

Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue & Action (EIFDDA)

SMALL GRANTS LEAD TO BIG CHANGE

Before her son became ill, 37-year-old Abozenech Muche helped support her family with the small income she made braiding hair. Her husband—a police officer in their town of Holeta—didn’t earn much money, so Abozenech’s earnings helped send their children to school. But with her son’s illness, any extra income was needed for his medical treatment. As a result, the other children had to leave school. Without any training or skills, Abozenech was unable to make enough money to send them back and was greatly concerned for her family’s future.

Village leaders were aware of Abozenech’s situation and decided to help. They contacted the local representative of the Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA), who visited Abozenech in her home and learned that she was HIV-positive. Given her status and situation, Abozenech was eligible to participate in EIFDDA’s income-generation training for people living with HIV.

After being approved by a community committee, Abozenech was given a grant of \$180 to start a small business. She bought hair dryers, rollers, and other supplies, and with some additional money of her own, rented a space and opened a small beauty salon.

To ensure that micro-entrepreneurs like Abozenech can become successful business owners, EIFDDA trains local grant coordinators on financial management and other areas that small business owners need to know. The coordinators then train the grantees in the same areas.

EIFDDA was supported through this training process



Abozenech outside her beauty salon, which helps support her family.

by the Technical Assistance to the New Partners Initiative (TA-NPI). Technical assistance in areas including monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance, and financial management was provided in conjunction with a PEPFAR New Partners Initiative (NPI) grant that EIFDDA received through Religions for Peace from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“Since we received training from TA-NPI...we have improved our systems,” says Alemayehu Abebe, EIFDDA’s NPI project coordinator. “This helps our income generation program monitor progress and conduct proper financial and technical follow-up with grantees.”

As a result, EIFDDA grant recipients know how to manage their income more effectively. Abozenech earns about \$250 per week now—much more than she earned before—and has sent her children back to school. She can also keep up with rising food costs and improve the overall health of her family.

In addition, Abozenech saves a small amount of her income each month for future expenses, which EIFDDA helps her manage. Her dream is to save enough to send all of her children to university, expand her business, and move her shop to the center of town.

With assistance from EIFDDA and the local grant manager, Abozenech was also connected to a health facility where she began HIV treatment and joined an association for people living with HIV, bringing her closer to her community.

“The grant has been key to changing my life,” says Abozenech. “My change has been very significant, and it has helped me walk upright.”

“The grant support has had a very big impact for people like Abozenech,” says Alemayehu Abebe. “It has really improved their lives and the lives of their families. The majority of the grant recipients are now leading very productive lives.”



“The income generation grant from EIFDDA has been key to changing my life,” says Abozenech.

Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA) is an inter-faith consortium that improves the physical, spiritual, social, and economic well-being of communities, and effectively mobilizes religious communities to collaborate for change. As a member of Religions for Peace, EIFDDA is an established organization with the experience and systems needed to meet donor requirements as well as the needs of the faith-based organizations it serves.

EIFDDA partners with government entities such as Societies and Charities Agency, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, and the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Controlling Office (FHAPCO), as well as UNAIDS, UNICEF, and various international nongovernmental organizations.

Technical Assistance to the New Partners Initiative (TA-NPI) supports organizations receiving specific assistance from the U.S. government. TA-NPI was awarded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support organizations awarded funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Round 2 and Round 3 of the New Partners Initiative. TA-NPI is implemented by John Snow, Inc. (JSI) and its partner, Initiatives Inc.

For more information, please visit:

<http://tanpi.jsi.com/>
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