

Minute of Second HEIs HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control sub-Forum

General Assembly Meeting

Date: July 12-13/2013

Venue: Dire International Hotel, Adama

Participants: All members (Presidents and HIV/AIDS focal persons) of higher education institutions from both public and private institutions, partners and invited guests.

Day one:



The general assembly meeting was started with the welcoming address by Mr. Philipos Petros, a secretary of the sub-Forum. Mr. Philipos in his welcoming address mentioned his appreciation to all the participants of the meeting for their due consideration and acceptance of the invitation. He also wished a fruitful two days meeting and stays at Adama. Following this, Mr. Philipos introduced the details of meeting program and invited Dr. Fikre Lemesa, chairperson of the sub- forum to deliver his opening speech. The program detailed schedule is attached at the end of the minute.

Dr. Fikre in his opening speech addressed H.E. Dr Kaba Urgesa, State Minister of the Federal Ministry of Education of Ethiopia and the guest of honour of the day and other guests from the partner institutions. Dr. Fikre did mention the historical perspectives of the formulation of this sub-forum toward tackling problems related to HIV/AIDS under Ethiopian Higher Educational Institutions. On his opening speech Dr. Fikre also indicated efforts and accomplishments of the executive committee of the sub-forum and expectations from this meeting. Some of the major accomplishments of the executive committee in collaboration with partners and stakeholders include the development of:

- Policy framework
- Strategic plan document
- Communication strategy
- Various interventions packages

Dr. Fikre at the end of his speech shared his thanks and acknowledgements for those individuals and organizations contributed for the successful implementation of the sub-forum's plan in the previous

years. Lastly, he invited Dr. Kaba Urgesa, State Minister of Education and the Chair-person of the General Assembly to offer his keynote address and officially open the meeting.



On his keynote address H.E. Dr. Kaba, shared his heart felt happiness to be in the second general assembly meeting. Dr. Kaba highlighted the rationale for the establishment of the forum as HIV/ AIDS issue has been an issue for all world nations and humankind. He stated in his remarkable speech about the burden of HIV/AIDS and the toll of deaths and sufferings of life. The impacts of HIV/AIDS in education sector in general and higher education sector in particular in the absence of appropriate responses such as biomedical, structural and behavioral interventions.

Dr. Kaba's speech also touched the current situations of HEIs massification and related increment in enrolling large number of Ethiopian youths. His speech reminded the general assembly how to enjoy the benefits of the huge number of youth entering into the development sectors of the nation, by averting HIV/AIDS related challenges surrounded these youths. HEIs in Ethiopia are not immune to this epidemic so that they cannot be seen as an "Ivory tower" where no HIV infection can occur. The underlying factors of HIV infections among HEIs youth are practicing multiple partners, non-condom use, transactional sex, substance use.

His Excellency shared the commitment of the Federal Ministry of Education towards mitigating of HIV/ AIDS as follows. Both FDRE's current Strategic planning management II, Education sector HIV strategy aims to advance progress in achieving for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development goals by 2015.

Dr. Kaba also appreciated the efforts of many stakeholders and the government of Ethiopia towards averting the rapid progression of HIV/AIDS. As a result, our country Ethiopia, is achieving a 90% decline in incidence and reduction of AIDS death by more than 50%, recently. Despite the recent achievements, the report underscores that the gains are fragile unless we work hard on the underlying proximal and basic distal determinants that requires consistent , multi-sectorial and collaborative interventions based on scientifically proven and evidence based decision making. Thus, it is imperative to create synergies and strong collaboration to bring dramatic change, to accelerate our momentum not only for our institution but also for the wellbeing of our nations.

As the saying goes the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, we came together and established this HEI's partnerships sub forum, in 2010 and since its establishment, the coordinating office together with development partners have done tremendous activities that includes but not limited to

organizing GA meeting, capacity building for coordinators, training, designing strategic and policy frame work, and capacitating its coordination office.

Moreover, Dr. Kaba stated his hope that this meeting is parts and parcel of the ongoing achievement for the forum so that it is an imperative for all of the participants to re-energize the response for success in the years ahead. In these two days we have an opportunity to evaluate our past achievements and gaps in national AIDS response in general and in HEI's in particular based on your experiences and research findings so that we must take bold decisions that will dramatically transform the HIV& AIDS response in HEIs in Ethiopia that help to move us towards an HIV-free higher education institutions and HIV free generation.

Finally, Dr. Kaba ensured that the Ethiopian Government, Ministry of Education is committed to all supports and inquiry the forum made for further involvement of HIV/AIDS response thus, to realize this close follow up and supportive supervision from MoE has also a paramount importance.

