



# Outreach Programmes in HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Teenagers in Rural Ethiopian Communities: A Two-Phase Evaluation Over Six Months

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**Published:** 27 February 2004 | **Received:** 15 September 2003 | **Accepted:** 30 December 2003

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18799700](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18799700)

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## Abstract

Rural Ethiopian communities face significant challenges in HIV/AIDS prevention due to limited access to healthcare and education. The study utilised qualitative methods including semi-structured interviews with participants, focus group discussions with community leaders, and observations during programme implementation. Data was analysed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes related to programme effectiveness. Themes emerged around the enthusiasm of teenagers for engaging in HIV/AIDS prevention activities but also highlighted issues such as limited parental involvement and inconsistent follow-up support from outreach teams. While the initial phase saw promising engagement, a significant proportion (30%) of participants reported difficulties with maintaining consistent adherence to programme guidelines after six months. This underscores the need for sustained community support and more structured follow-up mechanisms. The implementation of a comprehensive outreach strategy should include enhanced parental involvement through education campaigns and established referral pathways to ensure continued engagement and adherence to HIV/AIDS prevention protocols.

**Keywords:** *Ethiopia, Rural Areas, Qualitative Research, Cultural Barriers, Community Engagement, Adolescent Health, Social Norms*

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