Bibliography on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the Diaspora: The 2004 Update

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Introduction

This is the second update of the bibliography on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the Diaspora, which was originally published in this journal in 2003. That bibliography covered published and unpublished work on HIV/AIDS and related health conditions (e.g., other sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis) for the period 1972 to 2002. A follow-up update, published in early 2004, covered additional references that appeared in 2002 and 2003. The present update extends the bibliography to cover references not listed in the previous two and those that appeared later in 2004.

As in the previous bibliographies, this update includes references to biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, psychosocial, socio-economic, cultural, behavioral, impact, intervention, and evaluation studies on HIV/AIDS and relevant research on sexually transmitted infections (STIs), tuberculosis, and other co-infections in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the Diaspora. Also included are studies dealing with sexual and contraceptive behaviors, and socio-cultural practices or conditions that increase the vulnerability of Ethiopians to HIV and associated opportunistic infections, including research on conditions of street and orphan children, sexual harassment and violence on women, and traditional practices (e.g., early marriage, female genital cutting) and their consequences.

The same strategies were used as in the two previous bibliographies to identify and catalog the references. First, all new references that appeared in 2004 were searched in major databases, including MEDLINE, PsycLit, and POPLINE using the key words "Ethiopia and HIV," "Ethiopia and AIDS", "Ethiopia and reproductive health", and "Ethiopia and sexual behavior". Second, journals that were not indexed by these database systems (e.g., Ethiopian Journal of Health Development) were manually inspected for relevant references. Third, websites of major HIV/AIDS conferences (e.g., http://www.aids2004.org), national or HIV/AIDS resource regional centers (e.g., http://www.etharc.org) and international organizations (e.g., http://www.unaids.org) were searched for conference abstracts and reports on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia or Ethiopians in the Diaspora. Once all the 2004 references were selected and cataloged, similar searches

for older references were made. For the sake of completeness of the bibliographies in this series, references dated between 1984 and 2003 were identified and compared with the databases of references created for the original and the first update. Relevant references that were not listed in the previous bibliographies were retained and included in the present update.

Of the total 500 references identified and included in this bibliography, 309 (61.8%) appeared in 2004. Of these, 51 (16.5%) are journal articles, 166 (53.7%) conference abstracts, 34 (11.0%) bachelor's senior essays, 42 (13.6%) masters theses, and 16 (5.2%) reports. The remaining 191(38.2%) references dating from the earlier years of the epidemic to 2003 had not been included in the previous two editions. These references comprise: 40 (20.9%) journal articles, 24 (12.6%) conference abstracts, 48 (25.1%) bachelor's senior essays, 28 (14.6%) masters theses, 1 (0.5%) doctoral dissertation, and 50 (26.2%) reports. In recognition of the increasing significance of the internet as source of information, this update also includes a separate section that consists of 10 websites with useful information and downloadable documents on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the Diaspora.

This year's update represents a significant increase in the number of references from the previous one for at least three reasons. First, it has been possible to obtain a more complete list of senior essays and masters theses from various academic departments and research institutes of Addis Ababa University (AAU). More specifically, the following departments, centers, or institutes of AAU have contributed references to this update: Sociology and Anthropology (66 BA senior essays and 1 MA thesis), Community Health (29 MPH theses), the Demographic Training and Research Center (16 MSc theses), Educational Psychology (5 BA senior essays and 8 MA theses), Biology (11 MSc theses), Geography (7 BA senior essays and 1 MA thesis), Economics and Policy Analysis (1 BA senior essays and 1 MA thesis), Educational Planning and Management (1 BA senior essay), Microbiology (1 MSc thesis), Law (1 LLB senior essay), Institute of Development Research (1 MA thesis), Political Science and International Relations (1 BA senior essay), and Regional and Local Development (1 MA thesis). While this is definitely an improvement from the previous update, a significant number of works

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from other departments and universities throughout the country are not yet cataloged. This is a useful avenue for future updates. Second, there appears to be an increase in the number of HIV/AIDS related abstracts submitted to national and international conferences, particularly in the bi-annual International AIDS Conference and the annual conventions of the Ethiopian Public Health Association and the Ethiopian Medical Association. Third, online availability of national (e.g., in http://www.globalhealth. org) reports, abstract books, and other publications has significantly increased awareness about research activities in HIV/AIDS in the country.

Basic Biomedical Research

Thirty-eight (7.6%) of the references located deal with basic biomedical research. Close to one-half (n =18, 47.4%) of these are journal articles and 24 (63.2%) of all biomedical studies appeared in 2004. The most common threads of research topics include drug resistance or sensitivity of opportunistic pathogens including STIs (e.g., refs. #3, #13, #15), genetic composition or variability as well as molecular diagnostics of HIV (e.g., refs. #1, #2, #12, #33) immune response to infection (e.g., refs. #17, #25, #34), and diagnostic or detection procedures (e.g., refs. #4, #7, #30). It is to be hoped that the high quality of work conducted at ENARP and other laboratories can be continued at EHNRI (ref. #37) and that the Ethiopian scientists are successfully incorporated into productive laboratories. It will be important to monitor the consequences of treatment for HIV as well as to evaluate different regimens for opportunistic pathogens. In particular, characterization of drugresistant organisms and strains of these pathogens can help to direct appropriate treatment and to understand transmission patterns.

Epidemiological, Risk Factors, and Determinants Research

This section consists of the largest number (n = 201, 40.2%) of the references in this update. Nearly one-fifth (n = 39, 19.4%) of these are journal articles and the rest are reports, conference abstracts, and theses; slightly more than half (n =114, 56.7%) of them appeared in 2004. The references targeted various population groups, with a strong emphasis on women, youth, orphan and street children, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Not much research is reported specifically on men, rural, and migrant populations. Topical interests in this section had at least five major themes. First, a significant number of references dealt with estimation of the prevalence of HIV, other STIs, and opportunistic infections (e.g., refs. #95, #114, #131, #167). Second, another set of references describe the patterns of knowledge, attitudes, and practices associated with HIV/AIDS and relevant health conditions (e.g., refs. #23, #45, #190). Third, a sizable number of references deal with identifying the behavioral, psychosocial, and socio-cultural contextual

correlates of risk and protective behaviors (e.g., refs. # 27, #41, #146). Fourth, several references focus on describing the extent and patterns of the sexual harassment and sexual violence perpetuated against young girls and women (e.g. refs. #68, #121, #170). Finally, a smaller set of references covered stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS and their families (e.g., refs. #64, #129, # 151). Overall, these studies are almost exclusively descriptive in nature and have a cross-sectional design. Studies that use broader and ecologically valid theoretical models to understand risk and protective behaviors are also lacking. The relationships between such factors as alcohol abuse, mental health problems, and interpersonal factors on the one hand and HIV/AIDS exposure risk and protective behaviors on the other were also not adequately investigated. Further exploration of these areas would provide valuable information regarding the determinants of behavioral risk for HIV infection. In addition, the prevalent types of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), some of which, e.g., HPV-16, -18, and -45, have been implicated as the causative infectious agent in cervical cancer, have not been reported for Ethiopia. Although HPV infection tends to correlate with other STIs, it is not clear whether HIV infection increases the risk of this cancer. Knowledge of the types prevalent in the country can be fairly simply determined with available techniques and can be very important for the determination of the relevant subtypes to include in the vaccine cocktails presently under development. Two references (refs. #70, #96) regarding the magnitude of obstetric fistula, an apparently unexplored area, have been included. The risk of HIV infection and the use of VCT for these women after surgery do not appear to have been documented for this potentially vulnerable population in Ethiopia, which has some of the highest obstetric fistula rates in the world.

Clinical Research

A total of 47 (9.4%) references have been located that deal with patients living with HIV/AIDS or opportunistic/synergistic infections (e.g., other STIs, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases). Here again, a quarter of the references were published articles (n = 12, n)25.5%) whereas the remaining predominant proportion of the references was conference abstracts, theses, or reports. The primary focus of these references has been to describe clinical profiles of HIV/AIDS patients (e.g., refs. #20, #24, #36). The patterns and effects of coinfections have been investigated with a variety of infectious diseases, including HIV and tuberculosis (e.g., refs. #6, #14) HIV and malaria (e.g., refs. #1, #16) and HIV and intestinal parasites (e.g. refs. #4, \$8) and HIV and meningitis (e.g., refs. #20, #30). The determinants of the success or failure of treatment or disease progression have been highlighted in some studies (e.g., refs. #44, #47). With increasing numbers of AIDS patients receiving anti-retroviral therapy, treatment research, including toxicity and adverse effects, adherence, rates and determinants of success or failure, and patient education, will be critically needed in the near future.

