

## DOC St. Mary's lab center, Annual report of year 2013

- **Presentation outline**

- ✚ Sharing stories of clients
- ✚ General laboratory
- ✚ Livelihood promotion program
- ✚ Religious leaders
- ✚ Staff capacity building
- ✚ Picture Gallery

- **Highlights on the year 2013 performance**

- ✚ 159 individuals provided with basic business training (BBS )
- ✚ 156 individuals provided with *startup capital*
- ✚ 80 Saving and internal lending community (SILC groups) trained
- ✚ 33 individuals provided with Vocational training
- ✚ 25 Religious leaders and IDIR groups trained and organized as association
- ✚ 505 individuals provided with peer support group formation
- ✚ 164 PLHIV received Hygiene & sanitation training
- ✚ 145 PLHIV trained on adherence, positive prevention and gender
- ✚ 5 IGA groups trained and formed; then four groups got license
- ✚ 72 PLHIV provided with Couples Affirming Life and Love (CALL) training
- ✚ 210 couples received The faithful house training
- ✚ 1253 youth got Youth Action kit training (YAK) tool on HIV awareness
- ✚ 4394 CBOs received with We Stop AIDS (WSA) sessions
- ✚ 6,971 people provided General laboratory services
- ✚ Capacity building provided for existing cooperatives

- **Staff capacity building training**

- ✚ All staff trained on Kaizen development of continues improvement
- ✚ Two staff taking six month course on social development with ECUSTA
- ✚ Two staff participated on Result based management
- ✚ Two staff participated on Mango financial management
- ✚ One staff is taking Degree course

- **Livelihood promotion activities and beneficiaries**

This component is one of the strengths of our program and we have continued our effort in improving the living condition of the low-income capacity of families with self employment opportunities. The major components are as follows:

- ✚ 159 of individual IGAs were trained with BBS and supported with working tools and materials related to their business. Through constant follow up done, 90% of the beneficiaries performed good and as a result

they have improved their livelihood by fulfilling their basic needs. They have increased their capital, exercising saving, registered and paying condominium houses.

- ✚ To reduce unemployment of young people, we have involved 33 individuals in different vocational skill training on a trade of their interest. Among them 10 individuals engaged in food preparation, 7 in hairdressing, 2 in Pottery, 3 in leather and sweater work plus we have created a link of 9 people via Micro-finance in leather work as well and 12 beneficiaries joined the training to work in group after training.
- ✚ 5 group IGAs were formed and trained in different business skills and among them 4 groups got license on legalization and then; 2 groups engaged in dried food preparation, 1 group in leather work, 1 in sheep fattening but one group is still in waiting list due to government requirement.
- ✚ 80 individuals were formed as SILC groups and are functional in different groups and their income is as follows:

❖ **Our General and diagnostic laboratory:** is equipped with modern and automated mat ion and experienced professionals and performs quality services as follows:

- ✚ 6,971 people were visited our laboratory in this year for various tests and 38684 tests were performed of which 856 were CD4/CD8 test.
- ✚ 1667 people received HIV/Abs screening test and 41 were HIV positive.
- ✚ 2395 people received voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services.

❖ **Religious Leaders:** organized and formed from three denominations (orthodox, Protestant and Muslim) and Idir groups after a period of 15 series training. They are in the process of legalization to work as organization for the following role:

- ✚ Promoting sustainability of care and support activity within their surrounding community of PLHIV.
- ✚ Child protection and child right assurance (will write awareness creation within the community).
- ✚ Supporting of OVC and engaging in stigma/ discrimination awareness creation activities.

- **DOC St. Mary's laboratory center overview**

St. Mary's Laboratory and HCT Centre aspires to see a society where HIV is no more risk and those already infected and affected individuals live a dignified life. In order to achieve its mission the centre is mainly engaged in:

- Promoting behavioral change related to HIV and AIDS
- Providing HCT and general laboratory service
- Providing care and support for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

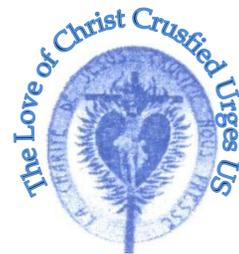
- **Acknowledgment:** we would like to extend our gratitude to all who have supported us in different ways and in especial way we are indebted with our international partners, who have enabled us to uplift and improve the lives and conditions of our beneficiaries. Thank you all and God bless you.
- **Working in partnership and collaboration is our priority:** As Blessed mother Teresa said *“You can do what I cannot do; I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do something beautiful for GOD”*. Fulfillment of mission is better realized by working in partnership and collaboration. By recognizing the qualities and competencies of each partner and finding new ways of harness these for the common good, partnership provides a new opportunity for doing social and development efforts better. Thus we have fostered an atmosphere of collaboration and co-operation in our partnerships and supportive relationships with existing governmental and nongovernmental as well as likewise organizations to the best advantage of our centre and target populations.
- **Address:** DOC St. Mary’s Laboratory and free-standing HCT center: Comprehensive Community Based HIV and AIDS Prevention, Care and Support program.

