Mekdim Ethiopia National Association

USAID Family Focused HIV Prevention, Care & Treatment Activity Booklet (Oct 2023 – Sep 2024)



Volume 4

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MEKDIM ETHIOPIA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MENA)
USAID FAMILY FOCUSED HIV PREVENTION, CARE & TREATMENT ACTIVITY IN ADDIS ABABA

Disclaimer

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GOALS, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF FFHPC&T PROGRAM

Goal: To strengthen local HIV epidemic control to achieve 95 percent of individuals living with HIV know their status, 95 percent of persons living with HIV to initiate antiretroviral therapy and 95 percent of antiretroviral therapy clients achieve viral load suppression by 2025

Result	Strategic Objective	Intermediate Result
Result 1: Increased Community Care and Treatment	Strategic Objective 1: Increased access & demand to family-focused HIV services that reduce HIV incidence in the community	IR 1.1 Improved HIV testing and counselling in the community
	Strategic Objective 2: Increased adherence and retention on ART through targeted community case management including adherence counseling and support, disclosure, and psychosocial services for PLHIV	IR 1.2 Improved Retentions rate and adherence services
	Strategic Objective 3: Implement community-based differentiated care model, including Health care worker manage Community ART Group; Peer Led Community based ART Distribution/ PCAD and adherence clubs to improve adherence and retention on ART and achieve viral load suppression.	IR 1.3 Improved implementation of community-based differentiated care model
	Strategic Objective 4: Improve linkage to and uptake of GBV services by strengthening referrals to health facilities for PLHIV exposed to GBV in communities.	IR 1.4 Improved GBV screening and referral service
Result 2: Increased access to high impact community-based HIV prevention and social services for OVC	Strategic Objective 5: Provided a comprehensive service for OVC	R 2.1 Improved Comprehensive OVC services
		IR 2.2 Engaging OVC beneficiaries into Economic strengthening services
		IR 2.3 Improve linkage to and uptake of GBV services by strengthening referrals to health facilities for Adolescents and PLHIV exposed to GBV in communities
	Strategic Objective 6: Prevent/reduce HIV and violence among 10 – 14-year-old	IR 2.4 Improved primary prevention of sexual violence and HIV for 10-14 years old boys and girls
Result 3: Improved functional Monitoring and Evaluation/QI Services	Improved functional Monitoring and Evaluation/QI Services	IR 3.1 Strengthened utilization of data to monitor service delivery and conduct quality improvement of program services
		IR 3.2. Improved quality management services

Message from the Acting Executive Director of MENA

I am deeply honored to extend my congratulations to all implementing partners and staff of the USAID Family-Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Activity in Addis Ababa for successfully completing the 2024 project period with remarkable achievements. This initiative has been a cornerstone of our key programs, advancing the goals of MENA's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. It embodies our mission to empower people living with HIV (PLHIV) and other vulnerable groups by enhancing their understanding of basic rights, advocating for policies, and improving their quality of life.

The project has empowered thousands to comprehend their entitlements to antiretroviral treatment (ART) and actively engage in treatment adherence. It has linked many orphaned and vulnerable children to sustainable care, safeguarding their rights. Importantly, it has identified hundreds of new HIV cases and ensured those diagnosed receive life-saving treatment.



Menelik Nigusu (PhD)
Acting Executive Director

Addressing gender and economic drivers of HIV transmission, the project employed gender-sensitive approaches and social and behavior change interventions tailored to high-risk groups, including young women, men in schools, and their families. These efforts have significantly contributed to pandemic prevention.

I would like to honor the late Mr. Mengistu Zemene, whose visionary leadership since the project's inception remains a guiding light for us all. His visionary leadership continues to inspire us.

Finally, I extend my deepest gratitude to all implementing partners and staff for their unwavering commitment to the project's success. I also wish to thank the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Addis Ababa Finance Bureau, the Addis Ababa Health Bureau, and the Addis Ababa Women and Social Affairs Bureau for their invaluable policy and technical support.

Last but not least, I express my profound appreciation to the people and government of the United States of America and USAID for their generous financial and technical support, which have been instrumental in the success of this activity.

Sincere regards,

Key Message from FFHPCT Activity – Chief of Party

On behalf of Mekdim Ethiopia National Association (MENA), I am honored to share the achievements of the USAID-funded Family Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Services Project in Addis Ababa. Implemented under a five-year grant (August 2020–September 2025), this project is a vital step toward achieving the global 95-95-95 HIV targets.

Funded with $12,775,086 through PEPFAR and in collaboration with USAID, the project has operated in 110 woredas of Addis Ababa and expanded to eight PEPFAR priority regions in FY2024, with IRCE driving Faith-Based Organization ART adherence and retention initiatives.

Key successes include:

- Enhanced stakeholder engagement at national and international levels.
- Dissemination of success stories and research in journals.
- Organization of learning workshops to share knowledge and foster collaboration.



Abiy Alemayehu
Chief of Party

These achievements were made possible through the unwavering support of PEPFAR/USAID, Addis Ababa City Administration, and our implementing partners, including CVDA, FHIDO, FIDO, LCF, IRCE, MAEDOT, and MSD. Technical support from Project HOPE and FHI360 has ensured high-quality service delivery.

As we approach the final project year, our focus will include integrating non-communicable diseases and mental health into HIV care, strengthening community-facility collaboration, and ensuring sustainability through a robust transition plan.

I urge all stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to this transformative initiative. Together, we can achieve global HIV epidemic control goals by 2030 and build a healthier future for all.

1st 95 - UNAIDS GOAL "95% of people living with HIV know their status"

To achieve the first 95 target, the Family-Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Activities (FFHPCTA) utilize Index Case Testing (ICT) and Partner Notification Services (PNS) within the HIV Counselling and Testing framework. This approach aims to increase HIV diagnosis rates among high-risk groups, including sexual partners and biological children, thereby helping to curb the spread of HIV.

In FY24, 7311 index contacts tested for HIV of which 771 new positive cases identified with 10.5% yield rate through community-based ICT. Moreover, 51 index contacts referred to nearby health facility of which one new positive case identified. The HIV Self-test kit distribution through assisted and unassisted modalities for 15,624 index contacts with confirmed positive cases of 151 also had significant contribution.

