



Implementing Partner BIG

‘Effort to get out of poverty’

Program background

EMRDA in partnership with Young People in Action aims to improve the health and livelihood situation of young people and reduce their vulnerability to HIV and poor sexual and reproductive health and rights. The project works in a total of 9 Woredas (Districts) and target 84 of 183 Kebeles (lowest administrative units) of the Afar and Amhara regional states since May 2008. In Afar, the project is working in 4 Woredas – Dulecha, Arogba Special, Fentale, and Amibara, while in Amhara, it has targeted 5 Woredas – Qewet, Efrata Gedem, Dawa Chefe, Artuma, and Jele Tmuga.

Key program Components of the project contains Construction of Youth center in each district, Comprehensive youth centre activities including, referrals to youth friendly health services, Peer education programs and Promotion activities, IEC/BCC activities inside the youth centers including promotion, Community outreach activities (Capacity Building) on issues of HIV/AIDS and SRH, Home based care service for people living with the virus and who are deprived of care givers, Vocational skill training for OVCs, their guardians and PLWHAs foster activities on Income Generating Activities.

The Witness success story of Radiya

Radiya Hussien lives in Amhara region, Oromia zone, Artuma Fursi woreda, Chefa Robit town. She is 15 years old and learns in grade 8. But after she lost her father, who is the most responsible person to administer all aspects of their family, she was upset for about two and above years. She also forced to interrupt her education to see of other ways of handling life with the rest of her family. Meanwhile, she became one of those who are

engaged for older OVC support of “Young People in Action” Project and got basic business skill training and a start-up capital of birr 1500.00 to involve in a certain income generating activities. Thus, she opened a shop and resumed her schooling.

Radiya is a wise girl and never forget what kind of hardship she faced on those past times in her and her family life. Thus, she keeps and uses her capital very carefully. As a result, in addition to helping her mother and the rest of her brothers and sisters, her capital reached about birr 4,000.00.

Besides, she seems having bright future which was testified by her words by saying “I want to thank EMRDA and its worker to provide me this chance. I can improve myself even beyond this in the future. I am also showing good performance in my class, thus I will help others in the future as you made me to step up today”



Radiya in her shop

Sustainability

Empowering the community, particularly youths through different capacity building programs is very helpful to prevent HIV and AIDS, SRH related problems and to reduce SDD.

Income generating programs for the marginalized community groups such as PLHIV, OVC and their care givers enable to participate in various socio-economic conditions and abolish further dependency on supports.

Participatory development programs are mostly sustainable among the beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Replicability

One good practice to replicate is the formation of IGA associations right after the selected beneficiaries finished their training before taking the seed capital to start their business since it was believed by EMRDA it is showing the way to start saving collectively and understand the use of associations to benefit together. They have established IGA association that legally connects them with government and other institution such as microfinance to further boost their capital. We, therefore, believe that this program will sustain itself with minimum additional efforts that are expected from the beneficiary themselves.

The IGA association formed by EMRDA has been working closely with government and as a result they were given legal land over which they make animal husbandry and different activities.