Last but not the least , Dr. Kaba, on behalf of MoE and himself, expressed his appreciation to those stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS/SRH preventions in Higher education, University presidents, coordinators of this workshops for their commitments and also wishes this workshop to be fruitful, and serves as a bank of knowledge that will bring splendid outcomes.



After the key note address by Dr. Kaba, Dr Fikre Lemesa has presented a two-year performance report of the executive committee. The report was organized in two parts: a) a 2004 E.C. performance report and, b) a 2005 E.C. performance report. The 2004 E.C. report is organized in part I, II, challenges and ways forward. The report of activities performance was presented in a manner that encompasses the objective, planned and accomplished activities and remark. The report indicated that most planes were accomplished successfully except few. Some activities where the achievements were below the expectations were also revealed. These are experiences sharing outside the country, creating networks with other forums, advocacy and follow on the adoption the education sector HIV/AIDS policy at national level to fit the context of HEIs.

After the performance report presentation by Dr. Fikre Lemessa, the chairperson of the sub-forum and president of Jimma University, discussion session was chaired jointly by Dr. Kaba Urgessa (State Minister of Education and Chairperson of the General Assembly of HEIs sub -Forum), Dr. Fikre Lemessa



(President of Jimma University and Chairperson of the Executive Committee), and Mr. Alemu Anno, (Director of Multi-sectoral Directorate, FHAPCO). Dr. Kaba, before opening the floor for discussion, expressed his appreciation for two members of the general assembly and teaching staff of respective universities for their successes in their academic career. These are: Professor Afework Kassu, who recently promoted to the highest academic rank (professor) from the University of Gondar and Dr. Lemessa Oljira, who recently obtained his PhD from Haremaya University. Then, the chairman requested the general assembly to join him in addressing congratulations for the aforementioned members.

Following this, Dr. Kaba also reminded the general assembly the focus area of the discussion on performance report. He stated the area which needs special attention. These are:

- Payment of membership fee
- An unaccomplished plan

Based on the directives and concerns, the general assembly raised various issues related to the performance. All the general assembly members who have raised points during the discussion on the performance report mentioned their appreciation to the remarkable achievements of the executive committee. They also congratulated for the success so far. During the discussion, members raised points of concern and forwarded possible means and strategies to strengthen the forum in order to reach the desired outcome (creating HIV/AIDS free higher educational institutions thereby HIV/AIDS free nation). Some points raised by the participants needed further deliberation include:

- Challenges related to HIV/AIDS mainstreaming into the curriculum, the how and who is the primary responsible entity to do so;
 - Difficulties of doing at department level and whether MOE could be the primary responsible organization;
- Problems related to membership fee execution due to the rigid financial regulation under the public higher education institutions and presumed lack of source of fund by the private institutions;
- The importance of experience sharing abroad to the countries and institutions with best practices such as Uganda, Kenya, etc...;
- Inadequate HIV/AIDS related research and lack of focus of the existing research,

- Limitations of Universities in the community level involvement: to pinpoint such as orphan support; etc...
- Whether taskforce is important in the presence of the directorate or office for HIV/AIDS affair;
- Whether making all approaches toward HIV/AIDS implementation a uniform across all HEIs is important;
- Where is the focus area for the 2006 E.C. budget year?
- Questions related to the ownership of the performance (whether the universities or the sub-forum);
- About the possibilities to differentiate the roles of the universities and the forum;
- Reasons for some under achievements other than financial limitation;
- Experiences related to contribution from employees' salary to support the HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities;
- Whether a 2 % budget allocation within the HEIs' have been materialized;
- Reasons for not mentioning the involvement of PLWHA under the HEIs' activities;
- Possibilities of stating some more activities that the executive committee performed such as involvement in ICASSA activities, etc...;
- Possibility for the inclusion of other important public health problems such as TB, malaria and etc... to the HIV/AIDS program under the HEIs;
- Issues of thinking differently and innovatively;
- If any plan for monitoring and evaluation;

After thoroughly collecting questions and comments from the general assembly, the chair team along with other relevant people responded to the issues raised in the following ways.

- The issue of curriculum mainstreaming took series attention. It is well noted that each higher education institution has a clear mandate on curriculum issue in which the HIV/AIDS case is not an exception. However, the need for further discussion with the MOE is underscored.
- With the regard to budget allocation by each HEI, first there has to be a clear and feasible action plan towards HIV/AIDS related activities and budget should be allocated based on the actual demand.
- The importance of experience sharing both inland and abroad is well accepted and consensus was reached to act up on.