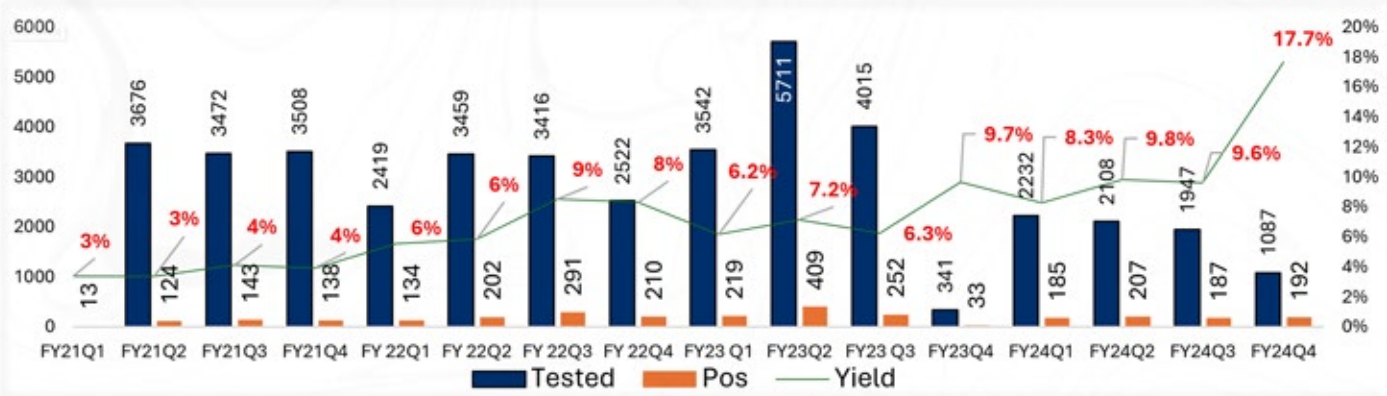


Figure 1: Community HTS Index Case Testing, Positive and Yield Trends by Quarter

Spousal partners account highest yield (15.52%) followed by non-spousal partner (11.76%) while biological children (2.15%). Individuals with age group 20-24 had 31% positivity while those with age 50 and above had 30%.

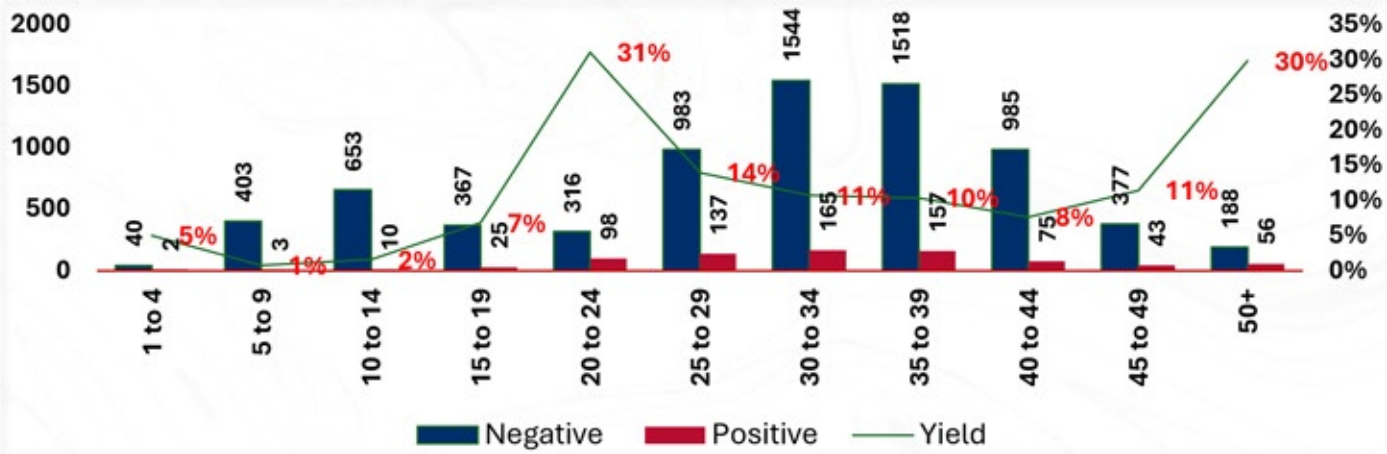


Figure 2: FY24 Annual HTS_INDEX Case Testing, Pos and Yield by Age

HIV Care and Treatment Services

2nd 95 – UNAIDS Goal "95% of people diagnosed with HIV are receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy"

Community-based case management is a core component of the Family-Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Services, aiming to improve ART adherence, retention, positive living, and viral load suppression to contribute to the national HIV epidemic control. Services include assessment, screening, need-based care, adherence counselling, health education, disclosure support, and psychosocial support for people living with HIV (PLHIV).



Figure 3: Community case management services by type

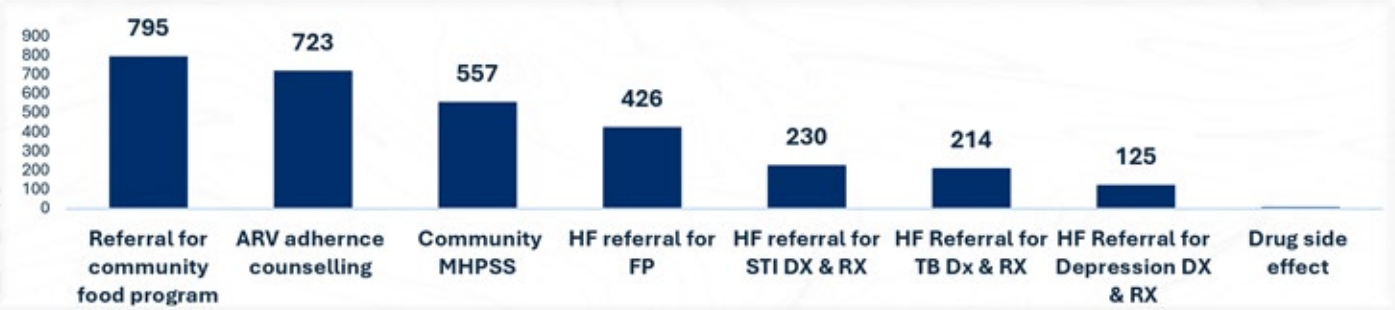


Figure 4: FY24 Community Care and Support Referral Services Provided by Services Type



Training on Community HIV Case Management Services

HIV Care and Treatment Services

2nd 95 – UNAIDS Goal "95% of people diagnosed with HIV are receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy"

Key Achievement

- In the FY24, 8538 adult PLHIV were enrolled to the community need based case management services. 3539 clients were referred to various service into different services proving centres.
- 1715 clients who interrupted their treatment were reengaged to care from the received 2634 IIT line list.



Figure 5: Over all care and support service performance of client's assessment from newly enrolled by assessment type

MENA also supports the implementation and integration of Community-Based Differentiated Service Delivery Models (C-DSDM) into the Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) model.

- **HEP_CAG (health extension leads ART refilling group):**
  - 192 new groups formed with 902 members, 60% of the annual target.
- **PCAD (peer lead community ART distribution):**
  - 439 new groups formed with 2294 members 76% of the annual target.
- Adolescents and Youth Community Differentiated Service Delivery Model (A&Y C-DSDM) in five selected health facilities, targeting the age group 10-24 formed 13 groups with 119 members.



