

SEEDS of HOPE
STEPPING FORWARD
Men Teaching and Learning
about HIV/AIDS

Time Code	Speaker	Text
0:05	NARRATOR	In Ethiopia, an estimated 1,000 people contract HIV each day. The epidemic is changing the very structure of Ethiopian society. Prevention education is being given to men throughout the country.
0:30	TITLE	STEPPING FORWARD Men and HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia
0:37	DEBEDE KEJELA SHORRO AIDWO	A human being is a creature that thinks and analyzes. He asks questions, he has aspirations, he has wants and dreams. Especially these days people have questions they want to ask about HIV/AIDS.
0:53	ANTI AIDS CLUB MEMBER	The number of people with HIV is rising everyday. This is more widely seen in our area. Those of us who understood the disease formed a group, to see how we could work together.
1:14	ANANNIA ADMASSU CHAD-ET	Most of the time educating women on the transmission of HIV/AIDS is useful, but to strengthen the role men play, we need to work with men.
1:35	NARRATOR	Women have long shouldered the burden of caring for the sick. [0:01:41] More recently, men are beginning to share this responsibility.
1:46	ANTI-AIDS CLUB MEMBER (MALE)	Initially, we were only 25 members, 10 men and 15 women. We started this club, to work on home-based care. We are still working on this activity. In fact, when we started we did not have any help.[0:02:15] We started by raising our own money...and taking food from our own homes.
2:22	ANTI-AIDS CLUB MEMBER (FEMALE)	I joined this club after it was established. I saw the work the girls and boys of the club are doing. It is a humanitarian act, and everyone should help. Therefore, I decided to join in

		support of their goal.
2:37	ANTI-AIDS CLUB MEMBER (MALE)	<p>Initially, we did not have the knowledge. We learned that using gloves would hurt patients' feelings. We used to work without them. by slowly telling them that we had to use gloves,only to take care of ourselves, we gradually began using them.</p> <p>[02:56] We meet patients on the street, and they have no one to turn to. We feel that we have to approach them.</p> <p>[03:15]I should engage in home care work my entire life, is what I have come to believe.</p>
3:32	NARRATOR	<p>Nearly eighty percent of Ethiopians live in rural or tribal communities.</p> <p>[03:43] Traditional beliefs and nomadic lifestyles make HIV prevention a challenge.</p> <p>[03:56] AIDS educators are reaching some of these communities, including the tribes of the Afar Region.</p>
4:09	AFAR TRIBE MEMBER	<p>Our community is pastoral, and we are followers of the Islamic religion.</p> <p>[04:21] From what we have learned about AIDS, we should talk about it to our brothers and sisters. We should make it a habit, just like worshiping and nurturing in Islam.</p> <p>[04:41] Since the clan and community leaders are more influential and trusted than we are, it would be good for them to speak during Friday prayer sessions.</p>
5:00	AFAR TRIBAL CHIEF	<p>My tribe wants to be examined(tested for HIV). We explain that being healthy is very important.</p> <p>[05:11] It is important to know whether they have AIDS.</p> <p>[05:18] We cannot force them to get checkups so it's important to tell them why they need to. Given that our rural people do not know a lot (about AIDS) it is important to explain it to them.</p>
5:32	AFAR TRIBE MEMBER	<p>Since we are pastoralists, the women settle at home, while the men work. In our culture, the man cannot talk to a woman. Only the husband or brother can educate a woman.</p> <p>[05:48] This is very difficult to manage because the pastoralist life means that we live scattered.</p> <p>[06:08] Since men and women cannot get together, it would be good if someone could teach the women.</p> <p>[06:17] If I talk to my female relative, without the permission of my uncle...it would be considered as if I committed adultery, and no one would marry her. This is a problem that can only be resolved by religious fathers.</p>

TIME	TITLE	TRANSCRIPT
7:03		HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR FARMING COMMUNITIES
7:05	SENKENESH MENGESHA RURAL AIDS EDUCATOR	There are cultural pressures. When I teach people and they have questions about what we're discussing, our culture of embarrassment makes it hard for them to express feelings. [07:20] You may be shy to say what's good or bad about condoms. A person who uses condoms has changed his behavior and is wise in my opinion.
7:37	TSEGAYE FARMER	if a man is told condoms make him safe, he gets into adultery. How about this? Won't it lead people to be adulterous? Everyone has a religion. Urging condom use is an alternative, but basing education on religious beliefs is better.
7:54	SENKENESH MENGESHA RURAL AIDS EDUCATOR	Very good. but Tsegaye, what I want to say to you is... [07:58] First is abstinence, refraining from sex. Until someone is married...there should be no sex. You have heard me say this, right? If married, be monogamous. If this isn't possible, let's use condoms. [08:18] Before, when I went to school to teach, kids would rather be outside, playing soccer. [08:25] When I am out doing other work, people want me to teach them. They ask me this, outside of the program. I have brought about this much change? [08:41] If one or two others will talk about behavioral change, we'll be done.
8:51	TSEGAYE FARMER	If I don't teach my family and my neighborhood, it's no use. [09:00]Teaching about AIDS is more important than an army's defense of a country. [09:09]The more I learn, the more I want to leave to teach others. [09:16] I am also able to protect myself.
9:22	NARRATOR	Although anyone can contract HIV, some groups are especially vulnerable. [09:30]The Ethiopian Military offer programs to reduce soldiers' risks and supports those who are HIV+.
9:38	DR. GIRMACHEW MAMO ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE FORCES	Compared to the civilians, the military community is more exposed to various diseases. One of these is HIV/AIDS [09:49] As most of the soldiers are young, they have a stronger desire for sex. [09:57] In addition, the army life is intertwined with missions. The soldier might live today, but is unsure of his fate tomorrow. Thus, the soldiers take risks and expose themselves to dangerous situations.

