SUCCESS STORY

Social Service Workers become beacons of hope for school dropouts and hopeless youth.

This is story of a 17-year-old adolescent girl named Tarikwa Tibebe, living with HIV/AIDS, who knew her HIV status 4 years after the loss of her mother due to HIV/AIDS. Her mother’s death complicated her life and left her with lack of care and support to continue her schooling. Her grandmother makes wavering, but can’t make enough money to cover daily living expenses and school materials which forced Tarikwa to stop attending school. This becomes additional psychological toll on top of her mother’s death and financial pressure, causing young Tarikwa to lose hope and give up on her efforts to continue her education.

Emebet, a social service worker on the program, met Tarikwa, council her and present her options to improve her life. Through Emebet’s help, Tarikuwa decided to take a part-time job working as a waiter at a café in order to pay for sanitary materials, food, and other necessities.

Emebet continued her follow up and bring her to health facility to resume her antiretroviral therapy (ART) and get a support letter to return to school. It was agreed to bring Tarikwa back to school as part of the common effort between health facility, and the school established as part of the project stakeholder participatory approach. This brings another success in getting kind hearted volunteer to pay for Tairikwa’s transportation and other school-related costs. Emebet’s continues follow up shows tremendous improvements in her psychological wellbeing and course grade results.

By now, Tarikwa hope started to shine and progressed to the next semester of grade 09 with remarkable results, which also impressed her teachers are also supporting her regularly and paves the way for her childhood dreams to become professional designer. Tarikwa remarks on Emebet’s support and effort: “She sacrifices to dig out my future and becomes beacons of hopes. She is a warm-hearted, dedicated human being who can see the unseen corner of life. I just need to thank her and others who are helping me with continued blessings and support”.

Emebet and other dedicated social service workers continued their effort to help many youths, showing the bright corner of their lives through the collaborative efforts of USAID, schools, health facilities, community volunteers, and other stakeholders for the Picture - Emebet (Left), Tarikwa (Right) and health facility expert (middle) on counseling g at health facility

Photo Credit – CVDA

1 Consent was obtained to use her identifiers and pictures along with SSW and ART service providers

This success story is originated from Common Vision Development Association (CVDA) one of implementing partners working with Mekdim Ethiopia National Association (MENA).

Contact Person: Mr. Mengistu Zemene, MENA Executive Director; email: mekdimeth@gmail.com; phone: +251 11228843

This success story is also shared for Global Social Service Workforce Alliance and it will be published soon.