HIV Care and Treatment Services

2nd 95 – UNAIDS Goal "95% of people diagnosed with HIV are receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy"

Non communicable disease (NCD) and HIV service integration

MENA is implementing non-communicable disease (Hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, mental health & Cervical cancer) education, screening, life style modification counselling and referral services for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) across all service delivery points, facilitated by trained service providers.

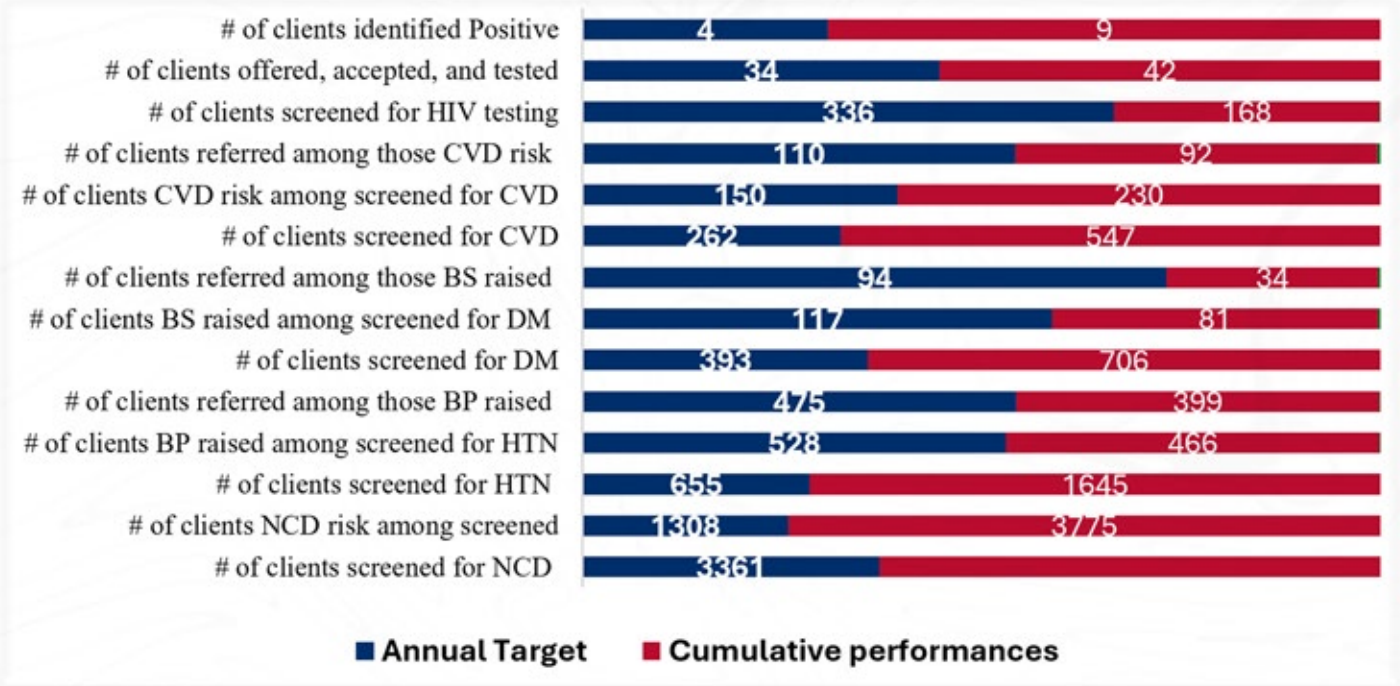


Figure 6: FY24 NCD performance summary



3rd 95 - UNAIDS Goal "95% of people on ART achieve viral suppression"

During FY24, MENA received 464 adult cases of high viral load (HVL) and low-level viremia (LLV) from health facilities. Of these, 454 (95.9%) were contacted and received enhanced adherence counselling (EAC): 454 completed the first session, 384 the second, and 342 the third. Blood samples from 229 clients showed 171 achieved viral suppression, while 51 remained unsuppressed, requiring further intervention.

