# Dinki site-specific topic: HIV/AIDS

[People with Aids 1](#_Toc434251832)

[Extent of the problem of AIDS orphans 1](#_Toc434251833)

[HIV infected people in the community? 1](#_Toc434251834)

[Access to retro-virals drugs 2](#_Toc434251835)

[Community awareness of how the virus is transmitted 2](#_Toc434251836)

[Changes in sexual behaviour 3](#_Toc434251837)

[Condom use 3](#_Toc434251838)

[Interventions to prevent the spread of the virus 4](#_Toc434251839)

[Effectiveness of interventions to prevent spread 4](#_Toc434251840)

[Interventions to treat people infected by the virus 4](#_Toc434251841)

[Effectiveness of interventions to treat infected people 4](#_Toc434251842)

## People with Aids

MEN’S VIEWS: They have seen very few number people who were affected by the virus that came to the community to receive the care of their relatives, and who died after a short while. These people were very thin, and they lost their hair. But if the people in the community are affected with the virus there is no way that others might know about their status. Therefore, they do not know whether there is treatment for them or not. They hear that the people living in other towns receive ART.

They hear and see people affected by the virus in towns like Aliyu Amba and they hear and suspect that there are some in Chibite.

One respondent said that his wife’s sister died of HIV in Aliyu Amba. He also said that his wife had a daughter from another person, and she was living in Gorgo town. He said that he suspected that she might have died of HIV. Her son, who is now four years old, is staying with him.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: No one has been found to be HIV patient. People suspected to have the virus are mentioned below (Q3).

## Extent of the problem of AIDS orphans

MEN’S VIEWS: There are no orphaned children because of AIDS.

One respondent said that he knew one person affected with HIV and he had died. He had a wife in Aliyu Amba, and she died after three months of his death. The person got very thin as if he was only bones before he died. He had one child who was born from another woman and he is now living with his grandfather. His mother is also alive.

WOMEN’SVIEWS: Not many but one family is raising a child (their grandchild). Her mother was suspected to have died because of the virus. This family is also raising other grand children who lost their parents by other reasons (This is one of the families included in the household studies). This had put a economic pressure on the family.

## HIV infected people in the community?

MEN’S VIEWS: They say that there are no people who are affected with the virus in the community.

One respondent said that there are two people who are suspected to be HIV positive in the community as they go to different women in Aliyu Amba. The women with whom they had affairs died, and they were expected to show some symptoms but they are fine until now.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: There are suspected people by the society to have HIV/AIDS. Though no one in the community had disclosed him/herself of being infected with the virus. The people are suspected when they lose weight or spend many nights in Aleyu Amba, have partner there or when their partners die. The youth are more vulnerable for this. Having sexual partner other than marriage partner is not obvious in the community. That is why the disease is not spreading with high speed. Three people are suspected to have the disease. A woman in Aleyu Amba who died being a victim of the virus had confessed her sexual affairs with these three men. Two of these men are married and one is not. No symptom of the disease has been observed on these men, yet it has been only six months since she died. For this reason they were not excluded.

## Access to retro-virals drugs

MEN’S VIEWS: They are not sure whether there are people who are affected with the virus, though they think that there are not. And they cannot be sure whether there is access to ART.

WOMEN’S VIEWS:In Aleyu Amba people infected with the virus receive drugs and money but not in Dinki.

## Community awareness of how the virus is transmitted

MEN’S VIEWS: They know that the disease is transmitted by blood contact, and the major cause for transmission is sexual intercourse. They also know that using sharp utensils together might transmit the disease, if one person is affected with HIV.

All people without any age limit know about the disease. But young people are more at risk, as they might not practice what they know. While adults and older people take care, youngsters might be overcome by their emotions. The age of people does not matter, but men have a better awareness level as compared to women. This is because men travel frequently and they spend much of their time outside of their houses, while women are confined to their houses. Men discuss the issue with one another. They also attend meetings in Chibite, the Kebele centre. Health workers teach the people in Chibite, since the meetings of the Kebele are held in the compound of the health post. But women, especially young women, do not go out from their houses, and they hear from men and from the discussions they have with other women. However, the men are more prone to the disease as they travel more and as they might go to other women. They do not know what they do when they get drunk.

One respondent said that it might be transmitted by sputum spit by a person affected with HIV. And if a chicken eats the sputum, and if people eat the chicken there are people who think that the virus might be transmitted.

They also listen to the radio, and they know that the problem of HIV is a national concern. They said that they knew that the virus affected many people and many are dying of it.

Some people do not want to greet and eat together with the people affected with the virus, or with the people that they suspect to have the virus. One of the respondents said that he himself was afraid to greet and eat with such people.

The awareness of the people about HIV is high. They do everything they can to prevent themselves. Men and women alike take care. And women do not want to get involved with thin men, as they suspect them of HIV. This shows how much the people are concerned about the disease. It is only those people who are affected with the virus that do whatever they want carelessly. It is like the saying “a dead donkey does not fear a hyena”.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: People are becoming aware of the ways of the transmission ofthe virus. Watching people dying by the virus had created fear in the society. Though there is an increase in awareness there is very little care taken by the people. People have not started getting tested before marriage; a single blade could be used to shave children’s head.