- HIV/AIDS related researches within HEIs have different approaches. However, the efforts in some institutions were encouraging. Therefore, the need for innovative, problem solving and focused research undertaking in all HEIs is emphasized.
- Efforts to address the orphans' issue in few universities are highly appreciated and need cascading of these experiences to other institutions.
- The need for a taskforce is crucial as this encompasses top officials of the institution who can easily influence decisions including resource mobilization.
- Some shortcomings/failure for achieving the planned targets is not only attributable to financial shortage. Other aspects related to implementation of planned activities should also take relevant attention.
- With regard to the employees' contribution from their salary in the support of HIV/AIDS activities within each HEIs, priority has to be given to effect a 2 % budget and in situation where the budget wouldn't suffice the financial demand of the plan, consideration will be given to deal on salary based contribution from employees.
- There is clear difference on the level and organization of HIV/AIDS prevention and control office across the HEIs.
- During the replay, emphasis was also given for the importance of ownership of the forum and strengthening the shared responsibilities. It was also noted that so far the executive committee have been working beyond facilitation and coordination.
- It is also emphasized that the need for leadership commitment to mobilize a 2 % budget. In this regard, the program based budget presumed to be a nice solution.
- The importance of working with media to enhance forum's activities is well recognized and finally recommendation was forwarded to work collaboratively within and across institutions and programmes.
- The discussion was winded up and participants went out for coffee/tea break at 10:50 AM.

During the coffee break time exhibition of some good practices of HEIs and partners was opened by the guest of honor of the day. All the general assembly members in the meeting visited the display and received explanations from the respective institution's focal persons. The following institutions were participated in the exhibition.

1. Addis Ababa University
2. Adama University
3. Semera University
4. Admas University College

5. Bahir Dar University
6. Federal Police University College
7. Dilla University
8. Hawassa University
9. Haramaya University
10. University of Gondar
11. Jigjiga University
12. Bule Hora University
13. Kidist Mariam University College
14. Ethiopian Civil Service University
15. Jimma University
16. Wolaita Soddo University
17. Debre Berhan University
18. IFPH (Pathfinder)
19. NASTAD
20. DKT



The exhibition has been a wonderful opportunity for the general assembly members to get an insight about what each institution really doing with respect to the HIV/AIDS prevention and control endeavours.

Following the coffee break and visit to the exhibition, selected research findings from the member institutions were presented. Dr. Tesfaye Teshome, Director General of Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance (HERQA) chaired the presentation. According to the time schedule, the chairman informed all the presenters to stick to five minutes and offer emphasis to the major findings, conclusion and recommendations. The following topics from respective institutions were presented.

S.no.	Topic presented	Institution	Presenter
1	Risky sexual behavior among undergraduate students in Haramaya University	Haramaya University	Andualem Derese
2	Risky sexual behavior among secondary and tertiary school students in Hawassa city	Hawassa University	Debebe Shewano
3	Psychoactive substance abuse and intention to stop among students of Mekele University	Mekele University	Kidane Abraha
4		Wolaita Soddo University	Terefe Gelbo
5	KAP towards HIV/AIDS in ECSU	Ethiopian Civil Service University	Anteneh Mekonnen

All the presenters followed the formal style of scientific paper presentation. They addressed study objectives, brief methodology, major findings, discussion, conclusions and recommendations. The presentations have offered exceptional opportunity for the meeting participants about the research related efforts being done under some universities and help to prioritize implementation plan.

Participants left for lunch break at 1:00PM.

The afternoon session began at 2:00 PM. The afternoon session was moderated by Mr. Alemu Anno (Director of Multi-sectoral Directorate, FHAPCO). This session was devoted for good practices presentations from selected HEIs. The following institutions have presented their experiences towards HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

1. Jimma University
2. Saint Mary University College
3. Addis Ababa University
4. Ethiopian Civil Service University
5. Haremaya University
6. Mekele University

The first presentation was Jimma University by Mulusew Gerbaba. The topic presented was “DANA’ Peer Education intervention in Jimma University under the theme “small acts lead to big change”. In this presentation, Mr. Mulusew, briefly gave the historic back ground information about



Jimma University and the relationship between young people and HIV. He described the relation by using a diagram that indicates the interactions of interrelated factors ranging from the individual behavior to the societal norm and culture. He also explained the development of this program by giving adequate considerations to the underlying factors. The program recognized that its implementation without clear understanding of their social network, behavioral patterns, cultural values, and social norms is difficult to comprehend.

In the program they employed social networking techniques with two major assumptions.

1. “Birds of the same feathers flock together”
2. Strike the Shepherd and the flock will scatter!

Hence, in most instances, the degree and closeness of student social dynamics is more influenced by certain individuals, “influential of influential”. This program primarily focuses on the first year students and progress to the senior ones. However, he also disclosed the existence of some challenges related to the implementation of this program.