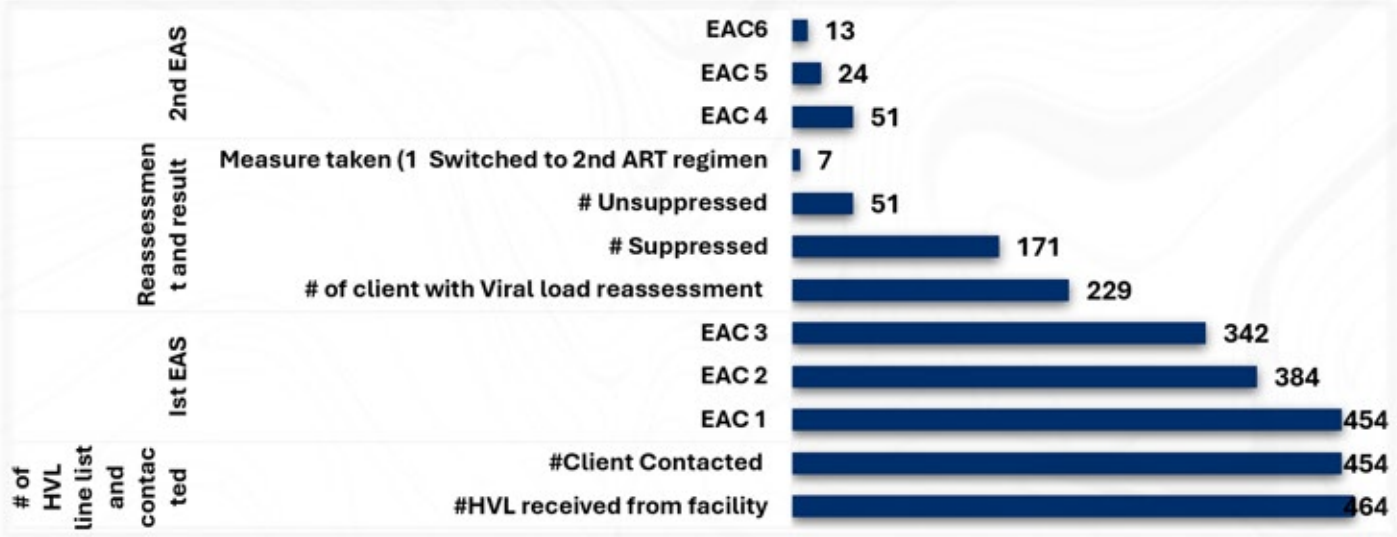


Figure 7: FY24 Annual Community LLV And HVL EAC Cascade



Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Summary Results

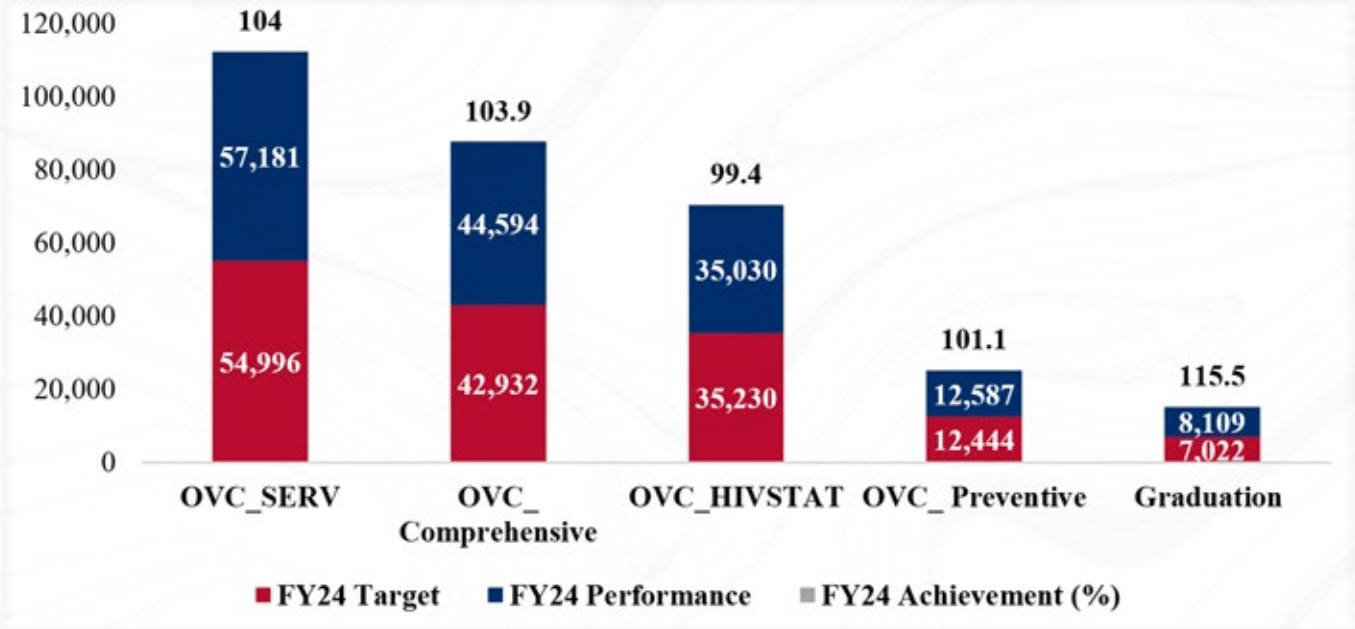


Figure 8: OVC_SERV Results, FY24



Figure 9: OVC_SERV Results by Service Type, FY24

The overachievement is due to capacity-building training, supportive supervision, and mentorship by MENA and its LIP technical staff, enhancing understanding of OVC program approaches, targeted enrolment, community case management, and PEPFAR-approved service packages. Additionally, the project delivered evidence-based violence and HIV prevention interventions to at-risk girls and boys aged 10-14 in high-burden woredas.

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As of the OVC_SERVE under OVC comprehensive program (active and graduated), 99% had known their HIV status.

Indicators	FY24 OVC_ Prevention		
	Target	Perf.	%
OVC_ Prevention	**12,444**	**12,587**	**101.1**
IMPower (40%)	4,978	5,081	102.1
CBIM (40%)	4,978	4,979	100.0
SINOVUYO (20%)	2,488	2,530	101.7

Table 2: OVC Prevention

A total of 3,751 children and adolescents were reported HIV positive and on ART, 28,005 children are reported HIV negative, 3,229 children were reported as tests not required based on risk assessment, and 63 children with HIV status unknown.

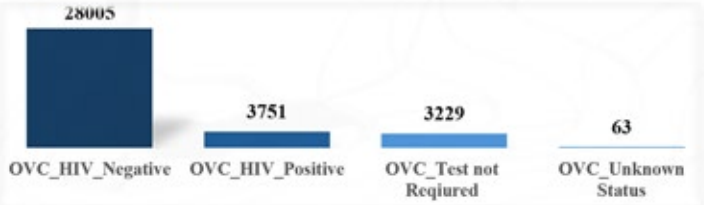


Figure 10: OVC_HIVSTAT Cascade, FY24

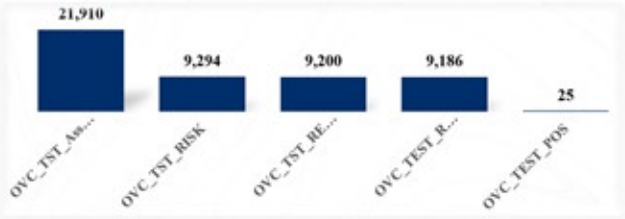


Figure 11: OVC HTS Cascade, FY24

HIV Risk assessment was conducted for 21,912 OVC in the reporting period. Out of these 9287 OVC were at risk, 9194 OVCs were referred for testing and 9180 children's status was reported to the respective LIP and 25 new positive children identified during the implementing period of FY24.



Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Summary Results

Monitoring the HIV response is crucial for ensuring quality care and optimal outcomes for children and adolescents living with HIV. In FY24, 4,164 children and adolescents on ART were identified in PEPFAR clinical settings, including those in the OVC program. Of these, 3,743 enrolled in the OVC program. All 3,697 eligible for viral load testing had documented results, with 3,663 (99%) achieving viral suppression.



Figure 12: FY24, OVC Clinical Cascade

Village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) play a vital role in supporting vulnerable households by enabling savings, improving resilience, health care access, and reducing borrowing costs. They also reinforce social protection, provide a platform for formal financial services, and enhance social capital and self-confidence. To strengthen VSLA activities and support members in income generation, 631 members successfully started or expanded their businesses.

