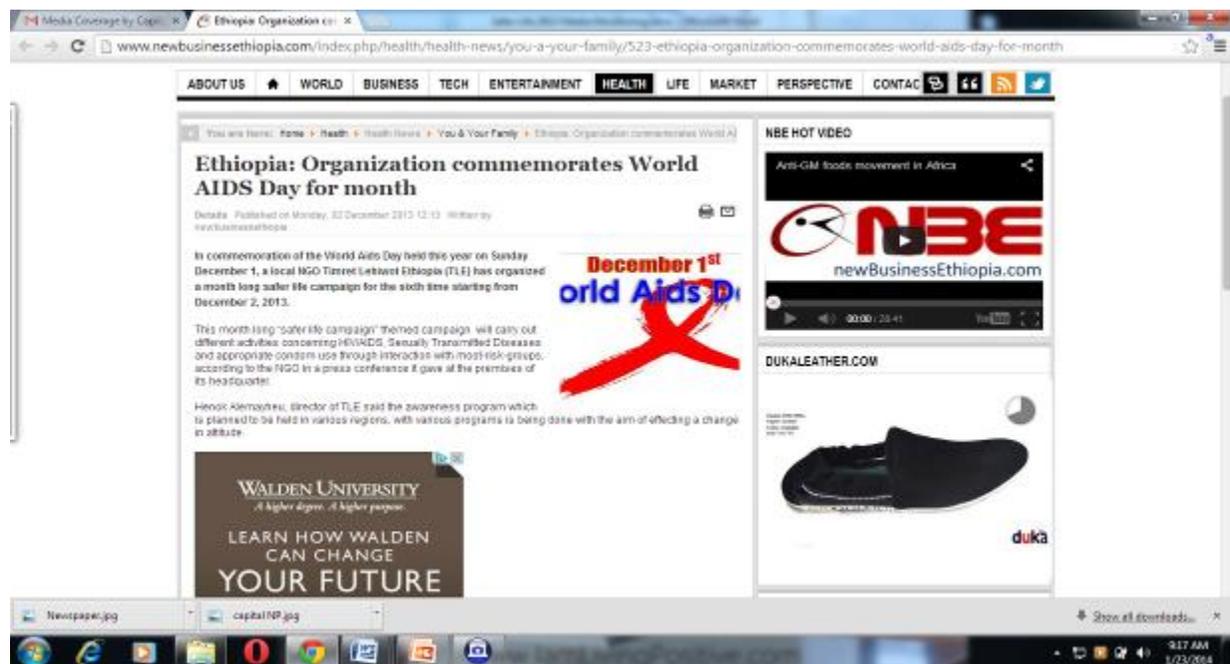
Language - English

Circulation - 9,000 copies per issue

Media Coverage: Online

*New Business Ethiopia Website

<http://www.newbusinessethiopia.com/index.php/health/health-news/you-a-your-family/523-ethiopia-organization-commemorates-world-aids-day-for-month>





