



A Case Study of a Workplace HIV Self-Testing and Linkage Programme's Effect on Antiretroviral Therapy Initiation in an Addis Ababa Industrial Park, 2017

Koffi Agbemenu¹

¹ Department of Pediatrics, University of Kara

Published: 16 November 2017 | **Received:** 07 June 2017 | **Accepted:** 02 October 2017

Correspondence: kagbemenu@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18531484](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18531484)

Author notes

Koffi Agbemenu is affiliated with Department of Pediatrics, University of Kara and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Workplace-based HIV interventions are important in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly for large, mobile workforces in industrial settings. In Ethiopia, industrial parks employ many workers, but barriers to conventional HIV testing and linkage to care remain, which can delay antiretroviral therapy initiation. This case study assessed the effect of a workplace-based HIV self-testing and linkage programme on antiretroviral therapy initiation rates among factory workers in a major Addis Ababa industrial park. A descriptive case study design was used. The programme provided on-site HIV self-testing kits with private, post-test counselling and facilitated referral to antiretroviral therapy services. Programme records on testing uptake and linkage outcomes were analysed. Key informant interviews were conducted with programme staff and a sample of participating workers to explore implementation experiences. The programme was feasible and demonstrated high acceptability. Among workers who tested positive through self-testing, over 85% were successfully linked to care and initiated antiretroviral therapy within 30 days of their result. Interviews identified the perceived convenience and confidentiality of the workplace-based self-testing model as key facilitators. Integrating HIV self-testing and linkage support within the workplace setting can reduce barriers and improve timely antiretroviral therapy initiation among industrial park workers. Scale-up of similar workplace self-testing programmes in other industrial parks should be considered, with sustained focus on robust and confidential linkage mechanisms. Further operational research is needed to assess long-term retention in care. HIV self-testing, workplace health, antiretroviral therapy, linkage to care, Ethiopia, case study This case study provides practical evidence for public health practitioners and policymakers on implementing a workplace-based HIV self-testing and linkage model in an Ethiopian industrial setting.

Keywords: *HIV self-testing, antiretroviral therapy initiation, workplace health programmes, sub-Saharan Africa, linkage to care, industrial workforce, Ethiopia*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge