



Project evaluation:
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Promotion of
Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health

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This report is part of a series workshop reports, focusing on prevention of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia.

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Project implementation: Hiwot Ethiopia
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Acronyms

<i>AIDS</i>	Acquired Immune deficiency syndrome
<i>CBOS</i>	Community Based Organisations
<i>ACRWC</i>	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<i>CRC</i>	United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child
<i>CSWs</i>	Commercial Sex Workers
<i>FGD</i>	Focus Group Discussion
<i>HIV</i>	Human Immune Virus
<i>IEC</i>	Information Education Communication
<i>MOH</i>	Ministry of Health
<i>NGO</i>	Non – Governmental organisation
<i>Go</i>	Governmental organisation
<i>OSSA</i>	Organisation of Social Service for AIDS
<i>STIs</i>	Sexually Transmitted Infections (might include HIV/AIDS)
<i>VCT</i>	Voluntary Counseling and Testing

I.0 Executive Summary

Introduction

In Ethiopia Save the Children Sweden (SCS) works to promote children's rights through advocacy, direct support, capacity building, research and awareness rising. In line with this, it has been supporting six local partner organisations whose implementation area is in Addis Ababa. Hiwot Ethiopia is one of the local partners of SCS working on HIV prevention and promotion of adolescent sexual reproductive health with the major objective of inducing behavioral change among in and out of school youth. This document is the result of the evaluation report focusing on major achievements and suggestion on points to be improved in the future.

Methodology

Both primary and secondary data (literature review) collection has been performed under this evaluation. During the primary data collection process quantitative and qualitative methods have been employed by the consultant. The quantitative data collection technique targeted youth beneficiaries, community leaders and Hiwot Ethiopia staff members for interview using structured and open ended questionnaire.

A sample of 200 in and out of school youth was interviewed to assess level of their knowledge, attitude, and condom use. Four FGDs performed as part of the qualitative approach with stakeholders, and the youth beneficiaries. Then data was entered in a computer and analysis was performed using SPSS.

Findings

- Hiwot project activities have significantly contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS by increasing the awareness of youth club members on HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health matters.
- A number of safe behavioral practices as witnessed by the targets of the evaluation include: use of condoms during sexual inter-course, enhancement of youth participation in club led activities, and improvement of youth commitment to get involved in project activities.
- Though there is a sign of improvement in condom use, only 54 per cent of the youth believe that condom can protect them fully from HIV/AIDS. Misconceptions about condom use still exist among the youth in the project areas. A significant proportion, almost half (46 per cent) of them do not believe that condom can protect them from HIV/AIDS.
- The community leader's commitment has increased and they are creating conducive environment for the youth by providing meeting hall, offices and other facilities with no charge.
- There is an improvement in holding open discussion among family members. The women association members as one targets of the project have contributed a lot in this direction. So the tradition of being afraid or shy to openly talk about sex and HIV related matters is reducing from time to time.
- HIV/AIDS information and education program has reached to 99 per cent of the respondents and over 90 per cent of them had two or more sources of similar information.
- Over 85 per cent of the respondents know two or more modes of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention.
- According to 80 per cent of the respondents programs initiated by the project are the main sources information and knowledge on HIV/AIDS.

- One third of the respondents had sex at least once and the majority of them started sex before they celebrate their 20th birth day.
- Among the respondents who ever had sexual intercourse 32 per cent of them had sex with non-regular partners.
- Among the respondents who commit sex with non-regular partners about 28.6 per cent of them do not use condom, this is a significant number for level of unprotected sex among youth in the project.
- Most of the programs designed by Hiwot Ethiopia were participatory. All stakeholders especially at the grassroots level participate at the planning, implementation and monitoring and follow up level.
- Some of the problems mentions by the group include inadequate financial capacity of the project, failure to utilise the potential of youth clubs optimally, inadequate focus on linking the information-education session with blood testing or treatment facilities.
- According to the FGD participants there is a sign of improvement in reducing stigma and discrimination but still a lot remains to be done for change.
- Knowledge, attitudes and practices are improving in the project area. The desire to obtain further information is enhanced. On top of this the majority of the youth (i.e. 90.5 per cent) claimed that they have behavioral change. 66 per cent of the youth who attested as having behavioral change mentioned abstinence, whereas avoiding sharing of sharp materials and faithfulness constitute 45.7 per cent and 35.5 per cent respectively.
- The participants of the FGD expressed their concern that the HIV/AIDS-RH manual they have been trained on is sort of obsolete and needs revision and updating.
- The CSWs and house wives, as direct targets of the project, have confirmed as they have benefited from the project in obtaining appropriate information and knowledge on condom use and other life skills.