10:23	HIV+ FORMER SOLDIER	I remember one time, after making an appointment with a commercial sex worker for a night. She brought a condom, and asked me to use it. I said I would never use it. She said, "If you're not using it, here, take your money," and gave the money back to me.
10:38	DR. YIGEREMU ABEBE ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE FORCES	In our country, the factor that hinders us from fighting HIV/AIDS and STDs is our culture, which is conservative and secretive regarding sex and gender. [10:56] There is this cultural taboo. [10:59] So the Defense began a program to change this situation, by using the strategy of peer education, to talk about it and break the silence. [11:14] Several activities have been undertaken. Some successes have been achieved. There are some yet to be accomplished.
11:22	INSTRUCTOR IN CLASS	In order to prevent AIDS and STDs using condoms, we should first learn how to properly use condoms. This is the reason for organizing this class. Therefore, the main objective of this class is to teach the use of condoms, and to demonstrate the correct method of using condoms.
11:43	DR. YIGEREMU ABEBE ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE FORCES	According to our policy, if a soldier is carrying the virus, it does not mean he will be discharged from the army. [11:51] He will work as long as he is physically capable of working. [11:57] When he gets weak, the Defense Department will provide the necessary support, and send him to his family. [12:03] Thus, every member of the army knows [that] getting tested does not mean getting discharged from the army.
12:22	HIV+ FORMER SOLDIER	When I first spoke out, they (other soldiers) didn't accept me. [12:28] In fact, because I spoke out openly, they did not want to come close to me. [12:40] For that reason, sometimes when we'd go to the battlefield, they would tell me, "You don't really have AIDS." "You're bluffing, you're just employed by the government."
12:57	DR. GIRMACHEW MAMO ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE FORCES	In fact, in our medical center, many members are HIV positive. [13:02] They take advantage of the counseling services provided by the medical center. [13:09] While most choose to remain hidden, a few choose to teach by making the sacrifice of revealing their status.
13:29	NARRATOR	Many men in Ethiopia travel long distances for employment. [13:35] Some spend months on the road. [13:40] Condoms and AIDS education are provided to those who work for or use the country's train, bus, and trucking systems.

13:51	ALEMNESH TEFERA ISAPSO	<p>This is a transport terminal. Drivers, assistants, conductors and others who go out on work, mainly take condoms.</p> <p>[14:00] In the past, when they took condoms they were afraid.</p> <p>[14:04] There was fear in our country, it was a problem.</p> <p>[14:12] Since education is being provided now, they are becoming aware, and they are understanding the education.</p> <p>[14:20] As a result, most are not ashamed, but those who are new are still ashamed.</p> <p>[14:25] Previously, they were all ashamed, now they are okay; there is a lot of change.</p> <p>[14:29] They realize condoms protect them from the HIV virus, and from various STDs and unwanted pregnancies.</p> <p>[14:35] After the behavioral change, they realize using a condom is for their benefit, so they come and take condoms.</p>
14:45	SULTAN HAJI TRUCK DRIVER COUNSELOR	<p>Counseling means, the counselor and user jointly find a solution. During the counseling, the choice is given to the individual, and the decision is left to the individual.</p> <p>[15:09] What do you do? When you teach, first you give them leaflets, then you explain it to them. Our truck drivers travel a lot and need rest, and while resting they drink alcohol. After drinking, they could easily be tempted, and they may not engage in safe sex. After explaining it, you ask them questions. The purpose of questions is to see how many facts they understood and learned. What do you do after that? You let them discuss it among themselves.</p>
15:45	SISTER TSEHAITU DESTA SAVE THE CHILDREN	<p>Our project focuses on two sectors of the society, those working as commercial sex workers and truck drivers. We teach them to be aware and bring about behavioral change. Behavioral change means if they know about the disease, they can prevent infection...or guard against contracting the virus.</p> <p>[16:12] It is not easy to bring about behavioral change. It takes a long time and requires patience. Changes are being seen now; previously when the issue was raised, many people did not want to hear about it. But now when we call them to a meeting, they come and sit patiently, and express their opinions.</p>
16:33	SULTAN HAJI TRUCK DRIVER COUNSELOR	<p>From what we saw before, there is almost a 50% difference. Meaning, the truckers have understood the situation. This is for two reasons. First, their friends are vanishing from their sides. Second, the education we offer gives them perspective, and they realize this disease is horrible. Therefore, they have come to understand, and the rate of new infections (for truckers) has decreased.</p>
17:00	NARRATOR	Committed activists distribute condoms and offer education to young men in local neighborhoods.

