

## **Background**

The Somali region network of PLHIV Associations' (SNP+) was launched in April 2006 to coordinate the associations' effort and to serve as the regional focal point in raising the voice of peoples living with HIV/AIDS collectively.

SNP+ brings together 11 PLHIV Associations for common objective of addressing the epidemic and to make genuine contribution of PLHIV t to mitigate the adverse effect of HIV/AIDS in Somali region, and at the same time to fight for the right of PLHIV.

The Network is working with partners including the Somali regional state HIV/AIDS Prevention and control office (SRS-HAPCO), OSSA, Faya Integrated development organization, Red Cross and Save-UK. It is also member and closely working with Network of Networks of HIV positives in Ethiopia (NEP+).

The rational behind the establishment of the network is the very fact that the Somali region share common boundaries with 3 neighboring countries, which in turn contributed to great internal and external mobility of people associated with trade and other activities. Due to this reason and less attention given to the epidemic, the prevalence and the spread of HIV/AIDS is very high especially in urban centers. There are close to 28,560 individuals in Somali region living with HIV/AIDS AND 2875 AIDS orphans.

Denial, the strong stigma and discrimination seen in the region undermine the ability of PLHIV Associations to achieve their objective. So far, the very little attention given to the self revealed individuals living with HIV has deteriorated the already poor socio-economic condition and worsened their social problems.

The few established PLHIV Associations in the region are trying to provide care and support, treatment, and working to reduce stigma and discrimination. However, there is a gap in these service and implementation capacity of the associations.

Therefore the Somali region network of PLHIV Associations' (SNP+) was established to unite with one voice to secure the necessities that they need to achieve their goals.

### **Vision**

To see a society free of HIV/AIDS and empowered HIV positive individuals, capable of leading and asserting their economic, social and political rights.

### **Mission**

We exist to fight and promote the economic, social and political rights of PLHIV through advocacy and strengthening the capacity of existing associations of positive men and women and creating favorable environment for the establishment of PLHIV associations.

### **Values**

SNP+ upholds the following set of values

- ❖ Team work
- ❖ Integrity
- ❖ Inclusion
- ❖ Respect and self determination
- ❖ Commitment
- ❖ Promote health
- ❖ Equality
- ❖ Diversity
- ❖ Support
- ❖ Positive education
- ❖ Confidentiality
- ❖ Innovation and promoting greater and meaning full involvement of PLHIV at all levels of the regional response to HIV.

### **Key issues**

1. Care and support programs including community home based care, psychological and life skill programs, livelihood support programs.
2. Ensuring to access and adherence to treatment for all regional now and in the future PLHIV
3. Protecting the advocating for the right of PLHIV.
4. Preventing new infection ( positive prevention )
5. Reducing stigma and discrimination and denial.
6. Strengthening partnership, networking and information sharing to members, stakeholders and the public.
7. Technical, financial and material capacity building of itself and member associations.

### **Titles of potential projects**

1. Strengthening the capacity of the Somali region Network of PLHIV Associations' (SNP+) through leadership training and economic empowerment of their members in IGA and vocational trainings.
2. Nutritional, educational material and clothing support for HIV/AIDS orphans and Children from poor patient families in Jijiga town.
3. Improve and strengthen the economic capacity of Somali region positive women through IGA and Vocational trainings.
4. Improve the quality and quantity of home based care in jijiga town using positive women of the town by providing them HBC training and provision of nutritional and material support for patients.
5. Campaign for VCT, treatment, care & support through IE/BCC activities and establishment of Mobile VCT center.
6. Capacity building trainings for leaders of Somali region PLHIV associations to improve skills on management and in handling conflicts.
7. Reinforcing of VCT and linkage with ART & PMCT, focused on increase coverage and adherence to ART.
8. Intuitional strengthening and capacity building for SNP+ and its 11 member associations.
9. Campaign for HIV/AIDS awareness creation with providing mobile VCT and creating linkage to treatment in refuges camps of Somali region.
10. Undertaking capacity assessment of Somali region PLHIV Associations and collect information towards their members.
11. Strengthening the capacity of SNP+ by developing strategic documents of SNP+ and publication of Policy, guidelines, manuals and forms.

### **Roles of SNP+**

- ❖ Advocating for access to HIV services on behalf of PLHIV, AIDS orphans and for the individuals becoming at risk of becoming infected.
- ❖ Strengthening member associations through institutional capacity building.
- ❖ Producing and disseminating IE/BCC materials.
- ❖ Bringing together regional PLHIV associations , partners , and stakeholders at all level to address problems surrounding HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Provide reports and tools to understand impact of HIV/AIDS in the region and monitor and evaluate the response.

### **Programmatic activities**

Currently the Somali region network of PLHIV Associations' (SNP+) implementing the Global Fund Round seven program through Network of networks of HIV positives in Ethiopia (NEP+).

The programs contains the following 3 components

- Home based care service
- Income generating activities
- Capacity building

### **Programmatic activities other than GF-R7**

- Advocacy campaign for HIV/AIDS prevention in Somali region, the program is funded by the Regional HAPCO.

The program mainly focuses on the awareness creation about the epidemic by public advocacy in Gode Zone, Degehabur Zone, Jijiga Zone and Shinile Zone.

- Income generating activity which is still on study and supported by the regional HAPCO
- Community conversation with in PLHIV Associations and supported by regional HAPCO

### **Activities which are already finalized (faith out)**

- HIV /AIDS awareness action to enhance prevention activities in jijiga town funded by Handicap international.

The program contain four components

1. Door to door awareness creation activities.
2. Awareness creation training for influential & prominent community leaders.
3. Awareness creation training for commercial sex workers.
4. Mass awareness creation event

### **Members of SNP+**

Currently there are 11 legally registered associations

1. Misrak Goh PLHIV Association
2. Birhan women PLHIV Association
3. Rejo Somali women PLHIV Association
4. Selam PLHIV Association
5. Gergar Youth PLHIV Association
6. Enamilite Gospel followers PLHIV Association



7. Enitay Police PLHIV Association
8. Masho PLHIV Association located at Kebribeyah
9. Midnimo PLHIV Association located at Degehabur
10. Tikat Yibika women PLHIV Association located in Erer
11. Simiret lehiwot PLHIV Association located at Gode

### **Organization structure**

SNP+ is registered with the Somali regional state justice bureau as a non-profit making organization. The core organizational structure is:

**Board** - consists of 7 individuals of which one is representative of PLHIV.

**Secretariat:** - the secretariats run all programs and activities of SNP+ and consists of the following

Peoples

- Regional program coordinator
- Finance and administration officer
- Monitoring and Evaluation office
- Public relation and advocacy officer
- Accountant
- Secretary /cashier
- Office assistant
- Guards

### **Challenges**

- The deep rotted stigma and discrimination, and denial of HIV/AIDS in the region
- Capacity limitation of the network
- Financial constraint to satisfy the needs of associations.
- Vehicle.