

Teaching others about HIV/AIDS in Debre Zeit

JeCCDO encourages community members to become active participants in informing and teaching each other about common health problems in their locality. For this purpose peer educators are recruited among guardians of Orphan and Vulnerable Children in all areas where the organisation works. In 2007/08, 20 peer educators (95% females), were selected by JeCCDO's target community in Kebele (neighbourhood) 07. They were trained for 3 days on HIV AIDS prevention and control. These peer educators have begun saving the lives of their own families and community through creating increased awareness on transmission prevention of HIV AIDS.



Peer educators in Debre Zeit city creating awareness among their community on HIV/AIDS prevention and control

One of the peer educators, Alem Kifle, tells of her personal experience

“You see, I live with my husband and my 15 years old son. My husband and I are HIV positive but my son is HIV negative. One day my husband I started to quarrel, my son tried to step in to cool the quarrel unfortunately my angry husband bit my son. When I realized what had happened I rushed my son to hospital. This is because I had information about the availability of a prevention drug for post exposure to virus. My son started to take the drug for 28 days as prescribed by the doctor. We then went back for a test and found out that my son is not HIV positive. I was able to save my son's life. This is because through a training JeCCDO organised on HIV and AIDS, I have come to know about a drug currently available to stop transmission of HIV within 72 hours after exposure to the virus.”

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