17:11	GENET WOLDE FGAE GIRLS CLUB	<p>When I ask young people if they want to use it (a condom), they say, "No."</p> <p>[17:19] But if I suspect they're having sex, I give them condoms, through their close friends.</p> <p>[17:25] Wherever I go, I know they need them...and they know they need them. They'd rather get them from me than buy them somewhere else.</p> <p>[17:37] I bring them flyers and materials about HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.</p> <p>[17:44] Because the problem is serious, I've never felt embarrassed. When I tell my friends what I do, they ask me, "Aren't you embarrassed?" They think it's shameful work. They ask, "How can you admit that you give out condoms?" But I've never thought it's a big deal.</p>
18:06	NARRATOR	Controversial issues about gender and power roles are being addressed in performances that are both educational and entertaining.
18:15	KEBEDE KEJELA SHORRO AIDWO	<p>Of the modest wealth, we have today most of it is in the hands of men. The man controls the money. The man says as long as I buy her monthly groceries, what else does she need?</p> <p>[18:27] The wife can't even talk about sex with her husband. She can't even tell him to wear a condom.</p>
18:34	ANANNIA ADMASSU CHAD-ET	One of the most difficult challenges, in my experience, is bringing about behavioral change among men, and for them to show some spirit of cooperation.
18:44	TITLE	CHAD-ET DRAMA PERFORMANCE
18:46	ANANNIA ADMASSU CHAD-ET	For the most part, in my experience working on HIV prevention, mostly women say that men don't show respect and don't care.
18:58	ACTOR 1 ON STAGE	Come on! Let's go!
19:00	ACTOR 2 ON STAGE	She is a child. You can't take her away for the night.
19:07	ACTOR 1 ON STAGE	Get lost, it's none of your business!

19:11	ACTOR 2 ON STAGE	Don't you agree with what I am saying?
19:13	ACTOR 1 ON STAGE	No! I don't agree. I don't agree.
19:14	ACTOR 2 ON STAGE	This child does not move from this spot.
19:18	ACTOR 1 ON STAGE	What? She doesn't move from this spot?
19:21	ACTOR 2 ON STAGE	Yes.
19:22	ACTOR 1 ON STAGE	You're not going to let her come with me? Oh, I can't believe this! You're a chili pepper!
19:31	ANANNIA ADMASSU CHAD-ET	In this way, especially men -- because when we talk about sex, we are not talking only about women. We are talking about men too. We get the audience involved in discussions. We make an effort to clarify who is right and who is wrong. We try to motivate them.
20:00	ACTOR 1 ON STAGE	The floor is open. We invite you to come and give your opinion.
20:08	ACTOR 2 ON STAGE	Most men and women these days don't use it (a condom). Only a few people use it. But it's imperative that we use it.
20:25	ANTI AIDS CLUB MEMBER	Initially, I used to get frightened of a casket. But since they have no one available to them, like brothers and sisters, my friends and I help them. If we avoid them, there is no one to prepare their body for the funeral. Preparing a dead body at our age is unbelievable. It is not just one or two bodies. We have prepared many bodies for burial. If someone under our Club's care dies, and I don't get involved in the burial preparations, I feel as though I missed a friend's funeral.
20:57	HIV+ FORMER SOLDIER	For a short time, I did feel bad (about being HIV+), but I also knew of my prior behavior. So after counseling for the future, I decided to do my best to save my people, by going from place to place (to teach others). [21:20] Through people getting education and understanding, and creating behavior change, and trusting each other, I believe not only can we get rid of this problem, but that we can get to the level of destroying it.

21:34	DR. GIRMACHEW MAMO ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE FORCES	These members are teaching the community by coming out and revealing themselves. [21:40] They describe how they got exposed to the disease. [21:48] In fact, some people who are not aware of the problem could harm them, despise them, or shun them. [22:01] However, they have made this sacrifice; they have said, "Let it stop with us, let the next generation be saved."
22:15	DEBEDE KEJELA SHORRO AIDWO	Our people need support. It's not just money or wealth. [22:25] What makes people strong is the moral support they get.