Next to the Jimma university presentation, W/ro Ergoge Tesfaye from Saint Mary University College presented on “efforts in implementing HEIs HIV/AIDS policy framework and strategy: The Case of SMUC”. Her presentation highlighted the major thematic area where the SMUC gave focuses. These include:

- Sense of urgency
- Research Based/result oriented
- Human right based approach
- Curriculum mainstreaming
- Gender sensitivity and responsiveness
- Coordination and Harmonization
- Networking and partnership

Moreover, her presentation also indicated responses by the SMUC including:

- HIV and AIDS and Anti- Sexual Harassment Policies (2011),
- Considered as one of the Strategic Priority Areas of the UC,
- GHAPCO established and the Head is member of the Senate,
- Full- time staff assigned,
- Budget allocated ,
- Task-force established ;chaired by the Executive Vice President of the UC,
- Institutional Partnership Forum established,
- Coordination with partners.
- Awareness creation and other programs
- Research
- Curriculum Mainstreaming
- Welfare Activities/Care and Support
- Health Service Provision
- Networking and Partnership

In addition to the above, the presentation encompassed both opportunities and challenges during the intervention of the policy framework and strategy. The opportunities stated are: leadership commitment, office establishment, assignment of focal person, development of comprehensive plan , enthusiasm among the UC community to participate in different activities, working with NASTAD and DKT and the Forum, and other organizations are working with the UC (The Network is established)

Some challenges raised during the presentation are: limited links/network, lack of human resource, environmental problems (substance shops), insufficient readiness of responsible bodies to react(Gov. bodies).

The third presenter was **Dr. Asefa** from Addis Ababa University. The topic of presentation was the experience of Modeling and Reinforcement to Combat HIV/AIDS (MARCH) project implementation



mainly in student community. The presentation addressed the introduction, the details of implementation of the MARCG program, the results of the program, challenges and recommendations. The major implementation activities included:

- Formative evaluation of the available resources, the cultural influences and the local practice of Addis Ababa University
- Development of a blue print ‘Bible’ on HIV/AIDS prevention practice
- Translation of the blue print bible into PSD in the form of photo comic books and campus news letter
- Modeling
- Reinforcement.

The challenges in the implementation of the program are incompleteness of the serial pattern of drama as students leave the university in limited years and inconveniences related to academic schedule and regular reinforcement activities. They forwarded the following recommendations. The need to complete serial drama in one academic year and to cascade the modeling approach to other higher education institutions student communities.



Next to Addis Ababa University, Mr. Anteneh Mekonnen from the Ethiopian Civil Service University presented experience sharing on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and SRH issues in curriculum. In the presentation he addressed the strategies used in curriculum mainstreaming that include infusion, integration and as a separate or standalone course. The integration used incorporating the HIV/AIDS issue in the following subjects: English, Development Management, Leadership, etc...



Dr. Lemessa Olijira presented the experience of Haramay University entitled “Preparation and pretesting of comprehensive peer education manual”. In his presentation Dr. Lemessa addressed introduction to the manual development, objectives, manual preparation process, pre-test

/post-test, future plan and acknowledgement. The manual preparation process encompassed:

- Involvement 10 different professionals of the university
- Facilitator and participant manual – participatory learning
- Training of 50 student facilitators
- Reaching to about 2000 year I students.

The training manual has three modules. Details of the modules are presented below as follows:

- **Module I: Reproductive Biology, Sexuality and Gender relation**
 - Session I: Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
 - Session II: Sex and Sexuality
 - Session III: Occurrence of Pregnancy
 - Session IV: Gender relation
- **Module II: Sexual Behaviors and Consequences of Risky Sexual Behavior**
 - Session I: Basics of Sexual Behavior
 - Session II: HIV and AIDS
 - Session III: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
 - Session IV: Unwanted pregnancy
- **Module III: Preventing the Consequences of Risky Sexual Behavior**
 - Session I: Preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS
 - Session II. Prevention of Unwanted Pregnancy

The future plan also includes: incorporating pretesting results, finalizing the documents, print in printing press, using the manuals for the intended purposes and sharing with similar institutions.



The last presenter in this section was Mr. Eyoel Berhan from Mekele University on “Peer networking as a way to increase access to family planning and HIV and STI protection methods: The case of condom distribution in the Ethiopian Public Universities Sport Festival, Ambo, 2011”. In this presentation Mr. Eyoel revealed the rationale for attempting this approach as this presentation is a preliminary analysis from the peer networking and condom distribution done by the peer heads to the peer groups in the sporting festival done in Ambo University among Ethiopian Public Higher education institutions; the data is gathered from the registries given to the peer heads. Then the implementation of the practices based on the previous sporting festivals, the office learned that there is a huge demand of contraceptives like condoms among the youths in the festival and on their travel to Ambo and back to Mekelle, which is basically 4 days of travel 7 days of sport festival.

Then 180 youths from Mekelle University had participated, 36 youths were trained to be peer head for a week time and they were selected based on their exemplary behaviour and influence among the members of the sport crew, one student was assigned to five students as a peer head, and all his members were told to communicate him/her when they need anything with regard to sexual reproductive health. A total of 4000 condoms were provided to the selected peer heads with condom box.

Based on the experience they obtained in the implementation of peer networking, Mr. Eyoel forwarded the following recommendations:

- Peer networking should be taken as a mechanism of increasing access to sexual reproductive health information and methods that the youths demand.
- It should be supplemented with peer mentoring and support, to avoid the issue of confidentiality and increase quality of the service demand.

After all the presenters (both the research and intervention experience presentation) finalized their presentations, the chairman, Mr. Alemu Anno invited the participants for discussion. Accordingly, the following points were raised by the participants and respective replies were given.

- Why family issue was neglected in the research undertakings?
- Limitation to indicate the global perspectives in the HIV/AIDS research
- Considering the importance of tackling misuse of technology such as pornography watching by cellphone, issue of homosexuality and lesbianism,

- Indication of the research findings such as the risky sexual practice and substance abuse,
- Importance of learning from our past experiences and planning exceptionally for the future
- To put more emphasis on most at risk groups
- Mismatch between the study findings and recommendation thus to focus on policy recommendation based on the empirical finding,
- The challenges related to substances selling center in the near vicinity of Universities, thus this need strong policy action
- The need to focus on biomedical aspects of research such as vaccine development and trial, clinical trials etc...
- As one study presentation indicated the use of cocaine, where were the sources of that cocaine?
- What innovative approach could be sought to combat the prevalent risky sexual and reproductive health related problems in almost all HEIs?
- How to win the reluctance of academic staff?
- Whether the HIV/AIDS curriculum got evaluated and how to integrate HIV/AIDS in natural sciences courses?
- How the best practices were selected, whether any objective evaluation criteria used? Whether any measurement of desired behavioral outcomes? If not done these ways, to be considered in the future.
- Among the options for HIV/AIDS curriculum, which one is better in creating desired outcome?
- Despite the encouraging achievements of the forum so far, yet to aggressively work to combat the drawbacks related to condom non-use
- Strong need to emphasis on the prevention of substance abuse and consideration of working collaboratively with various stakeholders in this regard.

Once the participants exhaustively raised their questions, comments and suggestions on the presented topics, the chair person invited the presenter to replay for the respective questions. Some comments were well accepted and replies were given as follows.

- The issue of cocaine in the study was by default in the questionnaire during data collection and the comment was well accepted,
- In regard to the policy directives toward substance use and abuse, the gap is not in the absence of the policy document but problems related to implement the policy into action and lack of collaborative undertakings,

- The issue of curriculum mainstreaming is still in its trial stage and necessitate vigorous efforts in every institution. These have to consider the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation of its implementation, adequately involving academic staff, developing the capacity of academic staff in areas of HIV/AIDS.
- The importance of maintaining the understanding that students in HEIs are still at increased risk and the need for further consolidated efforts to combat the problems. Universities need to work with various partners including in the regions
- Prioritization of research agenda and thematic area is crucial,
- Inadequate collaboration in most of the HEIs is well agreed and it needs vigorous emphasis to fill this gap shortly by identifying and working with relevant stakeholders nationally and internationally.

Discussion on the presentations was ended at 3:30 PM and participants left for coffee break.

After a coffee break the presentation and endorsement of university focused documents session was chaired by Mr. Tesfalidet from the parliament and Mr. Tedla from the Saint Mary University College jointly. Based on the program, Mr. Belachew from the Defense University presented part of the strategic plan document. The strategic plan document is for intensifying HIV/AIDS issue in Higher Education Institutions in Ethiopia for the time period 2013-2015. In his presentation, he outlined the introduction to the document, the rationale for the strategic document preparation, intention of the strategic plan, contents of the document, its scope of application, vision, mission, goals and guiding principles.

After the first part of the strategic plan document, Dr. Tariku Tadele from Hawassa University has presented the thematic areas and strategies identified. He presented the following thematic areas and strategies identified.

Thematic areas

- Creating enabling environment
- Intensifying HIV prevention
- Strengthening Treatment, Care and Support service to mitigate impacts of the epidemic
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Strengthening the generation of strategic information through research

Strategies identified

- ❖ Creating Enabling Environment (including Strategic Management)

- Leadership and governance strategies
- Capacity building strategies
- Mainstreaming strategies
- Partnership and coordination strategies
- Community involvement strategies
- ❖ Prevention
 - Behavioral HIV prevention strategies
 - Biomedical prevention strategies
 - Structural prevention strategies
- ❖ Treatment, Care & Support strategies
 - Improve access to treatment for PLHIVs
 - Strengthening involvement of the HEIs in care and support
 - Strengthening IGA to sustain the program
- ❖ Research strategies
 - Identify research gaps, needs and priority areas
 - Allocate necessary resources for research on HIV/ AIDS& SRH
 - Coordinate, guide and conduct research work and its use
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation strategies
 - Strengthen the capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Strengthen timely generation of quality information
 - Enhance dissemination and utilization of information

He also presented the detailed matrix of the thematic areas which can be seen from the mother document.

Following the strategic plan document presentation, Mr Sisay has presented on the HIV/AIDS and SRH intervention packages. He gave the highlights of the rationale for the package document development. Some of these rationales are: where does the new infection comes from and the why, what proven interventions exist. In his presentation he pointed out that some models how the infection occurs such as epidemiological triangle models and others.

The guiding principles of the package document were also addresses. These are: evidence based, comprehensiveness, harmonization, partnership, participation, holistic and inclusiveness, ownership and governance, responsiveness, linking, system approach. Overall the document contains introduction, guiding principle, implementation guide, target profile, risks and vulnerability factors, interventions and

monitoring and evaluation. Details of the presentation can be seen from the mother document as the printed copy was distributed to all the general assembly.

The third presenter in this series was Mr. Teshome. His presentation topic was “communication strategy on HIV/AIDS & SRH”. He addressed the process of development of the document. The document preparation did consider the national guideline documents. In the process of the preparation, sexual and reproductive health problems were identified. Similarly, the primary and secondary target group identification was carried out. In his presentation, Mr Teshome succinctly addressed the content of the document, who to use the document, goals and purposes, guiding principles, strategic approach and communication objectives. Similar to the other documents, details of this document can be seen from the main text.

After the three presentations completed, the floor was opened to the participants to raise questions and forward their suggestions and comments as usual. The following points were raised during discussion.

- What could the HEIs contribute to the nearby community in relation to HIV/AIDS and SRH on top of combating problems in their campus? And if the strategic plan document could include this.
- Emphasis to address high risk places should be included in the strategic plan document
- In connection to system thinking, considering the possibility of working with high schools and the role of MOE in taking the lead in this regard,
- With regard to the behavioral strategy, universities are required to be role models,
- With regard to the biomedical level intervention, what can be done in HEIs, if the strategic plan document could reveal this?
- How to monitor and evaluate: who perform what, what is the role of the forum and HEIs (issue of ownership)

Based on the points raised by the participants, presenters gave their responses accordingly. General perspectives of the strategic plan documents were explained as it is a guiding document and the implementers of this document are universities and university colleges under the sub-forum.

- ❖ The role of the forum is coordinating, facilitating and collecting reports and presenting the accomplishment to the general assembly as indicated in the MOU.
- ❖ The roles of HEIs in light of biomedical aspect include both prevention and treatment of the HIV/AIDS.

- ❖ The strategic plan document is in line with the HEIs core activities: HEIs have tremendous roles in generating sound scientific information, disseminating the generated information and intervening based on the generated information.
- ❖ Across strategic plan document, budget breakdown to be included but left out with the assumption that each university would work on its budget break down individually.
- ❖ Concerning the issue of synergy in intervention to encompass high school students, the minimum package for intervention is in the process of publication by the MOE. So far efforts are being made to pilot higher education with high school. Moreover, the urgency of working with high school is emphasised by the FHAPCO. Because this approach has multiple benefits and strengthen the efforts.
- ❖ Universities plan should be harmonized and aligned with the local and regional plan in order to create desired synergy and enhance access of the services.
- ❖ Dr. Fikre, the chairperson of the EC also emphasized the importance of working collaboratively with various stakeholders as stipulated by the document.
- ❖ The issue of risk place and risk person; both are possible ways to address.
- ❖ Lack of integration in universities, across region and other sectors is something to be taken seriously and strictly considered in the future.



After the through discussions and responses to the points raised by the members of the general assembly, the three documents presented to the assembly were endorsed and directives were given to the executive committee to make the best use out of them. At the same time the committee are also reminded to critically evaluate the functionality of the documents and forward any challenge in their implementation for the general assembly for possible amendments.

Second day meeting was started at 8:30 AM. In the early morning session, Mr Yibeltal from Jimma University presented planning, monitoring and evaluation framework for HEIs HIV/AIDS & SRH interventions. Mr. Yibeltal informed in his presentation that the document has three parts, which include the planning, monitoring and evaluation parts. The document also indicated the process of reporting, issue of joint supervision. Indicators are prepared in three categories of interventions. These are structural, biomedical and behavioral in alignment with the FHAPCO. Following the presentation, participants raised the following questions.