Headline: Intimate Lives of Sex Workers

Publication - Capital

Type - Business Weekly

Language – English

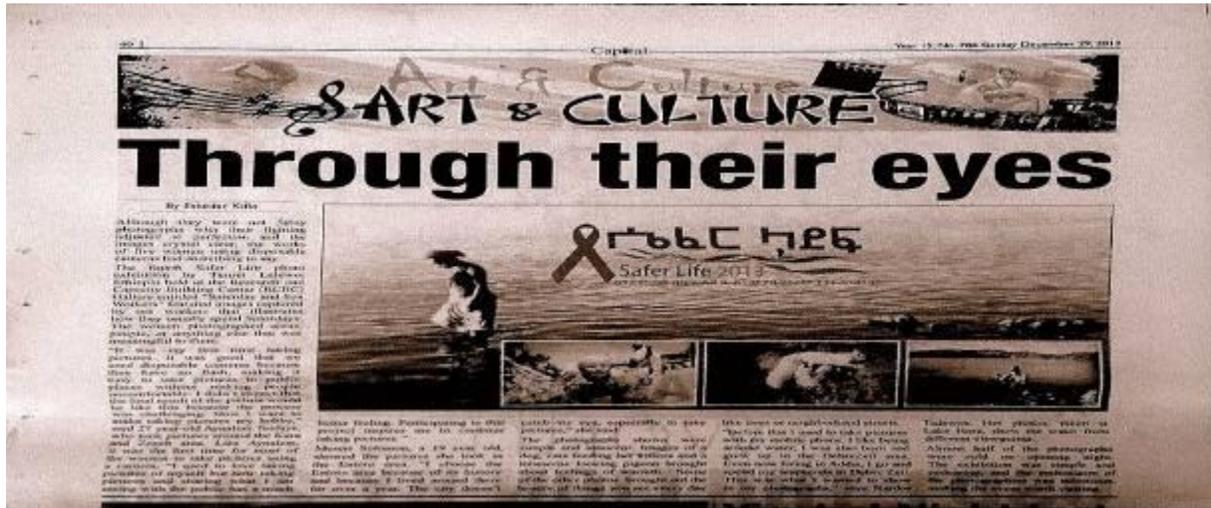
Circulation - 5500 copies per issue

Media Coverage: Online

Capital Newspaper website

http://www.capitalethiopia.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=38363Aintimate-lives-of-sex-workers-&catid=443Arts-and-culture&Itemid=50#_UrBpkWada7g.facebook





Headline: Through their eyes
Publication - Capital
Type - Business Weekly
Language - English
Circulation - 5500 copies per issue

Beside this media coverage number of Posters, Facebook Event Pages, Website Updates have been done.

Safer Life Activities and Target Groups Reached

Cluster	S/N	Events Conducted	Activities Performed	Target Group	# of Individuals Reached		
					M	F	T
Central	1	WAD Celebration with the Uniformed (Palace)	Condom demo, candle night, convey key messages on HIV and condom use	The Uniformed	2400	1509	3909
	2	Safer Road Safer Sex	Drama, music performance, condom demo and remarks on correct and consistent use of condom	General Population	6790	5400	11290
	3	Dart Competition	Dart contest, music performances and event remarks	The youth	450	158	608
	4	Photo and Cartoon Exhibition	Exhibiting photos and cartoons done on sex workers	General Population	2893	1457	4350
	5	Condom Night at Cherkos	Music performances, condom demo, condom delivery, candle night and transferring key messages	Sex workers and their clients	600	700	1300
	6	Safer Sex Safer Environment	Panel Discussion	General Population	3412	1800	5212

	7	Safer Life with the disabled	Event remarks, Music performances, IEC & promotional materials distribution, dissemination of sign language learning manual	The disabled	400	150	550
	Sub Total				16945	10274	27219
Northern	1	WAD Celebration and VCT	Condom demo, convey key messages on HIV, counseling & Testing	The uniformed	3000	2375	5378
	2	Condom promotion, road shows, music festival, candle night, Azmari night and Bicycle race	Address WAD themes, Q and A, condom demo, remarks on HIV&STI	General Population	30445	21021	51466
	3	DIC talent search and quiz night	music performances and event remarks, condom demo, convey HIV and STI messages	Sex workers	35	188	223
	4	Celebrate the nations and nationalities day	IEC & promotional materials distribution and condom promotion	General Population	30000	25000	55000
	5	Art contest, panel discussion and Taekwondo competition	Poem, literature competition and WAD messages	Youth	410	300	710
	6	music present and promotion	HIV, STI and condom	Prisoners	3056	456	3512
	7	University panel discussion	WAD message, Discussion on HIV & vulnerability to HIV	Students	340	127	467
	Sub Total				67286	49470	116756

South West	1	WAD Celebration, panel discussion and awareness creation	Condom demo, discussion on HIV, remarks on WAD & training for the uniformed	The uniformed	1560	790	2350
	2	Condom promotion, market festival, road shows, music festival, candle night	WAD remarks, Q & A, condom demo, IEC & promotional material distribution	General Population	22871	10261	33132
	3	DIC talent search and quiz night	music performances and event remarks, condom demo, convey HIV and STI messages	Sex workers		171	171
	4	Panel discussion	condom demo and remarks on correct and consistent use of condom along with the tree planting	Youth	6498	4505	11003
	5	Event in prison	music performance and condom demo and remarks on HIV/STIs	Prisoners	8840	60	8900
	6	Event in the prison	Condom promotion, discussion on HIV/STIs	inmates	3256	2556	5812
	Sub Total					43025	18343
Eastern	1	WAD Celebration, condom night, panel discussion and awareness creation activities	Condom demo, WAD messages and training on HIV/STIs	The uniformed	10448	3450	13898

