

Wise Up

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Quarterly Narrative Report  
(April-June 2014)

**July 2014**

**Addis Ababa**

**Brief Description of the Project:**

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 in the reporting period (quarter):**

- Training for female sex workers, # 2850 sex workers.
- Training for other vulnerable groups, # 791 individuals.
- Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions, # 192 sessions.
- Condom promotion events, # 32 events
- Outreach Activities, # 384 rounds
- Provide Counseling and Referral services, # 960 sex workers.
- Provision of DIC services for sex workers, # 24,000 visits.
- 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 conducted in all the 32 DICs in this quarter. Thus, 22243 sex workers recruited from different venues were trained and certified up on completion of the two days training. 126 sex workers trainings were conducted in the reporting period.

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A.Ababa	Gambella	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of SWs trained	325	275	100	572	350	45	272	75	50	27	75	2243

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.

The following behavioral changes are expected on the sex workers after the training.

- 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 Adama DIC



Training at Adigrat DIC

## B. Training for other vulnerable groups

Because of different reasons 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 vulnerable to HIV. The regular or non-paying clients of sex workers with whom condom use is reportedly low are also other important at risk populations to HIV. Recognizing that the key role these groups play in HIV transmission, Wise Up Program include targeting of HIV prevention interventions to these population groups to promote safer sexual practices. Thus, 846 (584 M and 262 F) individuals trained in 28 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.

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A.Ababa	Gambella	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of individuals trained	125	134	25	145	150	25	125	25	25	25	25	846



Training at Mekelle



Training at Adigrat

### **C. 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 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, 3761 sex workers are reported to have participated in 155 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. Alcohol, drug and substance abuse; business skills; personal hygiene and sanitation; myths and facts about HIV/AIDS and STIs; family planning; condom use and harm reduction; positive living; risky behaviors and life skills were the major topics of discussion. Sometimes the sex workers themselves come up with topics of their choice for discussion, give testimonies and personal experiences on the specific topics discussed.



Coffee ceremony at Debre Markos DIC



Coffee ceremony at Adama DIC

#### **D. 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 condom every time correctly” 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.

34 condom promotion events organized in all Wise Up Program operational areas and 54,626 (35,291 M and 18,335 F) individuals estimated reached with safer sex messages. In most cases, the events used to be conducted along with international and national holidays and where many individuals are expected to gather. Each DIC has got its own site specific message themes mostly displayed on the banners to encourage preparations to practice condom use and safer sex.



Condom Promotion Event at Adama



Condom Promotion Event at Debre Markos

### E. Provision of counseling and referral services

The referral system is just established with local health service providers. Referral slip and boxes to track the service is already in place in these health facilities. 1749 sex workers have got counseling service. Of these counseled sex workers 743 were referred to nearby health facilities for different reasons of which HIV Counseling and Testing and STI treatment account the major reason. Of the referred, 546 were confirmed reaching the referral site.

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A.Ababa	Gambella	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of SWs referred	140	111	8	163	94	26	136		42	20	3	743

### F. 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 visits that the sex workers made in taking the services are presented in the table below: 71,894 visits made by the sex workers for different services. This figure includes condom provision.

No.	Services Provided	# of visits
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1	Rest & Entertainment	20,668
2	Laundry & Shower	20,522
3	Health Education	2404
4	Counseling	1749
5	Cooking	7848
6	Condom Distribution (free + sales)	5458
7	IEC & promotional materials provision	13225
<b>Total visits</b>		71894

Region	Tigray	Amhara	Afar	Oromiya	SNNPR	B/Gumuz	A.Ababa	Gambella	D.Dawa	Harari	Somali	Total
# of visits made	10060	1645	6000	27983	1034 2	1085	17500	362	8684	3,9 17	333	71894

#### G. 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 were distributed through outreach activities, during trainings and events and in drop in-centers. Therefore, 13,225 different IEC and promotional materials distributed to the sex workers and other target groups in the reporting period.

#### H. Issues related to Cooperatives

In this reporting period, both existing and newly established SHGs reached 46 having 352 members. Of these, 41 are legally registered and engaged in income generating activities which includes 19 cooperatives engaging in social marketing (condom sale) as additional source of income. The amount of profit that the cooperatives made in the reporting period is 79,766 birr. They also saved 71,728 birr. They have accumulated a total capital of 880,727 (in cash).

#### Summary of achievements against plans

No.	Activities	Measurement	Plan	Achievement	%	Remark
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1	<i>Training for female sex workers</i>	<i># of sex workers</i>	2950	2243		
2	<i>Training for other vulnerable groups</i>	<i># of participants</i>	810	846		
3	<i>Training for police officers</i>	<i># of participants</i>	642	0	0	
4	<i>Condom promotion events</i>	<i># of events</i>	64	34		
5	<i>Outreach activities</i>	<i># of rounds</i>	384	590		
6	<i>Coffee ceremony sessions</i>	<i># of sessions</i>	192	155		
7	<i>Provision of referral service</i>	<i># of sex workers</i>	960	3038		
8	<i>Provision of DIC services for sex workers</i>	<i># of visits</i>	24000	58,669		
9	<i>Distribution of different IEC &amp; promotional materials</i>	<i># of materials distributed</i>	25600	23,648		

**Challenges/problems encountered and actions taken:**

- Delay and limited budget release for the month of June from the donor side.
- Lack of promotional materials.
- Shortage of different IEC materials to be distributed during trainings and events.
- Resource limitations to diversify DIC services.

**Major Issues that need attention at DKT level:**

- Production of promotional materials.
- Timely budget release.

**Activities Planned to be done in the next quarter (01 July 2014 – 30 September 2014):**

- Training for female sex workers, # 3175 sex workers.
- Training for other vulnerable groups, # 800 individuals.
- Bi-monthly coffee ceremony sessions, # 192 sessions.
- Condom promotion events, # 64 events
- Provide Counseling and Referral services, # 960 sex workers.
- Provision of DIC services for sex workers, # 24,000 visits.
- Distribution of different IEC & promotional materials, # 12,800 materials.