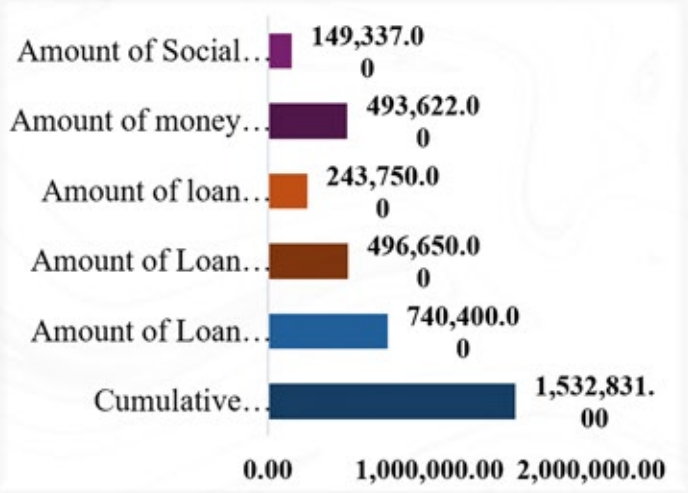


Figure 13: VSLA Group Saving Performance, FY24

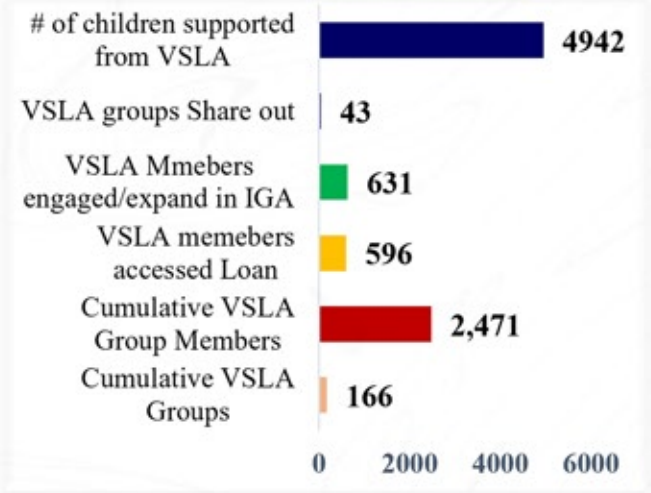


Figure 14: Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)

Key Outcomes:

- Heightened community awareness of harmful gender norms and GBV protection.
- Strengthened partnerships with GBV service providers and stakeholders.
- Improved GBV case management and service quality.
- Enhanced community-based GBV prevention and response systems.
- Supported government efforts to reduce and protect against GBV.
- Advanced organizational gender sensitivity.



Reflecting our partnership with IRCE through Faith-Based ART Retention and Adherence

Through the strong partnership between the **Ministry of Health (MoH), USAID, MENA Prime**, and the **Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE)**, we are intensifying efforts to strengthen **Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization (ACSM)** interventions. Together, we are bridging the gap between **spiritual therapy** and **ART adherence** to reach community actors in the fight to end HIV/AIDS

The initiative focuses on the integration of religious institutions into HIV-related health efforts, delivering culturally sensitive messages and services that promote better health outcomes.

Key Achievements

- **National and Sub-National Advocacy:** The project conducted high-level advocacy conferences to promote HIV testing, treatment, and stigma reduction, alongside establishing Federal and Regional Faith-Based Organizations (FBO) Engagement Technical Working Groups (TWGs).
- **Social Behavioral Communication Activities:** IRCE developed and erected 88 mini and 4 mega billboards across various regions, featuring messages of hope about ART, incorporating religious scriptures from the Holy Bible and Quran. Consent was obtained from religious leaders to include their messages in these campaigns. Additionally, over 14,000 copies of sermon guides and health-related materials were distributed, enhancing community awareness.
- **One-Month Awareness Campaign:** From June 21 to July 20, 2024, IRCE conducted an extensive awareness campaign, reaching over 305,000 congregants through religious institutions. The campaign increased understanding of ART adherence, integrated ART with spiritual practices, raised awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and contributed to a slight reduction in stigma.



Reflecting our partnership with IRCE through Faith-Based ART Retention and Adherence

Key Achievements

- **Reintegration of Lost-to-Follow-Up (LTFU) Clients:** In collaboration with religious leaders, youth groups, and local USAID partners, 91 LTFU clients were successfully traced and re-engaged in ART care across eight regions. This effort was bolstered by the influence of faith communities, which helped to address treatment interruptions.
- **Media Advocacy:** IRCE partnered with six religious media houses to broadcast key messages on ART retention and adherence, reaching millions of viewers nationwide and internationally. The media outlets included Selam Catholic TV, Elshaddai TV, HOPE Channel Ethiopia, and others.
- **Capacity Building:** A total of 360 religious leaders, theologians, and regional IRCE coordinators participated in refresher training sessions. These trainings focused on HIV treatment, retention, stigma reduction, and GBV prevention, empowering religious leaders to support their communities in HIV care and promote the compatibility of ART with spiritual practices.

Ongoing Efforts and Future Directions

As the project progresses, the focus remains on strengthening community engagement, reducing stigma, and expanding ART adherence. With continued advocacy, media engagement, and capacity-building initiatives, the partnership between IRCE, USAID, and MENA aims to enhance the sustainability of HIV care programs through faith-based networks. These efforts are vital for reaching vulnerable populations, especially those affected by stigma or treatment interruptions, ensuring that ART is accessible and culturally accepted.

- Sermon guide, and sample pictures of Awareness Campaign
- Mini and mega billboards sample

Faith based ART Adherence and Retention intervention Semi-annual review meeting





Faith Based ART retention and adherence intervention Experience sharing site visit in Sidama Region



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL): Driving Program Excellence

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) are essential for effective program implementation, ensuring accountability, data-driven decision-making, and continuous improvement. By assessing progress and addressing challenges, MEL helps programs adapt to evolving needs while maintaining a focus on achieving goals and delivering quality services. In 2024, MENA exemplified its commitment to MEL through quarterly performance review meetings for the USAID Family-Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Services in Addis Ababa City Program (USAID FFHPC&T). These sessions evaluated outcomes, shared lessons, and tackled challenges, fostering program refinement. Key stakeholders, including the Addis Ababa City Health, Women and Social Affairs, Finance, and Education Bureaus, alongside woreda offices, actively participated in these workshops. Their contributions ensured alignment, recommended improvements, and strengthened program delivery. MENA's integration of MEL practices enhances program effectiveness, fosters accountability, and builds a culture of continuous learning, ensuring lasting impact.

FY2024 Performance Review Meeting



Driving Excellence Through Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Practices

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) department at MENA plays a pivotal role in enhancing program quality and fostering stakeholder engagement. Regular program supervision and quality assurance activities are carried out to strengthen partnerships and ensure impactful outcomes.

MENA implements its M&E activities within the three core concepts of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL). This includes developing metrics to measure progress, designing data collection tools, ensuring data quality through cleaning and analysis, and effectively communicating findings. Key activities include CommCare data management, organizing periodic performance reviews, conducting Joint Supportive Supervision (JSS), Routine Data Quality Assessments (RDQA), and monthly review meetings with sub-awardees.

Additionally, the department leads onsite coaching and mentorship, facilitates Operational and Technical Assistance (OTA) meetings, and spearheads implementation research and quality improvement projects through learning workshops and stakeholders' panels. These comprehensive efforts underscore MENA's commitment to data-driven decision-making and continuous improvement, driving program success and sustainability.



FY2024 Performance Review Meeting &
FY2024 Stakeholders' Sensitization Workshop

Together We Learn: Sharing Milestones with Partners and Stakeholders

MENA Hosts Innovative Learning Workshop as Part of USAID FFHPC&T Activity

MENA Prime, in collaboration with partners and government stakeholders, proudly hosted a first-of-its-kind Learning Workshop in Addis Ababa under the USAID Family-Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment (FFHPC&T) Activity. This groundbreaking event brought together government officials, key stakeholders, primary beneficiaries, community experts, and partners to exchange knowledge, foster innovation, and explore impactful solutions in OVC and HIV support.

