

Dawn of Hope Ethiopia Association (DHEA)

I. Overview of Association's Experience

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief History of the association

Dawn of Hope Ethiopia Association (DHEA) came to existence by compelling needs created due to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia. It is one of the pioneer associations in the country founded by eleven HIV positives Ethiopians in June 1998 G.C, at a time when HIV/AIDS was considered as something awful to be heard. The former members of the associations took a brave step and created this organization under a motto: "Aids shall be stopped hear with us; let the generation be saved". Therefore, it is evident to say that DHEA has firsthand experience in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the Country.

1.2 DHEA Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

- To see a generation in Ethiopia free from HIV/AIDS

Mission

- DHEA is committed to the prevention of HIV/AIDS, to articulate the protection of the rights of PLHIV's (advocacy) and orphans through holistic approach of education, prevention, care and support.

Values

- **Conviction and courage** – taking a principled and firm position in the struggle for the realization of rights and dignity of HIV positive people
- **Equity and justice** – ensuring that all people irrespective of gender of gender, age ethnicity, heath status and religion have equal opportunity for expressing their views and utilizing their potential.
- **Integrity** – to uphold the highest degree of honesty, transparency and accountability in discharging our duties and responsibilities and having acceptable relationship with public at large
- **Mutual respect and trust** – recognize and respect the innate value, potential and power of all people
- **Quality and pragmatism**- to work with sense of professionalism, cost effectiveness in terms of what is achievable and relevant.

II. **Strategic Goal:**

Improved living conditions of PLWHA and OVC through adequate access (ensured universal access) to care, treatment and support, and made considerable contribution towards the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and actively involved in the development endeavor of the country at large

III. **Operational Regions**

Today, DHEA has been operating in five regions of the country for the past 12 years and the regions are -

- Oromia Regional State
- Amhara >> >>
- SNNP >> >>
- Harari >> >>
- Addis Ababa City Administration

In these five regions, DHEA has 13 branch offices working closely with the community at grass root level and all kebeles and nearby towns are covered by the activities of each branch.

- Addis Ababa Branch
- Debrezeit Branch
- Nazareth Branch
- Asalla Branch
- Harar Branch
- Babile Branch
- Shashamene Branch
- Arbaminch Branch
- Awassa Branch
- Dilla Branch
- Guji - Borena Branch
- Bahirdar Branch
- Debrebirhan Branch

All sub cities in Addis Ababa and kebeles in other town including the adjacent Kebeles were organized and been taken as operational areas in each branch.

IV. **Intervention Areas**

DHEA's intervention areas have been broadly categorized in to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support. Under this various multi-sectoral and interrelated activities has been implemented through various projects implemented in our 13 branch offices operating in five regional states.

Some exemplary activities currently under implementation

1. Palliative care

Starting from its establishment DHEA has the first hand experience in palliative care and it has conducted this activity with many partners for the last 12 years. Recently, in HIV/AIDS care and support program, in collaboration with Management Science for Health ,a community HIV/AIDS care and support service has been on progress and it mainly focuses on:-

1.1 Basic palliative care and service which focuses on:-

- Basic home based nursing care
- Psychosocial support
- ART adherence counseling support
- Traced and supported ART lost follow up clients
- Traced and supported TB DOTS defaulters

1.2 Basic palliative care service provided through referral and these are:-

- Health center HIV/AIDS medical care
- PMTCT service
- HCT

2. Prevention

DHEA has great involvement in advocating the prevention of HIV/AIDS from its foundation through various means. This is still one of its intervention areas which comprise awareness creation among the public i.e. in various occasions such public gathering, workplace intervention, production and distribution of IEC/BCC materials like Libona News Paper which is monthly printed and distributed through partners and Branch Offices

3. Economic Strengthening activities

It is known that economic strengthening activities are meant to change the livelihood of PLHIV's in sustainable manner and in Dawn of Hope these activities were conducted for many years and

members were involved in many income generation activities individually or in group and in all the 13 branches members were involved in different IGA. These include:

- Poultry
- Animal fattening
- Dairy
- Urban agriculture
- Stationary shops
- Secretarial service center
- Telephone center and others

4. Advocacy and Mass mobilization

Our association has been exerting his relentless effort towards the realization of the right of PLHIV and their meaningful involvement in different projects and programs takes place in the country concerning HIV and AIDS. We are recognized and been certified by the national HIV/AIDS Counsel chaired by His Excellency Girma W/Giyorgis for our advocacy and lobbying role we had played in the promotion of free ART treatment to PLHIV

DHEA Experience in Provision of Trainings

As a pioneer in Dawn of Hope Ethiopia Association has been conducting trainings related to HIV/AIDS for the past 10 years and in all our branches we are training community members, government and private employees, NGO employee's miners, drivers and other sector of population.

We had an experience of working and delivering trainings with the following institutions and organizations:-

- Addis Ababa University and all other government Universities and some colleges including private ones
- Awassa Textile Factory
- Different flower farms and enterprises
- Ministry of women and children's' affairs
- Hope for children association
- Correctional facilities
- Religious institutions

➤ Ministry of Health and others