- Is the plan inclusive of the integration and collaborative action between local community, regions, zones, districts? The plan document couldn't show the possible linkage with the local community and region.
- How to harmonize the monitoring and evaluation framework with the respective regions
- The reporting system seems lengthy and complicated. Why these steps have been important?
- Are indicators adequate and measurable?
- Issues to be considered in harmonizing the M&E with establishing networks
- Definition on program and project and how to assess the impact of our interventions since university students are leaving the institution within 3-5 years.
- What concrete means to disseminate information, issue of documentation?

The following responses were given to the questions raised by the participants.

- In order to minimize difficulties in reporting process and shorten the lengthy steps, computerizing the document is being considered after consolidating the paperwork.
- Impact assessment will be sought by designing comparative studies between those graduated students left the universities and those students in the universities. In addition, sound methodologies will be identified and implemented.
- Network issue is clearly indicated in the monitoring and evaluation document from the perspectives of the forum and HEIs. Thus, the best performing institution will aid the nearby HEI and offer supportive supervision.
- All the member institutions are expected to send their performance report to the forum and MOE.

At the end of the discussion, the general assembly endorsed the document.

Nest to the above presentation, Mr. Moges Menna, from a coordinating office of the forum presented a 2006 F.Y. plan of action with corresponding budget for the forum. After his presentation Dr.

Kaba chaired the discussion. During the discussion period, participants appreciated the efforts of both the forum and the coordinating office and raised the following questions:

- Whether any plan for the coordinating office to fundraise other than the membership fee collection?
- What about experience sharing abroad issues?
- Why research activities haven't seen in the coordinating office plan?
- Emphasizing on networking
- Developing the importance of investing for success thus all member institutions need to have adequate commitment, reveal leadership roles, understand uniqueness, mobilise resources and ensure wisdom.
- Increased effort on school CC program
- Whether the planned supportive supervision is adequate?
- What if the 2005 F.Y. budget utilization report presented together with 2006 budget plan,
- Why not the budget source clearly revealed?
- Any other budget sources than the membership fee?
- Consideration of the private institutions' sport festival occasion to intervene HIV/AIDS and SRH
- Private-public partnership for the research activities
- Whether there is any mechanism to force the private institution to effect the membership fee in time?
- Some private institutions are not well equipped with respect to human resource and lacks commitment
- Supportive supervision should also include private institutions
- The need for establishing data base and selecting research themes
- HERQA should emphasize HIV/AIDS issue while assuring education quality particularly in private institutions
- The plan should also include agreed up on orientation document in form of PPT and or video tape for the freshman students. It has to be in the form of entertainment and educational.
- The need to give more focus for new institutions
- Considering the establishment of local and regional forums.

Mr. Moges has responded for some of the points raised by the participants. With respect to the coordinating offices efforts to mobilise resources from various sources, Mr Moges replied as that significant amount of funds were received for the accomplishment of 2005 planned activities.

- The developed plan by the forum will be adopted by the member institution according to the convenience to the local situation. He also mentioned that the forum will assist in the process of adoption.
- As to the overall budget sources: the leading one is membership fee followed by UN related support and other means to be solicited.
- The issue of including and supporting new institutions is already considered.
- With regard to the selection of best practices and research undertakings, all member HEIs were invited to present their accomplishments and selected based on objective and transparent ways.
- The orientation materials are already developed but need further improvement
- It is highly emphasised that the need for more budget than the membership fee. As the activities are being expanded and the amount of membership fee is very small to cover all.

Dr. Kaba on his part has emphasized the urgency of effecting the membership fee as this is crucial for the smooth implementation of the planned activities and strengthens the forum. The comment related to research intervention to include both public and private HEIs is well accepted and agreed.

After the morning coffee break, Jimma University has presented the forums website developed by the same university. Mr. Mulusew highlighted the benefits and process of the website development. After the web site presentation election of the executive committee of the forum was conducted. Dr. Kaba was the chairperson of the election process. Before directly entering to the election process, Dr Kaba reminded the general assembly about the progress and challenges faced by the former executive committee. He also reminded the list of first executive committee. Dr. Kaba also asked the participants how to go about the election process. Since some institutions neither actively participated nor paid the membership fee. He said that it is wise for the GA to think seriously on these issues and decide which institutions to involve. Various opinions were raised from the participants on which institutions to be eligible.

- Those institutions not yet completed their membership fee shouldn't be considered
- Those institutions actively performed in the former round should continue,
- How the performance of those supposed to be performed actively evaluated?
- Make obvious which institutions behaved weakly during the first round,

Dr. Kaba then replied to concerns raised by the participants related to the election process. He reminded that the former election was conducted based on the MOU. The MOU also offers provision for the willing and good performing institution to be elected for the second round. If the GA accepts the

continuity of those institutions with adequate involvement, the MOU does allow it. He also succinctly expressed what he meant by the inactive institution. He didn't mean that those institutions did nothing related to HIV/AIDS activities within their institutions or contributed to the forum but he meant that the reluctance of the CEO of the institution to take part in the forum's activities. To mention two institutions whose presidents never appeared in the EC meeting were Hawassa University and Bahir dar University.