Recommendations

The efforts and results of Hiwot Ethiopia towards preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS are encouraging. Therefore, it is advisable to support its project activities both financially and technically. This will consolidate the efforts of the organisation to contribute more to reduction in the incidence rate of HIV/AIDS. For instance, Hiwot plays an important role in increasing the awareness of the people on HIV/AIDS-RH by using Information-Education Communication materials such as newsletters, fliers, booklets and newspapers. The evaluation team has observed that the newsletter of Hiwot is popular and in great demand among youth readers but shortage of copies is an impediment from reaching more young people who seem enthusiastic to read the messages in the paper. This shortage is the result of the organisation's financial problem. Hence, this can be an area for Save the Children and other donors to support Hiwot Ethiopia.

Future interventions of Hiwot Ethiopia should never disregard the emphasis on reducing misconceptions surrounding condom and its reliability. Appropriate behavior change communication messages promoting benefits of condom use and skills of proper use should be developed and communicated to the target youth groups and other community members in the project area.

The contribution of the project in reducing stigma and discrimination is significant. Therefore, the effort in this direction should be further consolidated by facilitating different discussion forums and most importantly by linking HIV/AIDS with different human right instruments such as UN CRC, ACRWC, etc

HIV/AIDS-RH training manuals need continuous updating and inclusion of recent facts and figures. The project should promptly upgrade the current training and teaching materials. This also applies to all Information, Education and Communication materials being produced by the project.

Experience sharing between different clubs and designing innovative ways of motivating peer educators should occupy the attention of the project for the coming phases so as to facilitate exchange of good practices among different clubs and keep peer educators motivated and maintain high level of enthusiasm of participation.

Hiwot Ethiopia should further develop its communication strategies with a view to bring about behavioral change in terms of focusing on specific target audience and development of well-formulated messages. The target groups of the project should be limited to well define specific youth groups instead of targeting diverse types of targets.

There should be an ongoing assessment of its BCC strategy to ensure that it is designed to appeal to specific target audience, youth (in school or out of school youth). The messages the project wants to convey should be updated and redesigned to make sure they address youth needed knowledge and skills. This could be done through conducting assessment and analysis to identify knowledge gaps, beliefs, needs and concerns of the audience youth.

Hiwot should consider the possibility of setting up a mechanism to closely follow-up change in behavior among its target youth with a view to reinforce and maintain new behavior for long duration of time. Innovative ways could be designed to motivate young people to bring about positive attitudes and behavior. For instance meetings and campaigns can be organised at *kebele* level or a certain prize can be awarded to some in recognition of their change or through other ways.

Hiwot should strengthen its link and referral network with partners that provide RH counseling, VCT, STI treatment, care and support services, etc. It should create a strong collaboration and working relationship in order that youth demanding those services could easily be sent to.

2.0 Introduction

In Ethiopia Save the Children Sweden (SCS) works to promote children's rights through advocacy, direct support, capacity building, research and awareness raising. In line with this, it has been supporting six local partner organisations whose implementation area is in Addis Ababa.

Hiwot Ethiopia is one of the local partners of SCS working on HIV prevention and promotion of adolescent sexual reproductive health with the major objective of inducing behaviour change among in and out of school youth. This document is the result of the evaluation report focusing on major achievements and suggestion on points to be improved in the future.

Hiwot Ethiopia's project has been under-implementation in woreda 2 of Addis Ababa region with a population number reaching to 89,766 of which 47,569 are adolescents.

This project, January, 2004-December, 2004, has been focusing on prevention of HIV/AIDS and stigma and discrimination through creating awareness of the target groups in the area.

The Direct target groups of the project were community leaders, 'idir', religious group, women and youth associations, school teachers and administration, law enforcement officials, local administrator and parents.

The Priority groups were young people who are at risk of HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation, drug abuse, rape, etc. The specific groups were children and youth in/out of school.