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- **Director’s message:**



**Luke 10: 36-37** “which of the three do you think, proved himself a neighbor to the man who fell into the Bandit’s hand?’ He replied, ‘the one who showed pity towards him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘go and do the same yourself.” We are reminded, and indeed constantly challenged, that we are called to love our neighbors, and to relieve their suffering, not only out of our abundance but even out of our necessity. In this

spirit, I would like to acknowledge and to thank all of the volunteers and caregivers who, often at great sacrifice to their own livelihood, tend to the needs of their family members and neighbors. I am also grateful to our project staff for their dedication as well as for the cooperation of the local government that facilitated the accomplishment of our activities. We continue to entrust to God the people we serve, our donors and staff for renewed strength and team spirit to face another year of abundant grace and love.

Sr. Margaret Abraha

Executive Director

### Sharing stories of our clients



My name is Belete Solomon 29 years old and a father of two children one 10 year and the other 1 year and 6months old. Due to economic problem my wife has decided to go abroad for job opportunities and first she has to do HIV test. It was then that she found out her status is HIV Positive and could not face me. Instead she run to her family and told the story. It was her mother that approached me first and told me the case. Then I had no choice but to accepted the situation and I brought

my wife home.

After a while, my health condition also got worse and worse and I was admitted to St. Paulo's Hospital. My doctor advised me to do HIV test and I agreed to and I was also came out HIV positive. Then my CD4 count was 69 and the doctor told me to start ART immediately & I have started already. But I lost hope and then one day I was drunk and talk loudly about my status & my neighbor heard me. Then she advised me to visit St. Mary's laboratory centre and after *while* I have decided to visit the centre and told them everything. They have gave me a visit to my home and found out our situation. Then I was given financial support, counseling and proper training for 6 months. Little by little I got some strength and started carpentry work with 27 Birr daily. However, since I was addicted with smoking and drinking & chewing chat (a leaf with ...), the money was not enough for me.

Slowly I came to my sense and decided to take care of myself and my family too. DOC offered us BBS training for 5 days and gave us 3000.00 Birr as startup capital. With 500 Birr we opened bank account and bought trading material equivalent of 2500.00 Birr. This gave me courage and new spirit and started working very hard. Little by little I improved my work hiring machinery I gained profit. It was 8 month since I get training and start this business. Now I am very happy with my income and my CD4 count reached 333 and my weight from 51Kg-60Kg. I have also decided to give up on my addiction and started saving. My health is improved, no more addiction and moreover, I bought house equipments like; TV, refrigerator, Dish, Buffe , bed and so on... now I have about 4,500 Birr in my bank account, about 5,000 Birr for running business, 32 Birr saving with SILC every 15 days with my fellow friends, every month I save for condominium house and I am teaching my son. At the moment I am encouraging and teaching people from my personal experience whenever I find them having in the same problem.

Lastly, I would like to thank DOC organization, donors, DOC staff, my friends and families who in one way or the other helped me to realize my potential and made me a person who I am now. Especially, I am in debt to DOC organization for their Godly work and as a sign of appreciation I am offering the bronze statue of St. Mary with her Child brought from Israel and given to me from my grandparents.



### Sharing stories of CALL Couple



Ato Kindie and W/ro werkie are CALL training attendee couple who living in Entoto Mariam Gulele kifle ketema woreda 1. They have two children and lived five years as couples together. Since they knew each other, they have enjoyed love and respect of each other. As the time goes on, things have been changed and they start corralling and suspecting of each other. As the result of this the elder son was forced to become street boy. The parents could not resist seeing their son abandoning the studies he loved and become street boy.

Then, they have decided to get divorced and they have arranged to discuss the issue with their families back in the country side. The wife has been trying to protect this not to happen but the husband has decided and was no turning back.

Meanwhile, as they were preparing for divorce and discussing with the entire family members, there appeared an invitation of training on CALL from DOC St. Mary's Laboratory and free-standing HCT center. Although the wife was willing to attend this training, the husband has show resistance again. After strong involvement and help of the neighbors and friends, they have managed to attend the training and seriously followed all the steps of the different sessions. Each started to see his/her problem from own perspective and slowly they started to share their life situation.

