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Preventive Care Package Program for People Living with HIV project

Remarks by USAID Health Office Chief BethAnne Moskov

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Distinguished guests, it is an honor to be here to celebrate the successful closeout of the Preventive Care Package project.

For the last five years, the United States Agency for International Development, through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, has been providing support to the Preventive Care Package project, implemented by World Vision.

The project has been working to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV, their families and the community through evidence-based interventions. The project made significant achievements by working closely with the Ministry of Health and other implementing partners such as, the Network of Networks of HIV Positives in Ethiopia.

The goal of the project was to reduce morbidity and mortality due to opportunistic infections among people living with HIV, provide prevention and care package kits, and promote the use of basic hygiene practices.

The kit includes soap, condoms, long lasting insecticide treated bed nets, WuhaAgar/PUR, de-worming drugs, water storage vessels, and also information, education, and communication materials.

The program also developed pediatric kits which include Vitamin A, Zinc and multivitamins.

These Prevention and Care Package activities were integrated at health centers and in the community, creating demand for health services.

To highlight just a few achievements of the project,

- nearly 400,000 people living with HIV and their families received a preventive care package and messages on prevention of mother to child transmission, nutrition and adherence to treatment at health facilities and within the community.
- 303 government health centers and 150 people living with HIV associations were trained to deliver preventive care services at facility and community levels.

The preventive care package shows that simple and sustainable approaches to HIV can maximize HIV prevention, care and treatment outcomes.

Research shows clients who receive Preventive Care Package services are more likely to adhere to antiretroviral treatment and keep their clinic appointments. This improves the quality of life for people

living with HIV, reducing the incidence of opportunistic infections. And because it contributes to the suppression of HIV, transmission of the virus can also be reduced.

I am happy to announce that implementing regional health bureaus have signed memoranda of understanding for handover and ownership of the Prevention Care Package project. These services have also been included in national guidelines to ensure smooth transition.

With this ownership, the regional health bureaus are not just continuing what we started, they are expanding upon the success of this program.

Please join me in thanking World Vision Ethiopia and its partners for their contribution to improving the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS. We are committed to continuing our work for better health outcomes in Ethiopia.

Thank you very much!