The general objective of this project was to bring about behavioral change among children in and out of school and young people by creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, STDs, sexual reproductive health and drug and to bring change of attitude and behavior in the community which contributes to the reduction in stigmatisation of people living with HIV/AIDS; to increase participation of children and the youth in advocating for their own rights.

The specific objectives of the project include:

- Providing training on HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination and discrimination and sexual reproductive health for young people in and out of school, community leaders, government officials, and by the end of the project year.
- Providing HIV/AIDS and related education and information for house wives and young women through home-to-home, coffee ceremony, peer discussion.
- Providing information and education on HIV/AIDS, STIs, sexual reproductive health and drug for children and young people in and out of school and the community group through forming drama, music, and puppet show, question and answer contests.
- To produce and distribute newspapers on HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination, child right and other related issues.
- To advocate for ASRH rights through establishing one girls' forum.
- To enhance the capacity of the organisation in terms of communication and documentation.
- To improve the participation of the young people in all phases of the project.

The objective of this evaluation is to see achievement of the project in light of its plan of actions. It will also assess the benefit of the project in information dissemination and behaviour change among its targets.

The next sections present objectives, methodology, results/findings, over all conclusion and recommendations.

3.0 Objectives

3.1. General objective

The general objective of the evaluation is to review project implementation process and outputs against the original plans and objectives set in the project document.

3.2 Specific objectives

- Identify better ways of addressing the youth, children and other target groups
- Understand children's and youths' perspectives on the accessibility and effectiveness of HIV/AIDS messages.

4.0 Methodology

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In general both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to collect information from selected subjects. Under the quantitative approach structured and semi-structured questionnaire were developed to interview the appropriate targets. In the case of qualitative techniques focus group discussions were used to collect comprehensive information from the study subjects.

After careful editing and coding, data was entered in to a computer using SPSS/DE and the analysis was performed by means of SPSS/PC software.

5.0 Findings

5.1. Findings of the quantitative study

5.1.1. Interview with staff members

a) Highlights about Hiwot Ethiopia

Hiwot Ethiopia is a non-profit making, nongovernmental and indigenous organisation. It was first established in 1995 by 14 volunteer young men and women who were said to be concerned about the rampant spread of HIV/AIDS and by the death of their relations, peers and friends.

Then, the founders decided to work actively to save themselves and others from HIV/AIDS by using awareness creation as a strategy.

The name "Hiwot" means life in Amharic and it connotes that "nothing is more worthwhile than life". The organisation which initially started as a small club has passed through different stages to reach its present level and became a youth focused organisation.

Hiwot Ethiopia is an organisation which is registered under the Ministry of Justice and has an operational agreement with the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC). It has also signed a three-year project agreement, with the foreign relations and development office of the Addis Ababa City Administration, to implement its projects in Gulele Sub city and Yeka Sub cities.

The organisation has a broad network of partners at national and international levels. Since 1999, Save the Children Sweden and German Foundation for World Population have been supporting Hiwot Ethiopia. The collaboration with Save the Children Sweden has been mainly on HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

As of January 2003, SCS has been supporting HIV prevention and promotion of ASRH project of Hiwot Ethiopia. The direct targets of the project were boys and girls, community leaders, idirs, women and youth associations, schools and parents. The priority groups were young people who are exposed to HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation, drug abuse, rape, etc. The specific groups were children and youths in/out of school. The main objectives of this project were to create awareness on HIV/AIDS, STDs, sexual reproductive health and drugs and to bring about change in attitude and behaviour among the community people, which contribute to the reduction in stigmatisation of people living with HIV/AIDS, and to increase the participation of children and youth in advocating for their rights.

b) Planned activities and achievements

The major activities planned under this project for the year 2004 include:

i) Intensive activity:

- Training for youth in and out of school -100 students
- Training for teachers -20
- CSWs - 25
- Community leaders-30

ii) Out reach activity:

- Home to home or house to house education - 5000 houses
- Coffee ceremony discussion
- Peer education

iii) Mass education

- Drama, music
- Question and answer
- I EC materials
- Production such as newspaper, leaflet, cabinet, library and webpage

iv) Youth friendly Services

- Counseling and referral services
- Condom distribution
- Hotline counseling services v) Advocacy and network
- Meeting and discussion for GO, NGOs, CBOs,

FBOs

- Panel with children and youth
- Women task force
- Girls forum

Most of the planned activities were accomplished according to plan. Hiwot Ethiopia staff members believed that the activities of the project have increased the awareness of youths and club members on HIV/AIDS and RH.

