

## **Success Story: Tracing of lost to follow up (LTFU) patients on ART (Shared Responsibility)**

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Ethiopia HIV/AIDS Care and Support Project  
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## HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program

### Success Story

#### Tracing of lost to follow up (LTFU) patients on ART (Shared Responsibility)

##### Creating synergies for effective tracing of lost to follow up (LTFU) patients on ART



Hagerie, the community mobiliser for the Kirkos Health Center along with Shewareged, the health center's case manager, and Nuria Yakob, its health officer, surrounded by some of the center's KOOWs and their social network for tracing lost to follow up clients.

*"Working with the case manager to trace clients has increased our acceptability and value in the community" declared the KOOWs after their weekly meeting with the case manager.*

The HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program (HCSP) provides technical assistance to Addis Ababa's lowest administrative unit, the kebele, to select and deploy five kebele-oriented outreach workers (KOOWs) each. HCSP has also trained and deployed community mobilizers in each to coordinate the work of KOOWs at community level and create linkages with health facilities.

Tracing of lost to follow up (LTFU) patients to ART has continued to be a challenge but the Kirkos Health Center's case manager and KOOWs have demonstrated admirable success in getting lost patients back to treatment. Supporting the KOOWs success is their provision of adherence counseling to clients on ART as part of their routine home visits.

Hagerie Getenet, the community mobilizer of Kirkos sub city and Shewareged Kassie, the case manager of the Kirkos health center, have created effective service linkages between the health center and the community it serves. In the health center's catchment area, there are twenty KOOWs functioning. In the second year of the program, they successfully traced sixty-five (17 male and 48 female) individuals who then restarted their treatment.

One challenge has been clients changing their address due to fear of stigma. However, the KOOWs have been successful in getting all their traced cases back to the health center for restarting ART treatment. KOOWs also report to the health center any deceased patients they have been tracing.

The case manager, Shewareged, meets weekly with the KOOWs for updates on LTFU cases. This schedule, developed by Shewareged and Hagerie together, has proved effective. The Kirkos Health Center's ART focal person, Nuria Yakob, has noted the valuable support she has received for meeting the challenge of lost cases through such impressive collaboration.

Shewareged is always engaged, updating the addresses of her clients and obtaining their informed consent through discussion on the important role KOOWs play in the community. KOOWs have found Shewareged's efforts very helpful, especially for reducing community rejection and building rapport to a level that allows them to bring up and openly discuss sensitive subjects around HIV/AIDS in the community.