2	Condom promotion, VCT, market festival, road shows, music festival, candle night, Marsh band, sport competition, running race and event at bus station, Mr. condom competition program	WAD remarks, Q & A, condom demo, counseling and testing, setting info booth, IEC & promotional material distribution	General Population	55340	22741	78081
3	DIC talent search and Panel discussion	music performances and event remarks, condom demo, convey HIV and STI messages	Sex workers		173	173
4	Art contest, panel discussion and sport contest	Poem & literature competition and WAD messages, IEC & promotional material distribution, discussion on safer sex	Youth	2050	910	2960
5	Event at prison	condom demo and remarks on correct and consistent use of condom, Q & A and IEC & promotional materials distribution	Prisoners	2400		2400
6	Panel discussion	Condom promotion, discussion on HIV/STIs and WAD remarks	Students	4670	8000	12670
Sub Total				74908	35274	110182
Total Population Reached				202,164	113,361	315,525

Summary of achievements against plans

No	Activities	Measurement	Plan	Achievement	%	Remark
1	Training for female sex workers	# of sex workers	2690	2619	97	
2	Training for other vulnerable groups	# of participants	925	775	84	
3	Training for police officers	# of participants	60	60	100	
4	Conduct Safer Life Campaign	# of campaigns	28	27	96	
5	BDS training for SHGs	# of participants	100	100	100	
6	Conduct Orientation workshop for health facility workers	# of participants	480	409	85	
7	Hold bi-annual stakeholders meeting	# of participants	960	736	77	
8	Condom promotion events	# of events	32	31	97	
9	Coffee ceremony sessions	# of sessions	192	214	111	
10	Provision of referral service	# of sex workers	960	829	86	719 confirmed reached
11	Provision of DIC services for sex workers	# of visits	24,000	68749	268	
12	Basic literacy/numeracy program	# of sex workers	100	134	134	enrolled
13	Scholarship for sex workers	# of sex workers	10	32	320	
14	Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials	# of materials distributed	25,600	24806	97	

Best practices during the reporting period:

- Efficient & effective implementation of the safer life activities all operational areas with special emphasis of reaching on sex workers and other vulnerable groups.
- Coffee ceremony being best used to reinforce the sex workers training and convey key messages. It is also found vital to promote the DICs and their services as a result the number of sex workers visiting the DICs increased significantly.
- Establishment of an ever increasing harmonious relationship and networking with HAPCOs and other regional bureaus.
- Wide media coverage of the safer life activities and other good deeds of the Wise Up program.
- Consultation with the health facility workers improved the referral service.

Challenges/problems encountered and actions taken:

- Lack of promotional materials.
- Shortage of different IEC materials to be distributed during trainings and events.
- Shortage of condom costume (Mr. Condom) in the newly added sites.
- Time constraint to fully deliver the safer life activities in Addis Ababa.
- Escalation of DIC rent rates.
- Resource limitations to diversify DIC services.
- High maintenance cost of bajajs and DICs.

Actions/Measures taken:

- Use of IEC materials from HAPCO and other local partners.
- Bringing the issues beyond our control to the attention of DKT.

Major Issues that need attention at DKT level:

- Provision of different IEC materials.
- Provision of promotional materials.
- Allocation of additional budget or shifting of the left over budget from the previous year to DIC service strengthening and other DIC operational costs.
- Purchase of Bajaj for the 11 new sites.

Activities Planned to be done in the next quarter:

- Training for female sex workers, #2950 sex workers.
- Training for other vulnerable groups, #810 individuals.
- Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions, #192 sessions.
- Condom promotion events, #64 events
- Provide Counseling and Referral services, #960 sex workers.
- Trainings for police/law enforcement officers, #642 police officers.
- Provision of DIC services for sex workers, #24,000 visits.
- Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials, #25,600 materials.