W/ro Werkie, started to narrate her story with tears as follows. ***"Both of us are living with HIV for the last seven years. But instead of supporting and consoling each other, we have been blaming one another corralling almost every day. Especially I could not tolerate the insults of my husband and I started to hate myself too. However, this training helped me above all to recover believing on myself. I understood that I am precious creature after the image and likeness of God."***

Ato Kindie, also narrated their problem this way. ***"I have been working in two places in different shifts and was managing to provide my family. But my wife repeatedly tells me why are you with this one and with that one every now and then? I was fed up with this and hated my work too. I stopped working and I put my family in danger."***

After sharing their story and all the pains they had, they asked the whole trainees to learn from them and they have reconciled asking one another for forgiveness with tears and laughter at the same time. All the trainees were happy and congratulated them, by testifying "this has been a great success to the couple and also to the organization who arranged this training."

Therefore, the trainers and representative of the organization, witnessing this great success offered them the faithful house statue as a symbol of strong and unshakable house which represents their marriage life and to put it in front of their bed to remind them that they are strong couple.

Few days as the training was over, the brother of the wife testified that ***"I came thinking that they will get divorce as they have told us, but things have been changed, the elder son has come home, they have new spirit and strong than ever. So I have a joy which I can't express with words and going back countryside to share this joy with our families."***



### **Sharing stories of The Faithful House Couples**

Ato Derebew and W/ro Achamelesh are the Faithful house training attendant couples who live in Gulele K/k woreda 6 a place called Mariam weniz. Derebew has one child previously and the couple now has expecting new child within a month time. While Derebew is a trader who travels to different provinces concerning his work, Achamelesh is a house wife who just expects from the hand of her husband. What we have observed from co-trainees and from their sharing are that Achamelesh loves the child of her husband more than anything and she enjoys treating her. Everybody who sees their love thinks that she is her child but once you ask it, you discover that she has no mother. Unfortunately, Whenever Ato Derebew comes home

from his work; he starts carrel with his wife suspecting that she is bringing other men after him. Although the people who know his wife very well advices him, he could not listen to them and continued disturbing his wife every new and then.

Achamelesh said, “even if I tell him that I am faithful to him to God, he could not believe me and slowly he stopped helping me. As I have no other income, I started begging although people told me to take him to court and share his property, I was not give up on him. One day, my neighbor who took the faithful house training told me about the organization and the advantage of this training. Then, I have asked the same couple to convince my husband and organize the training for us too. God is good and my plan was successful and we have got the chance of attending the faithful house training. To say the true my husband was came for periem but I was hoping the training will help him to think positively for our marriage life. At the final day of our training, when everyone was asked about the training surprisingly my husband kneeling in front of me and his child asked as for forgiveness and promised us that he will never again abandon us. Everybody clapped for us and we were reconciled and with new spirit we have started our life again.”

Then the five days Faithful house training statue was given to them as reconciliation symbol and told to keep it in front of their bedroom to remind them about their faithfulness and strangeness in their marriage life. Achamelesh added that “what surprised me more was that after finishing our training and going back home my husband was made a radical change and started preparing me coffee as I am 8 month pregnant and treats me differently. He even teaches me about the whole process of the faithful house training again and promises me nothing can separate us from our love. So I am grateful to the organization who prepared the training particularly for us and all the people who are encouraging us to be strong. God Bless you all. God is good!”

• Picture Gallery



Religious Leaders accomplished RAT workshop



Anti AIDS Clubs on Group Evaluation



Different Group IGA on Business dynamics training



CALL Couple and The Faithful House Couple were offered Training statue as sign of reconciliation



Religious Leaders and IDIR groups on discussion and training



Best performers award and experience sharing with low performer



Vocational group on pottery practice



SCIAF partner visitor on beneficiaries workshop



Vocational group on food preparation practice



Beneficiaries material display



SILC group on saving and lending process



Staff capacity building training



VCT Service



Lab tests



Sample collection



Diagnostic lab equipments

“If we forget for a moment that the poor are the members of Christ, we will inevitably serve them with less gentleness and love.” St. Louise De Marillac

“Remember it is the poor that you serve, that it is their money you are using...” St. Louise De Marillac

**“May our presence and care to those most in need reflect the gentleness, esteem, and dignity we see reflected in the life and work of Jesus.” St. Vincent De Paul.**