

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> WAVE of HIV EPIDEMIC IN ETHIOPIA!!!

- ***Thank You!!***