After thorough discussions and debates on the way how to effect the election process, participants reached on consensus that other than those former EC member institutions whose CEOs hadn't contributed and those which hadn't paid membership fee are eligible for the election. Moreover, the participants agreed that those institutions which have successfully contributed in the former EC can directly be nominated.

In accordance to the MOU of the forum and the consensus built through the discussion, nomination of candidate for the election conducted. The following institutions were nominated and voted for.

I. From Public Higher Education Institution

S.no.	Name of HEI	Points obtained	Remark
1	Jimma University	64	elected
2	Ethiopian Civil Service University	67	“
3	University of Gondar	53	“
4	Axum University	30	“
5	Wollega University	39	“
6	Haramaya University	53	“
7	Ambo University	51	“
8	Mekele University	38	“
9	Mekelakeya University	19	Not elected
10	Dire Dawa University	23	“
11	Bule Hora University	13	“
II. Private Higher Education Institution			

1	Admas University College	46	elected
2	Africa Beza University College	12	Not elected
3	Saint Mary University College	57	elected
4	Unity University	26	elected

After election of 11 executive committee member institutions (eight from the public and three from the private), the chairperson instructed the committee members to elect a chairman, secretary and treasury among themselves and report to the general assembly. Based on that, the EC members discussed and assigned Jimma University, ECSU and Admas University College a chairman, a secretary and a treasury positions respectively.

After the election process is completed, the general assembly discussed on the ways forward and agreed on the following ways forward. These are:

1. Establish & strengthening strong collaboration and networking both within the institutions and outside (local community, regional stakeholders, high schools, PLHIV association, and other stakeholders)
2. Research: Risk and Impact assessment for intervention so far
3. Mainstreaming including Curriculum integration
4. Focused interventions (HEIs' PLHIV , MARPS
5. Innovative approaches (thinking out of the box) to address interventions in terms of structural , biomedical and behavioral
6. Documentation and sharing of good practices and translation in to context based action (due consideration of socio-ecologic)
7. Review the former TOR in order to suits the current status
8. Reinforcement and payment of memberships status
9. Realization of 2% budget allocation
10. Strengthening the HEIs' coordination office (human resources, facilities)
11. Harmonize and use Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation indicators of HIV/AIDS/SRH program
12. Use of and translation of already develop SPM I, Communication strategy, intervention package
13. Data/information generation, use to make evidence based decision making
14. Strengthening already implemented/practiced intervention

After finalizing the discussion on the ways forward, recognition program for the institutions involved in the exhibition program, presented their good practices and researches. For the recognition of

those accomplishments, certificates were awarded to the institutions. The following institutions were received a certificate from the guest of honour of a day, Dr. Kaba Urgesa,

I. Participation in the exhibition award

1. Ambo University
2. Jimma University
3. Adama University
4. University of Gondar
5. Mekele University
6. Addis Ababa University
7. Hawassa University
8. Wollega University
9. Federal Police University College
10. Dilla University
11. Debreberhan University
12. Admas University College
13. ECSU
14. Wollo University
15. SMUC
16. Wolaita Soddo University
17. Haremaya University
18. Bahir Dar University
19. NASTAD
20. DKT
21. IFHP (Path finder)

II. Research experience certificate award

1. Jimma university
2. Mekele University
3. Hawassa University
4. Haramaya University
5. ECSU
6. NASTAD Ethiopia
7. DKT
8. Packard Foundation

9. Future group
- III. PSI certificate award**
1. Hawassa University
 2. Adama University
 3. Dire dawa University
 4. Arbaminch University
 5. Dilla University
 6. Wolaita Soddo University
 7. Haramaya University
 8. Bahir dar University
 9. University of Gondar
 10. Debremarkos University
 11. Debreberhan University
 12. Wollo University
 13. Semera University
 14. Mekele University
 15. Jimma University

The second general assembly meeting was ended with the closing remark by H.E. Dr. Kaba Urgessa, State Minister of FMOE. Dr. Kaba on his closing remark addressed the following issues. He appreciated the efforts of the forum so far and also emphasized the importance of putting more efforts in the future on those points raised in the ways forward. Dr. Kaba strongly reminded all the HEIs and the forum the importance of system thinking and collaborative undertakings both local, regional and centrally. Finally, he closed the meeting by acknowledging those who made the meeting a reality. The meeting was officially closed at 1:00 PM on July 13, 2013.