Focus Areas:

The learning event tackled critical challenges, showcased best practices, and emphasized cross-sector collaboration to improve healthcare outcomes. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions aimed at advancing HIV epidemic control and strengthening community-based healthcare systems.

Highlights of the Workshop:

- Implementation Research Presentations: Sharing insights and evidence-based practices.
- Panel Discussions: Featuring diverse perspectives from stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- Client Testimonials: Personal stories highlighting program impacts.
- Gallery Walk: A visual showcase of program lessons, success stories, and innovative approaches.



Together We Learn: Sharing Milestones with Partners and Stakeholders

High-Level TDY Visit Highlights MENA's Impact

Mekdim Ethiopia National Association (MENA) successfully hosted a high-level TDY (Temporary Duty) visit to assess the referral and linkage of OVC services at health facilities. Distinguished guests from the CDC, USAID Headquarters, and the USAID Ethiopia Mission Health Office participated in this insightful event, held under the USAID Family-Focused HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment (FFHPC&T) Activity in Addis Ababa.

Visit Highlights:

- **Site Visits:** The delegation visited Zewditu Hospital and Saris Health Center to evaluate service delivery and coordination.
- **Feedback and Closing Session:** Hosted at MENA Prime, this session provided a platform to review implementation progress, address challenges, and explore solutions to enhance program quality.

As a proud partner in the fight against HIV, MENA remains committed to advancing both national and global efforts to end the epidemic.



MENA takes part and show case it's lessons on USAID Joint Women's Month Learning Event & Celebration!

USAID Ethiopia organized a dynamic Joint Women's Month Learning Event & Celebration, marking a pivotal moment in the advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment. Held in commemoration of Women's History Month, the event brought together various implementing partners (IPs) in Ethiopia from across diverse sectors where MENA takes place to show case its lessons as part of the gallery walk.

The event served as a platform for sharing best practices, innovative approaches, and success stories in advancing gender empowerment initiatives in Ethiopia.

MENA, as successful local implementing partner selected to share its learning and success on gender empowerment activities as part of USAID Family focused HIV prevention, care and treatment program in particular and other ongoing programs at MENA in general!

With a commitment to fostering collaboration and amplifying the voices of women, USAID's Joint Women's Month Learning Event & Celebration underscores the Ips dedication to advancing gender equality and empowering women nationally.



Mekdim at a Glance

MENA's Digital Leap: Transforming Operations and Engagement for Greater Impact

MENA is embracing a bold journey toward digitization and activity automation, revolutionizing how we operate and engage with our stakeholders. This transformative shift is designed to enhance efficiency, transparency, and connectivity across all levels of our organization.

Here's what's accomplished:

🚀 Rebranded Website: A dynamic hub for external communication, knowledge sharing, and resource access, empowering communities and stakeholders with vital tools and information.

📊 Power BI-Enabled Dashboards: Cutting-edge activity monitoring systems providing real-time insights into program performance and impact.

💼 Automated Systems:

- HR Management: Streamlined employee lifecycle processes.
- Fixed Asset Management: Ensuring accountability and optimized resource use.
- Training & Workshop Management: Seamless coordination and robust reporting mechanisms.
- ES Dashboards: Enhanced decision-making through data-driven solutions.

📱 **Social Media Engagement:** MENA is leveraging all major platforms to connect with members, communities, and stakeholders, fostering deeper engagement and wider outreach.

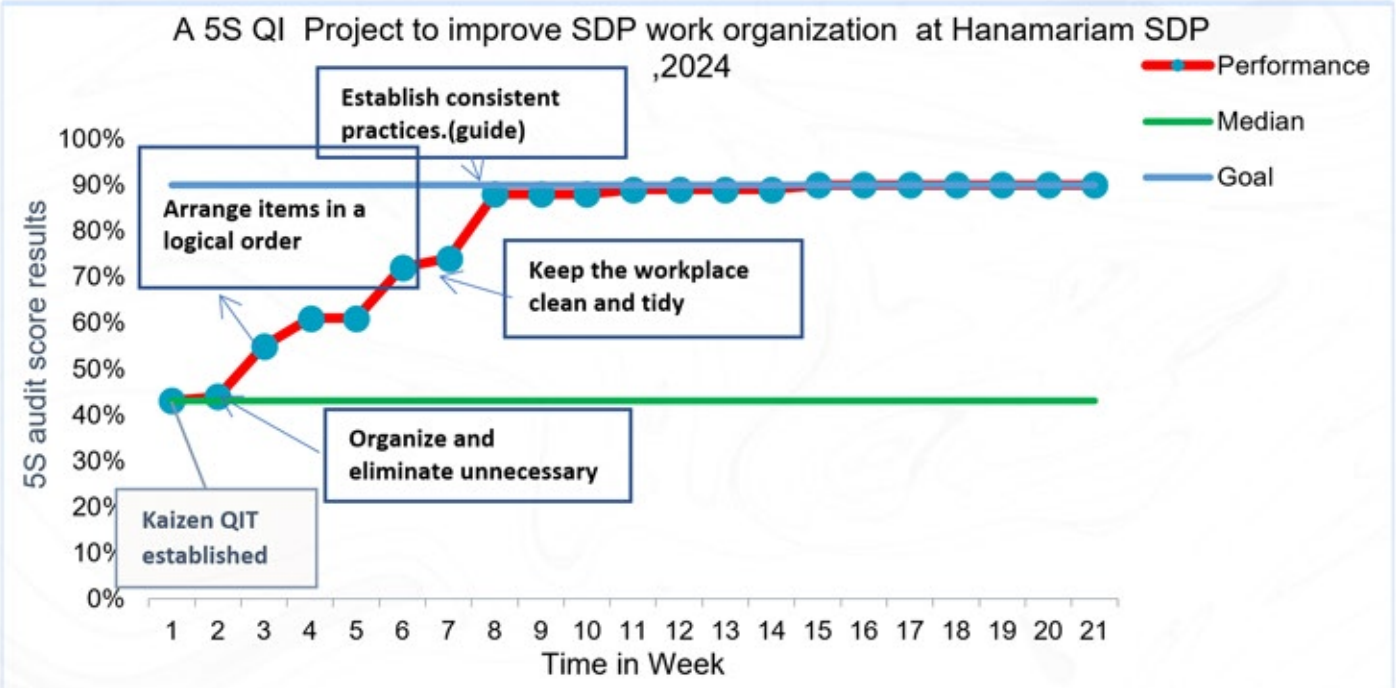
✨ **Work with Us:** Access our rebranded website and social media outlets to explore all these features, stay updated, and collaborate in creating sustainable impact.