## Changes in sexual behaviour

MEN’S VIEWS: We do not know what it is, but as they are busy engaged in their agricultural activities they are not exposed to the virus. They say that someone affected with HIV has no hope except dying, and they also know that there is a medication to prolong the life of those affected with the virus but not to cure.

The people are not living as they used to in earlier times. They used to spend some days after going to the market. In earlier times the diseases known to come from promiscuity were syphilis and gonorrhoea and this were diseases that were curable. But now those children who come of age want to get married as soon as possible for fear that they might be involved in sexual affairs and hence fall prey for the disease. In earlier times the disease was not known and the people might do what they want.

The best way to prevent the disease is not to have sexual affairs other than one’s spouse.

The people in the community are very much afraid of the disease and they are taking care of themselves.

There are two or three people who are promiscuous. The case of these people is being considered in their Iddir and Hiwas (cell). The people were saying that these people had to be either punished or imprisoned before they transmit the disease to many people.

In earlier times men used to quarrel and even kill one another for women, even for prostitutes. But now no one is engaged in such acts.

People of the opposite sex are not seen playing together as used to be in earlier times, and this has come because of the fear of the disease. The young people have the desire to have sexual affairs but they are afraid to do it.

One respondent said that women affected with HIV want to sleep with, as many men as possible, because it is believed that doing that will make them better when they transmit the virus to the men. But this did not come up with other interviews.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: The people are aware of the virus’s existence and that it has no cure. Families give their children for marriage very young. They are doing this because they are afraid and trying to protect their children from being sexually involved before marriage and contract the disease.

## Condom use

MEN’S VIEWS: No one uses condoms in the community. The people in towns are the ones who use condoms according to the people in Dinki.

Condom use is promoted to prevent the disease. The people already take care of themselves; they do not go to other people and have multiple partners. So they do not see the point of using condoms. They saw the demonstration on different occasions, but no one among the respondents has ever used condoms. And they also said that no one uses condoms for their knowledge. They said that the people in towns got tested before getting married, but in Dinki since the people trust one another they did not need to get tested.

One respondent said that only some people use condoms and it is for contraception. He said that he was asked whether he wanted to take condoms, and he said he did not want.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Condoms are only available in urban areas (Aleyu Amba). It is not used in this community. Some people use condoms when they want to have sexual relations with others in urban area. The illiterate people (which constitute the majority) do not know how to use it. In Aleyu Amba a woman was taken to a health centre because a condom got stuck in her private part.

## Interventions to prevent the spread of the virus

MEN’S VIEWS: There is no one who worked with the young people in the area to teach them about the disease. They only hear and talk to one another, and they take care when they see and hear about the people affected with HIV. They discuss about the problem while they are working together.

Some people come from the Wereda to teach the people on market days in Aliyu Amba, and in Chibite in meetings. They present different things like drama. People affected with the virus also come and teach them, so that the people might take care of themselves. They teach them to loyal to their partners and to live one-to-one.

The people do not know whether the people who come to teach them are from the government or from NGOs. One respondent said that when we, researchers went, they said that the government came and asked us.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Not much government and NGO intervention had been made. Most of the people in the community know about it when they go to the market and hear from TV and radio. The government teaches to restrict oneself only to one sexual partner.

## Effectiveness of interventions to prevent spread

MEN’S VIEWS: The teaching has helped the people, and it enabled the people to take care. It is because of the teaching that men stopped staying late and spending the nights in Aliyu Amba after market days. Rape and other sexual advances have decreased significantly as men have come to be afraid of the disease; and this is brought up by the teaching.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: They have succeeded in creating awareness in the community (but the people also say that they were told not to eat raw egg and raw meat).

## Interventions to treat people infected by the virus

MEN’S VIEWS: In Chibite medical professionals took blood samples from all people and VCT was conducted, the respondents said that they were told to be free from the virus. It was also done in neighbourhoods and in the school. VCT was also given in Aliyu Amba health post. But they did not know whether the disease affected some people, and that they are given the medication.

There were some people who refused to give blood, as they thought that they were taking the blood not to test their status, but for other purpose.

They hear that in Aliyu Amba people affected with the virus receive support and that they are leading a normal life. And they seem to be living very well.

WOMEN’S VIEWS: There are people in Aleyu Amba who receive drugs.

## Effectiveness of interventions to treat infected people

MEN’S VIEWS: There are no interventions to treat people infected by the virus that are known to the people. They hear that in towns like Aliyu Amba people affected with HIV receive medication to prolong their life and that they are also given some money. They are not to work heavy works and they have to eat good and balanced diet.

One respondent posed a question when asked this question. He said that the government was able to provide people affected with the virus with a medication to prolong their life, and how could not it provide them a medication to cure? Did it want the people to perish?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Side by side with the drug they have been given advice to eat nutritional foods such as egg and milk.