

## **HTS performance through providing client centered Community based Index Case HIV Testing Service**

Love In Action Ethiopia (LIAE) is implementing the HIV testing and counseling services (HTS) in Gambela region, Ethiopia. The prevalence in the region is the leading from the country, this is exacerbated due to low access to facilities for testing because of poor infrastructure, fragmented service delivery approach, sociocultural related challenges and now COVID 19. In the FY21 LIAE implemented the HTS services successfully in the eight subnational units in Gambela using an innovative way of client centered ethical Index Case HTS.

Well organized and deliberate preliminary assessment survey and hotspot area mapping before the startup of FY21 were a corner stone for the successful implementation. The following approaches are the contributing factors for LIAE's outstanding HTS performance.

- ✓ High level involvement of Key stakeholders and strengthen regional and town level TWGs.
- ✓ Integrating Community based DSDM platforms for HTS services and LTFU activities.
- ✓ Line listing from community platforms
- ✓ Outreach based Index Case Testing/ OICT targeting hard to reach and remote areas
- ✓ Strengthen the community based HTS corners/ CHTSC at all SNUs
- ✓ Yield focused HTS
- ✓ Developing performance improvement plans and frequent & ambitious acceleration plans
- ✓ CEF & CRP based target allocation, close follow-up and frequent communication over phone, virtually and the project telegram group.
- ✓ High level Staff commitment

LIAE already achieved beyond its annual HTS target way far from the end of the project using the above methodologies and HIV self-testing enhanced a lot and served as a best alternative for many clients amidst COVID 19. Our tailored and clients focused demand creation activities played a great role.

Finally LIAE recommends client centered integrated community based ICT in order to improve performance and increase yield.