SUCCESS STORY
“Peaceful family, Improved quality of life”

Derartu and Ashagre got married 13 years ago and lived with their two children Addis Ketema Subcity Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The couples were not aware of the importance of being tested for HIV before Mrs Derartu's pregnancy with her first baby. Upon their visit to health facility the health care provider counseled the couple to get tested for HIV, their test result was far from their expectation, Ashagre's result was HIV positive, and Derartu is HIV negative. It was very hard for them to accept the result, soon after the case, Ashagre's behavior totally changed, 'He acts like a stranger.' Deratu said sobbing in between her explanations “He became abusive, sexually and economically. Doesn't want to use condom and not allow me to have a job rather he prefers to make me dependent on his unstable income”

Then, Mrs Derartu enrolled to Family Focus HIV Prevention Care and Treatment services in October 2020 and took frequent visits from the case worker and social service worker assigned as she lives with discordant couple. While they are trying to find a way to support the family, they found that Mrs Derartu can sew clothes since she has experience of working with her parents before. Nazrawit who is a focal person for resource mobilization at Maedot, found a charitable association that could provide a sewing machine for Mrs Derartu and start new business in her village. Then the remaining headache was her husband's lack of interest and awareness on use of condom in such discordant family. After tireless efforts made by Maedot teams including Nazrawit, her husband also got enrolled in a group and in village savings and loan group to support his family hope and future. Now he shared experiences with other members about his journey.

Mrs Derartu testimony the change and they understand that they need to protect and care their child before anything. Mrs Derartu remarks the change by saying, “You have not only saved my life, but also my children's “.

Now the family lives improve after the intervention and her husband started participating in monthly care and support meeting where the impact of gender-based violence is discussed.

Photo: Mrs Deratu receiving sewing Machine; credit: Maedot

Remark: This success story is originated from Maedot, one of the 9 local implementing partners working with Mekdim Ethiopia National Association (MENA) .

Contact Person: Mr Mnegistu Zemene, Email: mcgistuz@mckdimethiopia.org  phone-+251 983288761