

# KAPB study on HIV/AIDS amongst youth and adolescent refugees in western Ethiopia

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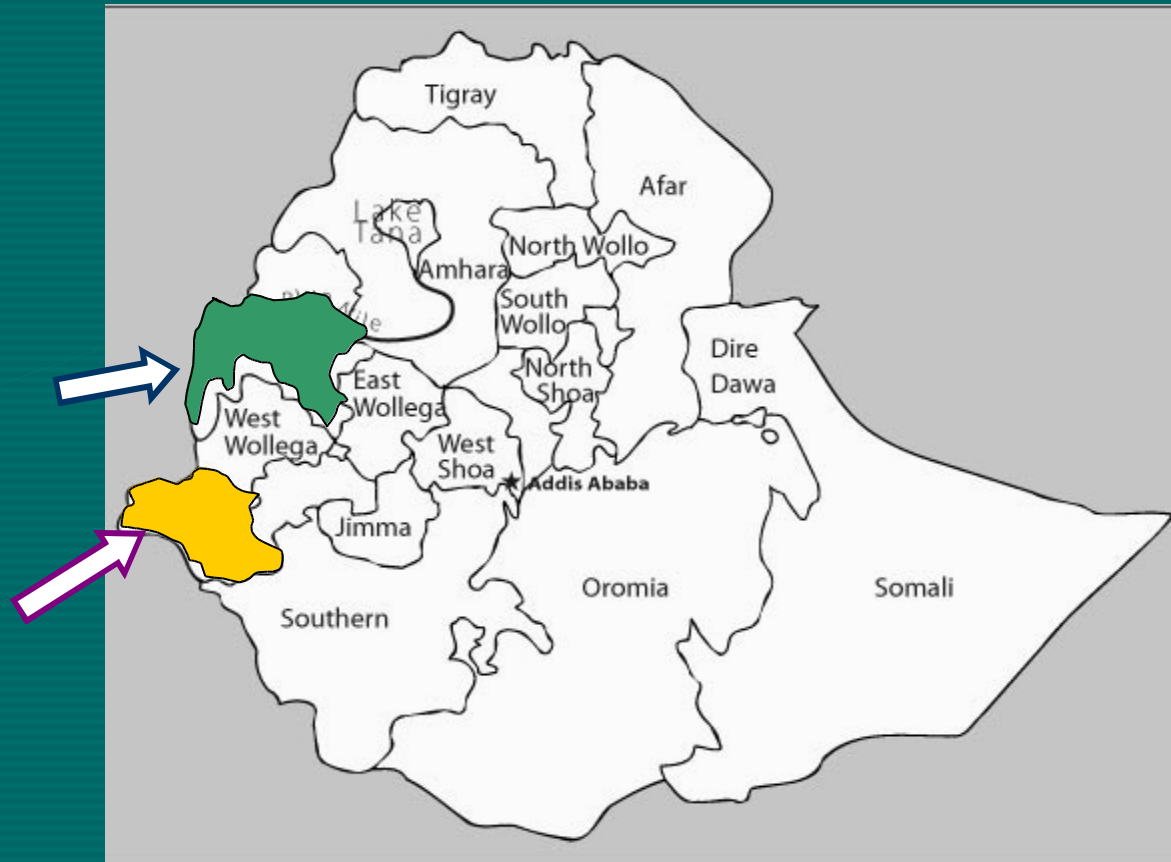
# Overview: Refugee demographics

- Five refugee camps in western part of Ethiopia
- A total of 72,272 refugees
- Women in childbearing age: 45%
- About 40% 15-25 years old
- Average household size is five
- Majority are farmers

# Location



# Location of Refugee Camps



# The Project

- UNHCR and Administration for Refugees/Returnees Authority (ARRA) introduced HIV/AIDS prevention and care program in 2001
- Project objective:
  - Reduce transmission of HIV infection
- Baseline survey on KAPB conducted

# Survey Objectives

- Assess KAPB related to HIV/AIDS and STIs among young refugees
- Examine refugees knowledge on existing HIV/AIDS & STI prevention activities
- Identify the best means to improve access to information and services on HIV/AIDS

# Study Methods

- Three refugee camps selected for the survey
- 18 FGDs conducted
- Size of groups ranged from five to 11 participants: 123 participants total
- Youth (10-24); health workers; community leaders

# Findings: Youth knowledge of STDs

- Better level of awareness about STDs among boys than girls
- In-school youth better informed about STD than out-of-school youth
  - Few out-of-school youth unable to mention any STDs
- Gonorrhoea and syphilis STDs correctly identified

# STDs Knowledge (contd)

- Cough, Tuberculosis and Influenza –STDs incorrectly identified
- Unsafe sex with CSW mode of STDs

# Findings: Reported prevalence by health workers

- STD prevalence high in Dimma
- Urethral tract infection and genital ulcer common STDs seen
- Syphilis, vaginal fungus and gonorrhoea common in Bonga

# Findings: Youth knowledge of HIV/AIDS

- In-school males have better awareness about HIV/AIDS
- Modes of transmission correctly identified:
  - Unsafe sex, body piercing instruments, blood transfusion
- Modes of transmission incorrectly identified:
  - Sitting near HIV+ person; stepping near an HIV+ person's urine; Flies
- Majority of youth participants believe they are not at risk for HIV

# Findings: Youth Knowledge and Use of condoms

- Majority have some knowledge about condoms
- Condoms prevent from STDs, HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy
- Access to condom a problem
- Low Condom use

# Findings: Source of youth knowledge

- Health Centers most common source
- Trained community members, churches and sanitarians
- IEC materials (pamphlets) in schools
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- Health professionals, peers, and trained community members preferred source

# Findings: Activities underway

- Education and information provided in the HC
- Trained community members also disseminate
- Limited activities in the schools
- Anti-AIDS clubs organize discussion forums
- CHAs provide info through home visits
- Limited awareness creation activities

# Findings: Priority programming

According to youth

- Regular IEC
- Organize health education through drama, theater and discussion forum
- Distribute IEC materials

According to health workers

- Counseling services need to be strengthened
- Well equipped Health facilities

# Follow-up recommendations

- Well-organized IEC through different channels
- IEC materials adequately produced and distributed
- Regular supply of condom
- Health facilities need to be equipped to address STI issues and introduce VCT
- Activities need to be coordinated