5.1.2. Information from Youth beneficiaries

I. Background Characteristics of youth respondents

The respondents constituted both girls and boys. The proportion of female respondents and male respondents was equal.

II. Youth Information on HIV/AIDS

Almost all respondents (99 per cent) have got information on HIV/AIDS. The major sources of information were radio (84.8 per cent) followed by schools (60.6 per cent), friends (36.3 per cent) and churches (29.0 per cent). About (90.9 per cent) of the respondents got information from two and above sources.

III. Knowledge on modes of transmission, prevention and condom use

The majority of the respondents knew multiple sexual partnership as mode of transmission, followed by sharing sharp items, mother to child and blood contamination. Over 85 per cent of the respondents knew two or more modes of transmission and prevention. On the other hand, only 54 per cent of the youth believed that condom can protect them from HIV/AIDS. This is a very low percentage. On the contrary, a significant proportion of the respondents, almost half of them (46 per cent) did not depend on condom use as a means of protection from HIV/AIDS. Their main reasons include:

- Condom contains the virus
- Condom use violates religious code of conduct
- Communities do not accept the use of condom

IV. Opinions on benefits of the projects

The majority of the respondents have confirmed the usefulness of the projects in their respective communities and identified the following two major benefits:

- Members of communities gained better knowledge and understanding on HIV/AIDS;
- Members of communities have brought about behavioural change in protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS.

Over half of the respondents have witnessed decrease in stigma and discrimination in the project areas. Similarly, most respondents also witnessed behavioral changes among people in the project areas.

The majority of the respondents felt that a large number of people in communities were satisfied with the contents of the educational materials produced and distributed by Hiwot.

V. Behaviour in relation to sex and condom use

Most of the study participants have had sex in their life time. Age at first sex mainly lied between 15-19 years, followed by 10-14years and 20 -24 years.

The assessment clearly has shown that most of the young people started sex early before they celebrated their 20 years birth day. A significant proportion of the youths did not use condom.

Reasons for not using condom include:

- trust my partner"
- dislike using condoms"
- do not know from where to get condom"
- do not know whether condom is necessary or not"

Among the respondents, who ever had sex 32 per cent have had sex with non-regular partners in the last six months. Almost one third of the respondents drunk alcohol and chewed *chat*.

The percentage of having no regular partner is significantly higher among those who drink alcohol and chew chat.

5.1.3 Information from commercial sex worker and housewife beneficiaries

A. Interview with Commercial Sex Workers

Five CSWs were interviewed. None of these respondents have participated in the designing and implementing project activities. But all of them have reported that they have benefited a lot from the project activities.

They said that they have gained knowledge on the modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They have also acquired knowledge on other sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive health (RH) and safer sex.

The respondents have witnessed that Hiwot Ethiopia has made significant contribution in raising their awareness on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. As a result of this, they have always been using condom during sexual intercourse. They also got condom from Hiwot Ethiopia for free. The informants have also noted that condom use is most often unaccepted by their sex clients because it is believed that condom use reduces the pleasure of sexual intercourse.

The CSWs have suggested the following protective measures for HIV/AIDS. On their part, they said that they have always tried to negotiate and persuade their clients who refused to use condom and be responsible to protect themselves and their partners from HIV/AIDS.

They also mentioned the need for the dissemination of information on safer sex and the distribution of condoms at affordable price to facilitate the use of condom by CSWS.

Creating job opportunities and expanding health facilities which provide voluntary counseling and testing services are also important steps to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

B. Interview with housewives

Twenty-five housewives were also interviewed to get information on the activities of Hiwot Ethiopia. Their age ranged from 25 -50 years. Out of the total number of the housewives, 16 of them were married.

Concerning their level of education, eight of them have never attended schooling. The remaining 17 have attended grades 7-12. Seven of these respondents are employed.

The house wives were asked if they were involved in designing and implementing project activities of Hiwot Ethiopia and 10 of them said "Yes" and 15 said "No" Those who said "Yes" were involved in the identification of project activities. They have also participated in coffee ceremony programs ('Buna Tetu').

