

Personal Reflection of HIV Epidemic in Ethiopia

*Ethiopia and Partners
Response to HIV/AIDS*

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Outline of the presentation

- CHAI's contribution to access to ARV drugs in poor developing countries
- 1983 to 1990: Silent spread of HIV
- 1990 to 2000: HIV epidemic to epidemic of AIDS and stigma
- 2000 to present: better response, cautious optimism.

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Market Shaping

- CHAI formed in 2002 in response to lack of access to millions of PLHIV in poor LMIC
- Controversy of making ARV drugs available in resource limited settings where 90% of infected people reside.
- CHAI closely working with multinational pharmaceuticals, generic drugs producing industries, international humanitarian organizations and donors facilitated access to millions of adults and children in resource limited settings
- CHAI is now applying same strategy to other expensive drugs such as drugs of cancer, FP devices and drugs, drugs of malaria and TB.

HIV Epidemic in Ethiopia 1983 to 1990: Silent HIV Spread

- Earliest positive blood 1984, first cases of AIDS, 1986.
- AIDS discussed for first time at EMA annual conference 1985
- Government formed AIDS Control Dep't 1985
- Extensive sero-epidemiological survey among female sex workers and their clients
- Sentinel surveillance in urban and few rural sites
- No significant preventive work during this time
- Epidemic changed from concentrated to generalized
- Missed opportunity in the history of HIV Epidemic in Ethiopia

HIV Epidemic in Ethiopia: 1990 to 2000; AIDS epidemic

- The silent HIV epidemic moved to epidemic of AIDS and stigma
- Denial and neglect of the epidemic by all partners resulting in suffering and death of hundreds of thousands of young people.
- Societal desperation and depression with disintegration of families and traditional social support organization such as EDIR
- Doctors were helpless, nothing to offer
- Traditional medical practitioners came up with different kinds of concoctions as AIDS remedy
- Unforgettable humanitarian disaster of biblical scale occurred.

HIV Epidemic in Ethiopia: 2000 to present better response but cautious optimism.

- WB came with AIDS grant/soft loan for HIV prevention (no Rx.)
- Government and partners commitment improved
- Different political governance structures formed at federal and regional levels
- Free ART launched in 2005
- With Global Fund and PEPFAR hundreds of thousands accessed lifesaving treatment with decline in death and transmission
- But more remain to access treatment in particular children.
- The enthusiasm is dwindling, the governance structures have stopped regularly meeting, funding is declining.
- This is in face of declining awareness and hotspots and segments of the population with increasing HIV rate.
- **AVOID 2nd WAVE of HIV EPIDEMIC IN ETHIOPIA!!!**

• ***Thank You!!***