This ambitious digital transformation underscores MENA's commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability, ensuring we remain at the forefront of driving change and improving lives.

Implementation of the 5S-KAIZEN approach in a community setting as continuous quality improvement

Background: The 5S-Kaizen is a step-by-step continuous improvement strategy that helps solve problems and eliminate waste. The initiative's objective was to assess the impact of its implementation in the Hannamariam community service delivery point (SDP)

Methods: The initiative was implemented in Nifas Silk Lafto sub-city at Hannamariam SDP from December 2023 to March 2024. The 5S-KAIZEN was introduced into this community setting by providing orientation to the QI team to introduce the 5S and Kaizen activities. 5S-KAIZEN audit scores, satisfaction surveys, QI meetings, and brainstorming sessions were conducted to collect data. Checklists, 5S-KAIZEN audit scores, and run charts were used to analyze data. Results: The quality improvement team has implemented an action plan from January 1, 2024. The 5S step activities audit score at baseline was 43%, and after 3 months of implementation, the audit score became 90%, showing significant improvement. Moreover, the project has shown remarkable results in addressing employee and client satisfaction. Furthermore, it led to improved items search time and the release of space. Improved work environment increased staff satisfaction



Conclusions: The 5S-Kaizen is the easiest and most effective way to create a suitable work environment and quality service that leads to client and provider satisfaction. The funding of this initiative can be disseminated and perpetuated through the 5S-KAIZEN approach in a community setting.

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SUCCESS STORY

From Adversity to Empowerment: Hanamariam Dagnew's Journey of Resilience

Hanamariam Dagnew [1], a 19-year-old girl living with her biological mother, has faced significant challenges since birth, having acquired HIV perinatally. Her condition, coupled with the hardships of her upbringing, shaped a difficult adolescence. Learning of her HIV status at an early age led to emotional turmoil, self-isolation, and strained relationships, particularly with her mother, whom she blamed for her condition. The passing of her brother and the family's financial struggles further compounded her sense of despair.

Hanamariam's emotional state began to affect her health as she missed medical appointments and disengaged from her treatment. Recognizing the urgency of her situation, one of our program's dedicated Social Service Workers (SSWs) intervened. The SSW provided comprehensive psychosocial support and introduced Hanamariam to a peer support group at the nearby health center. Participating in peer-to-peer sessions marked a turning point for Hanamariam. Seeing other young individuals living with HIV who were thriving and openly sharing their experiences inspired her. She realized she was not alone in her journey and began to view her condition with a renewed sense of hope and acceptance.

Through regular monitoring, counseling, and adherence support, Hanamariam gradually rebuilt her emotional and physical health. She recommitted to her treatment regimen, leading to a stabilized viral load. To address her family's economic challenges, Hanamariam was enrolled in an income vgenerating initiative under the program's economic strengthening component. She received an asset transfer—a chips machine—that enabled her to start a small business.

This business not only provided financial stability for her household but also empowered Hanamariam with a sense of purpose and independence. Balancing her business with her academic pursuits, Hanamariam has become a source of support for her mother while maintaining her education.

Today, Hanamariam is a symbol of resilience and determination. Her transformation underscores the importance of holistic, community-based support in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by young people living with HIV. Her story is a powerful reminder of the impact of USAID and PEPFAR-supported initiatives in fostering health, empowerment, and hope for a better future.



(Photo Caption: Hanamairam at her chips mini shop , Photo credit : Addisalem Gebremeskel , Social service worker , FIDO)

1 Consent was obtained to use her identifiers and her picture

This success story is originated from Fayyaa integrated development organization (FIDO) which is one of LIP working with MENA Prime

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Effect of community-based adherence support group on treatment outcome among people living with HIV/AIDs in Addis Ababa

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Affiliation: MEKDIM ETHIOPIA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MENA), USAID FAMILY FOCUSED HIV PREVENTION CARE AND TREATMENT ACTVITY

Introduction: A community-based adherence support group in HIV care and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Ethiopia is new intervention with the aim of improving adherence to care and ultimately contributing to viral suppression. Community based adherence support group is a group-based case management intervention involving 15-20 PLHIV to discuss their antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and their socioeconomic issues in a community setting. This study assessed the effect of community adherence support groups on viral load suppression among PLHIV in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Methods: A community-based cross-sectional study design was conducted on 379 PLHIV enrolled into the community adherence support group in care and support in Addis Ababa. Study participants who were in the community adherence support group from 2021 to 2023 were selected using a systematic random sampling technique. Sociodemographic characteristics, enrollment status, psychological support, adherence support group and current viral load data were extracted from electronic medical records and entered into SPSS 26. Descriptive and multivariate logistic regression analysis was conducted to test the main hypothesis at a 95% CI with a P<0.05.