They believed that the spread of HIV can be effectively halted through educational campaigns involving the community in general and the sexually active population in particular. They also pointed out the need to supply antiretroviral therapy to prolong the life those living with the virus.

None of the respondents suspected their husbands of having other sexual partners outside their marriage. All the respondents were well aware of condom and how to use it.

They believe that condom must consistently be used to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, only seven of them reported, their using condom to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS and to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The respondents who do not use condoms mentioned the trust they have for their spouses as the reason for not doing so.

The respondents reported that Hiwot Ethiopia projects have helped them to gain knowledge on the modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

They also managed to get rid off the misconceptions they had about condom. Respondents said the education and training offered enabled them to identify wrong stereotypes relating to HIV/AIDS.

They suggested that the project should expand so as to reach out the youth who are more vulnerable to the virus. According to the opinion of the respondents information on HIV/AIDS in itself is not enough to avert the danger. It needs to be complemented with the creation of job opportunities as well as setting up recreational facilities.

5.2. Findings of the qualitative information

5.2.1 Focus group discussion (FGD) with stakeholders

Participants of FGD were representatives from women associations, youth clubs and schools. According to them the major activities of Hiwot Ethiopia included:

- Educating family members on HIV/AIDS.
- Educating people on HIV/AIDS at coffee ceremonies intended for this purpose.
- Sensitising school communities using mini-media.
- Educating out-of- school peer groups aged 10-24.
- Focusing on and giving main support to the youth group.
- Disseminating HIV/AIDS information using print materials.

FGD participants have confirmed that most of Hiwot Ethiopia programs are designed by the participation of stakeholders. People from the grassroots level participate in planning, implementing, monitoring and in follow up activities.

According to FGD participants Hiwot Ethiopia and its activities have the following major problems.

- Financial problem.

- Medical services are given only to the youth and children they do not include mothers.
- More emphasis is given to information dissemination but service rendering is minimal.

i) Participants suggested the following

- Generating additional fund so as to be able to implement all plans and objectives.
- Designing short and long term plans.
- Looking for sponsors who can fund the question and answer program.
- Initiating programs on maternal health.

ii) On the achievements of project activities

- Participants feel that there is a sign of improvement on stigma and discrimination but still much remains to be done.
- The Knowledge, attitude and practice of people is showing improvement in the project areas.
- Target groups tendencies to solicit further information are on increase.

FGD participants witnessed that sufficient work has been done to bring behavioral change among target groups using the awareness raising program. They also stressed the importance of environmental factors: economy, gender, policy, culture and spirituality in bringing sustainable behavioral change. For example, religion is one of the barriers in trying to convince the youth to use condom. Therefore, religious leaders must be convinced to intervene in such cases.

FGD participants stressed that the high rate of unemployment and unfavorable environmental conditions must also be addressed with a view to bring about significant behavioral change among the youth and to safeguard them from HIV/AIDS.

The participants have suggested club members to assist in some technical matters to ensure skill transfer. Integrating related programs to easily meet objectives was also recommended.

They advised to strengthen those activities started for mothers. Any group discussions including the coffee ceremony should be adjusted to contain a balanced number of males and females.

Some of the additional activities suggested by the group to maintain sustainability of projects include:

- Encourage and support CBOs like "idirs", women associations, and youth associations to strengthen themselves financially and technically so that they may take over the project activities.
- Local fundraising must be strengthened to ensure sustainability
- Hiwot Ethiopia must initiate different means of income generation activities to ensure sustainability of different programs and conduct follow ups.
- A task force should be established at the community level that can take over projects that are phasing out.

5.2.2. Focus Group Discussion with trained youth

The participants were youth members who took TOT training by the project from "TISNAT", "Addis Fana" and "Tinsae" youth club members.

The training of trainers program was given for five days and included condom use, modes of transmission, prevention, stigma discrimination and other related subjects.

The participants felt that the manual in use was prepared years back and has turned out old. It needs a revision and should be updated with recent information.

They had a feeling that the style of peer education, the manual and other strategies used among the youth should be updated and modernised, improved and changed to get the attention of the youth.

The music, the drama content and other IEC materials must be made attractive to get the attention of the mass youth in their project area. Hence the participants have suggested that every approach in the area must get attention for revision.

The FGD participants confirmed as they participated when this project was prepared. In the future they have suggested that donor agencies must consult the youth when they prepare project proposals at different communities.