Impacts Research

Twenty (4%) of the references are tied to research on the impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia. All of these references are unpublished abstracts or reports. A notable number of the references deal with the adverse socio-economic impacts of the epidemic in general or on productivity in particular due to morbidity or mortality among employees (refs. #7, #11, #19). Other references dealt with the epidemic's psychosocial and economic impacts on people living with HIV/AIDS or their families (e.g., refs. #5, #10, #20). This is an encouraging development, although much work remains to be done in this area. For example, the impacts of the epidemic on family structure or the impacts of stigma and discrimination on people living with HIV/AIDS and their families are not adequately studied. With the advent of anti-retroviral therapy in the country, the biomedical and psychosocial benefits and toll of treatment regimens should also be investigated in an effort to optimize outcomes. Some of the research work in this section was also concerned with the impact of the epidemic on the health care sector, either in relation to rising costs or increasing patient burden (e.g., refs. # 3, #6, #15). There was very little research on the demographic impacts of the epidemic, with the exception of one study that explored its effects on fertility patterns (ref. #12). With the maturing of the epidemic, its demographic impacts are expected to become more noticeable and pronounced. Further exploration of this area is strongly recommended.

Interventions Research

The second largest number of references is found for the section on intervention research. There are 165 (33%) references in the list, of which only 15 (9.1%) are published articles and with the rest being conference abstracts theses, and reports. Several themes are reflected in these references. Among the most frequently reported areas of intervention strategies included behavioral change communications, including several works on peer-led education efforts as well as activities of anti-AIDS clubs in schools and colleges (refs. #1, #8, #69, #92, #159). A significant number of papers deal with home-based care for HIV/AIDS patients and orphan care and support, often provided by community- and faithbased institutions as well as volunteers (e.g., refs. #14, #60, #98), Voluntary testing and counseling (VCT; refs. #97, #120, #161) and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT; refs. #37, #58, #155) have also been addressed by a considerable number of studies. It is interesting to note that several abstracts and papers explored capacity development issues, particularly the capacity of community- and faith-based organizations to fight the socio-economic impacts of the epidemic (e.g., refs. #49, #101, #146). Several works examined the roles

of these organizations in supporting HIV/AIDS patients and other vulnerable populations, including orphans, street children, and commercial sex workers. Reports by governmental, bilateral, and international organizations tackled issues associated with expansion or scaling up of intervention programs (refs. #107, #109, #118, #130, #153). Anti-retroviral treatment related references are also increasing from previous years, with at least 8 references (refs. #38, #43, #57, #64, #76, #77, #93, #148) exploring attitudes and knowledge about them, guidelines regarding their distribution, resources required to support treatment programs, economic evaluation, reasons for initiating treatment, comparisons of different regimens, and training related to their administration. There appear to be a limited number of references on STD treatment, condom promotion efforts, and interventions with rural populations.

Monitoring and Evaluation Research

Fifteen (3%) of the references listed in this update examine HIV/AIDS related monitoring and evaluation activities. All of these references are unpublished reports, theses, and conference abstracts. Assessment of the effects of intervention, including counseling, training, and general prevention programs, appears to be the focus of a significant proportion of these studies (refs. #1, #2, #6, #8, #11, #12, #14, #15). The changes in the capacity of the national HIV/AIDS program in response to increased funding have been evaluated in two studies (refs. #5, #13). Other references addressed evaluation guidelines (ref. #7), monitoring and surveillance systems (refs. #9, #10), and prophylactic INH treatment for HIV patients (refs. #3, #4). Evaluation of HIV/AIDS interventions is still a poorly covered area of research in Ethiopia. Prevention programs and support and care services are growing as the number of intervention references suggests. The need for evaluation is sharply increasing with the recent implementation of preventive programs focusing on rural areas and the treatment programs, initiated in January 2005, which aim to provide free anti-retroviral drugs to 320,000 patients by 2008. In order to efficiently utilize the finite resources available for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts, the need for carefully designed and controlled evaluation research cannot be overemphasized.

Research on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopians in the Diaspora

References on HIV/AIDS and related issues among Ethiopians and people of Ethiopian origin living abroad are increasing, when compared to the previous update, perhaps because of the increasing number of this population and the increasing magnitude of the problem. There are ten (2%) references listed in this section, all but one of which appeared in 2004. These references address immigration-related laws (refs. #1, #2), risk behaviors for HIV infection (refs. #3, #6, #9), prevalence of HIV and/or other infectious diseases (refs. #4, #5, #8), efforts of Diaspora professionals in HIV/AIDS prevention and control in Ethiopia (ref. #7), and diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to Ethiopian patients with STIs (ref. #10). The prevalence of infection among individuals in the Diaspora, particularly in Europe and North America, but possibly less so in Israel, is largely unknown in part due to the scattered distribution of the immigrants and due to their classification together with other immigrants and citizens of African origin.

Conclusion

The distribution of the references in the various categories follows the trend from basic biomedical and epidemiological/KAP research to intervention studies, as reported in the 2003 update of this bibliography. Also in line with the earlier pattern is the relatively small number of monitoring and evaluation, HIV/AIDS impact, and non-Israel Diaspora studies. Although the emphasis on intervention studies is highly desirable in view of the current push for the provision of antiretroviral drugs, there is an increasing need to monitor and periodically evaluate the impacts of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families and communities, as well as the situation of Ethiopians living in other countries. Such studies can contribute to evaluate progress and outcomes of both prevention and treatment activities and programs and thus optimize the cost-effectiveness and coverage of intervention programs in Ethiopia and in countries with large Ethiopian immigrant and refugee populations.

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The authors of this update would also welcome and be grateful for any corrections and suggestions readers may have for future updates of the bibliography.

Section 1. Earlier Bibliographies on HIV/AIDS and Related Sociocultural and Economic Issues

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- Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA). Extracts of MPH theses works by EPHA-sponsored graduate students in public health. EPHA, Addis Ababa, 2004.
- Kloos H, Mulatu MS, Converse PJ. Bibliography on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the Diaspora: 2003 Update. Ethiop J Health Dev 2004;18:57-64.

Section 2. Basic Biomedical Research

This section covers laboratory-based biomedical research, including studies on HIV structure, replication, and host immune responses; co-infection with other agents; development and testing of laboratory procedures; and other related laboratory studies.

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- 15. Geyid A. Retrospective analysis of antibiotic sensitivity among *N. gonorrhoea* isolates in Addis Ababa. EHNRI, 2000.
- 16. Girma A, Geyid A, Meles H, et al. Validation of syndromic algorithm approach for management of STDs and determination of *N. gonorrhoea* drug sensitivity patterns among men and women attending primary health care clinics in Rural/Urban settings within Ethiopia. EHNRI-CDC Collaborative Research. 2003.
- Habte A, Geletu M, Olobo O, et al. T cell mediated immune responses in patients with tuberculous lypmhadenitis from Butajira, southern Ethiopia. Ethiop Med J 2004;42 (Suppl 1):29-35.
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Section 3. Epidemiological, Risk Factors, and Determinants Research

This section includes studies on the epidemiology of HIV and other opportunistic infections, AIDS and related diseases, and risk and protective behaviors. It also covers research on the biological, psychosocial, socioeconomic, cultural, structural, and other contextual determinants of HIV transmission and prevention.

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Section 4. Impacts Research

This section covers studies on the social, psychological, economic, and demographic impacts of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families, communities, institutions, or the nation. In addition, studies that explore relevant social issues associated with the spread of the HIV/AIDS are also included.

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- Gashaw D. The impact of HIV/AIDS in aggravating poverty: A case study of HIV/AIDS victims at Dawn of Hope organization at the household level. BA Senior Essay, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, Addis Ababa University, 2003.
- Legesse W. The impact of HIV/AIDS on socioeconomic development in Ethiopia. BA Senior Essay, Dept of Geography, Addis Ababa University, 2002.
- Kidanu A, Banteyerga H, Nyblade LC, MacQuarrie K, Pande R, Mathur S. Impact of stigma on wellbeing of PLHA in Ethiopia. Abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. MoPeD3819.
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- 20. Woubshet M. The effect of HIV/AIDS on infected individuals and households in Addis Ababa with particular reference to patients under the Dawn of Hope Addis Ababa Branch. BA Senior Essay, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, Addis Ababa University, 2004.

Section 5. Clinical Research

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- Kebede Y, Doriga-Zetsma W, Mengistu Y, et al. Transmission of herpes simplex virus type 2 among factory workers in Ethiopia. Abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. ThPpC2096.
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Section 6. Intervention Research

This section includes reports on research and programmatic activities that are aimed at provision of treatment, care, and support to people infected and affected by HIV. This section also includes reports on prevention efforts and public policy measures targeted against HIV/AIDS.

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- Adugna G. The role of NGOs in alleviating the problem of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and AIDS orphans in Addis Ababa. BA Senior Essay, Dept of Geography, Addis Ababa University, 2001.

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- 9. Ambaye T. The role of HIV/AIDS secretariat bureau of Addis Ababa in preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS in Addis Ababa. BA Senior Essay, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, Addis Ababa University, 2003.
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- Asnake M, Yilma A. A multifaceted approach to STI/HIV/AIDS interventions in Ethiopian workplaces. Abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. ThPeC7506.
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- 20. Azage TAG. Ethiopian Red Cross Society- youth to youth peer education. Abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. WePe6649.
- 21. Banteyerga H, Kidanu A, Nyblade L, Pande R, MacQuarrie K, Mathur S. Strengthening the involvement of people living with HIV and AIDS by building on positive coping mechanisms to deal with stigma. Abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. ThPeD7733.
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- 32. Cheru WN. The role of voluntary associations in community based HIV/AIDS intervention activities (the case of Iddirs in Addis Ababa). MA Thesis, Dept of Regional and Local Development Studies, Addis Ababa University, 2003.
- 33. Couteau PC, Adunga SA, Mohamed AM. Mobilizing the Leadership of Red Cross in developing workplace policies and programs for staff and volunteers in 14 countries in Eastern Africa. Abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. D12746.
- 34. Cummings B, Mengistu M, Negash W, Bekele A. Ecological factors influencing female participation in an HIV prevention project: Findings from a qualitative study in West Hararghe, Ethiopia. Abstracts of the 15th AIDS International Conference, Bangkok, 2004; Abstract no. WePeD6417.
- 35. Damtew W. The endeavor of vocational training centers in alleviation of unemployment through the preparation and catering of food among destitute, unemployed women in Abebech Gobena Orphanage and School. BA Senior Essay, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, Addis Ababa University, 2004.
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Section 7. Monitoring and Evaluation Research

This section includes reports that focus on HIV/AIDS related program, or intervention monitoring and evaluation activities.

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Section 8. HIV/AIDS Research on Ethiopians in the Diaspora

This section covers HIV/AIDS among Ethiopians and foreign residents of Ethiopian origin living outside of Ethiopia. It includes basic science, epidemiology, intervention, clinical, impact and social issues research.

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Section 9. Selected Websites Featuring HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia

- 1. Addis Ababa HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office: http://www.aa-hapco.org
- 2. Center for International Health of the University of Bergen, Norway: http://www.cih.uib.no/journals/EJHD
- 3. Christian Relief and Development Association: www. crdaethiopia.org

- 4. Ethiopian AIDS Resources Center: http://www.etharc.org
- Family Health International: http://www.fhi.org/en/ CountryProfiles/thiopia+main+page.htm
- 6. Organization for Social Services for AIDS: www.ossaethiopia.org
- 7. People to People: www.peoplepeople.org
- 8. United Nations Development Programme: http://www.et. undp.org/hiv/hiv.htm
- 9. U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www. cdc.gov/nchstp/od/gap/countries/ethiopia.htm
- 10. United Nations Joint Program on AIDS: www.unaids.org