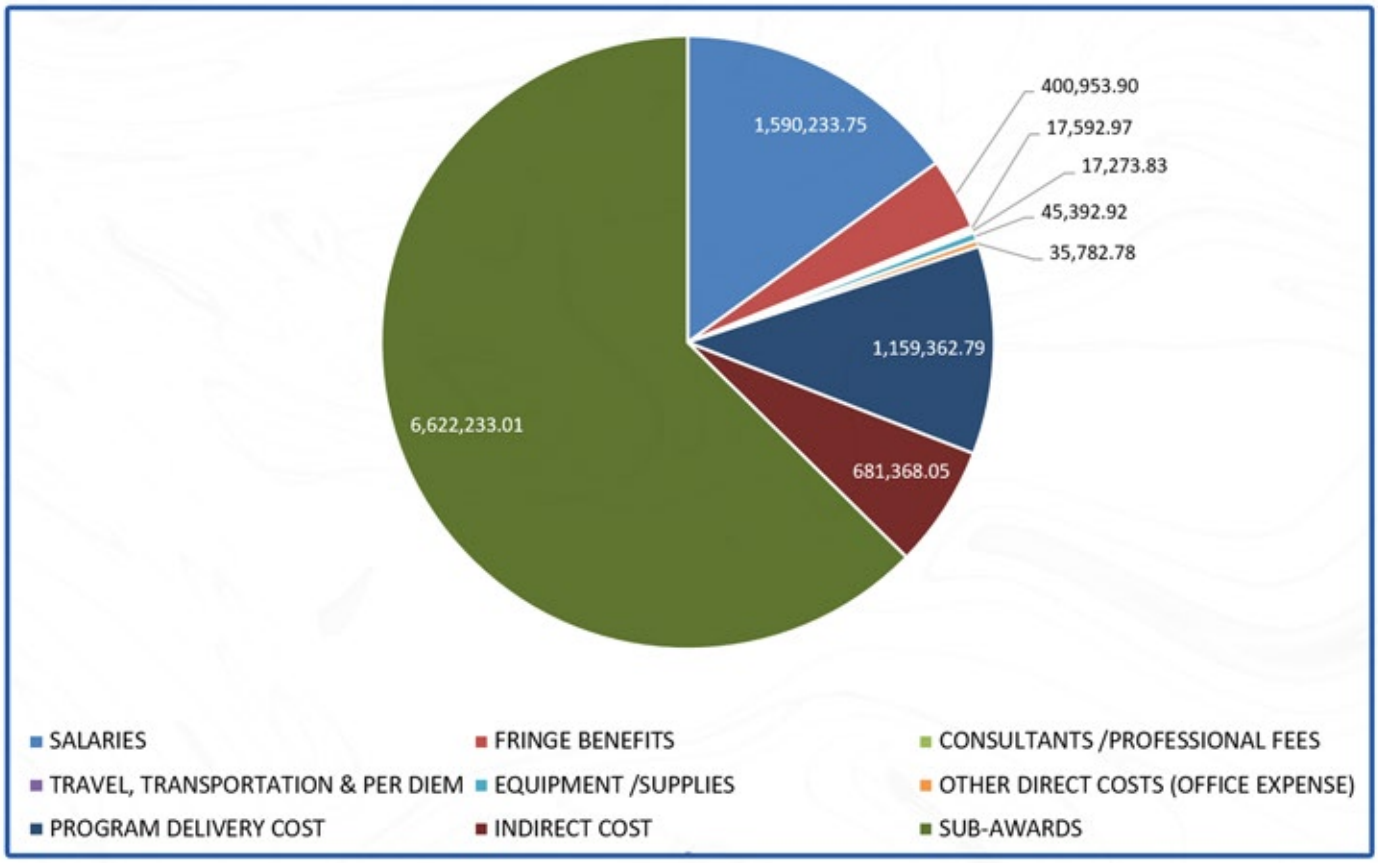
Results: Overall, of 379 PLHIV with the mean age 35 years with a standard deviation of 10 years were included in this study. Of these, majority of them (310=81.79%) were female, and 152(40.1%) were enrolled into community adherence support group. Ninety percent of the study participants achieved viral suppression (96.05% in support group vs 83.59% not in the support group). Adherence support group was also associated with higher odds of viral load suppression (less than 50copies/ml) with (AOR 4.23, 95% CI 1.67–10.73 p=0.002) but there was no significant difference in psychosocial support, sex. enrollment status and routine adherence with (p=0.16, 0.30, 0.199 and 0.122) respectively.

Conclusions: The results of this study suggest enrollment in the community adherence support group is associated with viral load suppression. However, intervention research is needed to determine the extent to which enrollment in community adherence support group is causally associated with improved viral suppression and to identify the most effective policies and programs to improve treatment outcomes.

Summary of Financial Accomplishments in USD, (FY2021 - FY2024)

The Finance and Grant and Compliance Departments at Mekdim Ethiopia National Association (MENA) are dedicated to ensuring strict adherence to Ethiopian laws, **USAID** standards, and donor guidelines in its budget administration and grant management practices. The department ensures that funds are allocated and used in line with approved budgets and grant agreements, maintaining transparency and accountability throughout all financial transactions. It follows USAID's best practices for grant management, ensuring proper documentation, monitoring, and reporting to guarantee funds are used for their intended purposes.

As part of the ongoing USAID-supported FFHPC&T activity, MENA received an obligated budget of **2,952,446.00 USD** and utilized **2,811,968.71 USD** during the 2023/24 program period. This demonstrates MENA's commitment to effective financial management, ensuring that funds are allocated to their intended purposes in alignment with project goals. A detailed budget utilization cascade for the last four years is presented below to highlight the organization's financial management track record and continuous adherence to both local and international standards.



Other Ongoing Programs at MENA

USAID MULU Key Population Activity

The project aims are to increase the availability and accessibility of high-quality, comprehensive HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for key and priority populations (KP/PP) in select priority geographic areas; and strengthening the enabling environment to facilitate access to comprehensive HIV services for KP/PP and improve evidence-based decision making through planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Geographical coverage: 2 sub cities (Kolfe Keranyo & Akaki Kaliti) of Addis Ababa city Administration and 7 Districts (Adama, Modjo, Assela, Dukem, Bishoftu, Wonji, Merti, Dukem)

Donor: USAID through Population Service International (PSI)

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psi Ethiopia

Strengthening Citizens' Voice In Oromia (Ethiopian Social Accountability Program ESAP III)

The objective of this project is to make basic service delivery more equitable, effective, efficient, responsive and accountable through strengthen the use of social accountability tools.

Geographical coverage: The project has been implemented in 24 Woredas in Jimma , Illibaboure and Buno Bedele Zones of Oromia National and Regional States.

Donor: World Bank through the facilitation of the Management Agency (MA)

THE WORLD BANK

ESAP

MENA Community Based ART Clinic

The main objective of MENA's ART community based ART clinic establishment to provide quality and comprehensive HIV prevention and treatments for PLWHA.

Geographical coverage: Addis Ababa City Administration (Arada and AkakiKality Sub cities) and Oromia Region (Adama and Bishoftu towns).

Donor: PSI, PATA, AHF

AHF AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Other Ongoing Programs at MENA

Homeless Elderly Support Project

The project aims at Increasing the availability and accessibility of high-quality, comprehensive HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for key and priority populations (KP/PP) in select priority geographic areas.

Geographical coverage: Addis Ababa City Administration , Oromia Region (Adama Town) and Amhara Region (Dessie Town)

Donor: Federal ministry of Labor and social Affairs

Support Adolescents Sexual Reproductive Health & Job, Skills and Employment Project

The project is intended to undertake activities that generate demand and support youth in accessing contraceptive services, job skills training, and employment in line with the national policies and guideline.

Geographical coverage: Addis Ababa City Administration (4 Sub cities) and Amhara Region (Bahir Dar)

Donor: Triggerise Ethiopia

triggerise

Strengthening comprehensive ART services, psychosocial support services and capacity-building activities for youths living with HIV AIDS at SOS Enfants Ethiopie Burayu Orphanage Center.

The aim of the project is to providing compressive ART services, psychosocial support services, and life skill training for youth living with HIV AIDS at SOS Enfants Ethiopie Burayu Orphanage center.

Geographical coverage: Burayu, Oromia, Ethiopia

Donor: SOS Enfants Ethiopie in collaboration with Passarella Association

Les Enfants du Toukoul
Sos Enfants Ethiopie

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



MR. MENGISTU ZEMENE

1955 - 2017 E.C

Thank you for being a guiding light and a beacon of hope to countless lives.

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO

GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

MoH, BoH, BoWCSA, BoE, BoF and their line offices at Sub City and Woreda level

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

- CCCs, FBOs, CBOs
- Health Facilities
- PLHIV Associations

OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT PARTNERS

project HOPE

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OUR LOCAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Mahibere Hiwot for Social Development
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MAEDOT

Common Vision for Development Association

Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia

Love for Children

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