The opinion of the youth at the initial stage will have a significant contribution to have practical intervention strategies and plan of action.

The participants have a feeling that the majority of the youth must be initiated to be club members to bring real behavioral change in different aspects such as music, sport, literature, drama and others.

The informants have also stated that it was administrators of the area *kebeles* and supervisors that were directly participating in the design and implementation of project activities.

But the respondents stressed the involvement of the youth in the design and implementation of project activities as being critical. They stated with out the contribution of the youth nothing could be achieved. In their views, it was usually the younger generation more exposed to HIV/AIDS pandemic. Hence projects should be designed in such a way so as to reflect the needs of the same.

The following were also mentioned to be some of the specific reasons that cause the youth to get exposed to HIV/AIDS infection.

- Alcohol abuse may be an important underlying factor for irresponsible and dangerous sexual behavior. The risk of HIV transmission is high because condoms are not used during sexual intercourse.
- Drug abuse and illegal movie houses that exhibiting pornographic films.
- Difficulty of finding secure jobs because they are not qualified.
- Absence/lack of recreational activities. Most of the open areas that used to serve as playing grounds previously have already been leased out by the city council.
- The way girls are dressing themselves which tempts the boys.
- Neither boys nor girls are afraid of getting HIV. The norm for youth is having unprotected and penetrative sex.
- Most boys and girls become sexually active at an earlier age.

6.0 Overall Discussions

As to the project staff information most of the activities planned under the project were accomplished. This has been also confirmed by the consultant team with document review by refereeing their quarterly, six months and annual reports. The major problem identified by the staff member was budget limitation to accomplish planned activity.

The budget does not go with the activity. They tried to integrate with other sources. According to the project staff awareness on stigma and discrimination has increased in the community and observed some behavioural change in the area of information seeking, counseling, referral services, joining club members, condom use and others. The major challenges or problems such as gap between objectives and performance, lack of completeness in the service and not fulfilling some needs be addressed in the future.

In general the program staff noted that Hiwot Ethiopia was able to successfully achieve its goals by limited resources and dedicated staff.

However, they said that additional input needs to be injected to bring about substantial impact on the population.

The information collected from the youth both in and out of school confirmed that 54 per cent of the youth believed that condom protects from HIV/AIDS. The major reasons for those who do not use condom mainly include: Religion does not allow, Condom has the virus itself, the community does not accept it and others. This area needs immediate attention.

The in-depth interview with CSWS revealed that their use of condom with their clients has increased after they started to participate in the project.

The housewives have also confirmed getting further knowledge on modes of transmission, prevention and on the importance of condom use.

The stakeholder FGD participants believe that there is a sign of behavioral change in the project area. They testified that open discussion on sexuality, care and support, assisting children, using condom are on the increase.

The FGD youth participants suggested that the manual, the peer education system and other strategies that are currently used by the youth should be improved and updated with the current information and the situation of the youth population in the project area.

They stated that Hiwot Ethiopia and other actors working on HIV communication must work more to come up with more innovative communication strategies.

8.0 Overall Conclusions

- Most of the planned activities accomplished by the project involved the stakeholders. This was confirmed during interview with staff members, stakeholders, and documents' review.
- The project is observed to have good documentation practices.
- The majority of the study subjects are aware of at least two modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Only 54 per cent of youth beneficiaries believe that condom can protect them from HIV/AIDS and the major reason being and the fact that it is condemned by religions.
- The majority of the respondents confirmed as the project led to increasing awareness, avoiding stigma, discrimination and encouraging open discussions on matters relating to HIV/AIDS.
- The strategy adopted by the project to bring about behavioral change is not refined and lacks effective means of follow-up to observe new developments. In addition, there are no well formulated messages for specific audience groups.
- The project seems to have been targeting diverse kinds of beneficiaries: youth, CSWs and housewives, which call for different projects on their own right.
- The CSWs and housewives have confirmed having benefited from the project through getting sufficient knowledge on condom and other skills.

9.0 Overall recommendations

The efforts and results of Hiwot Ethiopia towards preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS are encouraging. Therefore, it is advisable to support its project activities both financially and technically. This will strengthen the efforts of the organisation to contribute more to the reduction in the incidence rate of HIV/AIDS. For instance, Hiwot plays an important role in increasing the awareness of young people on HIV/AIDS-RH by using Information-Education Communication materials such as newsletters, fliers, booklets and newspapers. The evaluation team has observed that Hiwot's newsletter is popular and in great demand among youth readers. However, shortage of copies is a barrier from reaching more young people who seem to be enthusiastic about the messages in the papers. The shortage is mainly attributed to the financial constraints of the organisation. Hence, this can be an area for Save the Children and other donors to extend their support to the organisation.

Future interventions of Hiwot Ethiopia should never disregard the emphasis on reducing misconceptions surrounding condom and its reliability. Appropriate behavior change communication messages promoting the benefits of condom use and skills of proper use should be developed and communicated to the target youth groups and other community members in the project area.

The contribution of the project in reducing stigma and discrimination is significant. Therefore, the effort in this direction should be further strengthened by facilitating different discussion forums and most importantly by linking HIV/AIDS with different human right instruments such as UN CRC, ACRWC, etc

In the coming phases, the project should focus on experience sharing between different clubs and designing innovative ways of motivating peer educators. This is instrumental in facilitating exchange of good practices among different clubs and keeps peer educators motivated and maintain high level of enthusiasm of participation. Hiwot Ethiopia should further develop its behavior change communication strategies in terms of focusing on specific target audience and development of well-formulated messages.

The target groups of the project should be limited to well-defined and focused youth groups instead of targeting diverse types of targets. There should be an ongoing assessment of its BCC strategy to ensure that it is designed to appeal to specific target audience in particular, the youth (in school or out of school youth), concerns and attitudes. The messages the project wants to convey should be updated and redesigned to make sure they address the problems of the youth. This could be done through conducting assessment and analysis to identify knowledge gaps, beliefs, needs and concerns of the audience youth.

Hiwot should consider the possibility of setting up a mechanism to closely follow-up change in behavior among its target youth so that it will facilitate ways to reinforce and maintain new behavior for long. Innovative ways could be designed to motivate young people with new attitudes and develop behavior by arranging meetings on *kebele* levels and launching campaigns. Furthermore, symbolic awards may be handed over to those demonstrating behavioral change in recognition of their attitudinal/behavior change or through other ways.

Hiwot should strengthen its link and referral network with partners that provide RH counseling, VCT, STI treatment, care and support services, etc. It should create a strong collaboration and working relationship in order that youth demanding those services could easily get them. HIV/AIDS-RH training manuals need continuous updating and inclusion of recent facts and figures. The project should promptly upgrade the current training and teaching materials. This also applies to all information, education and communication materials being produced by the project.

The good working atmosphere and documentation system observed at Hiwot Ethiopia should be maintained and strengthened further.

Save the Children Sweden in Eastern and Central Africa

Save the Children Sweden started working in Eastern and Central Africa in 1965. Today, the organisation has offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Nairobi, Kenya; and Khartoum, Sudan. Save the Children Sweden has long-term child-rights based development programmes in Ethiopia and Sudan, and it supports local partners in Kenya, Eritrea, Somaliland and Uganda.

The organisation focuses on building the capacity of local people, community-based structures and organisations. In Eastern and Central Africa, it works with more than forty different non-governmental organisations and government bodies. In addition, it has adopted a direct implementation approach in southern Sudan and in the refugee camps of western Ethiopia and North Darfur.

All of the work in the region focuses on children's rights, and tackles issues that affect marginalised children. The core of the work focuses on children affected by conflict, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and HIV/AIDS. Save the Children Sweden's focus also includes education, child participation and good governance in the best interest of the child.

The major task facing child rights advocates today is making the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality for all children. The exchange of experience and know-how are proactive ways to work towards this goal, which is why Save the Children Sweden makes its books and reports available for the world. Welcome to visit our child rights bookshop on the internet, www.rb.se/bookshop

Save the Children Sweden is a non-governmental organisation. It is an active member of the International Save the Children Alliance – a global movement for children's rights.

Through 18 offices around the world, the organisation contributes ideas, experience and funds to 500 projects in more than 60 countries. Welcome to visit the Save the Children website, www.savethechildren.net

Save the Children Sweden fights for children's rights. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

Save the Children Sweden works for a world:

- which respects and values each child
- which listens to children and learns
- where all children have hope and opportunity

More information about Save the Children Sweden and our projects worldwide can be obtained from our head office.

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