



SWHAP Southern Africa Newsletter September 2011

Southern Africa Regional Conference

SWHAP held its annual regional conference in August at the Grand Palm Conference Centre in Gaborone, Botswana which was attended by 87 participants representing 31 companies from eight countries. The theme of the conference was "Leadership in workplace programmes - scale up and sustain". Peer educators from Ericom, Revco, Sandvik Zimbabwe and Scania Botswana made substantial contributions to the regional conference presenting on cost benefit analysis, low cost high impact strategies and good practice in supply chain mentoring, respectively.



Delegates at the conference

Supply Chain and mentorship programmes

In Zimbabwe Sandvik Mining and Construction has been mentoring 7 of its supply chain companies. In the first week of September 25 peer educators from these companies were trained, this learning will be cascaded in their respective organisations. Also in Zimbabwe Atlas Copco Zimbabwe mentee companies, Nick Neal and Auto Team have drafted their workplace HIV and AIDS policies and are in consultative sessions with their employees.

Orica Zambia is working with 12 suppliers and contractors to support them in initiating wellness programmes.

Community Outreach

SWHAP Southern Africa Partners community outreach has had a positive impact on the young and vulnerable. The Orica Zambia community out-

reach programme supports a local orphanage. Peer educators regularly visit and share information on HIV and AIDS with the children some of whom are already teenagers.

Atlas Copco Zambia has been targeting schools, as part of their community outreach they have supported borehole sinking to provide fresh sanitary water for pupils as well as building labs and toilets at Kapisha Basic School. This is in addition to the material and financial support that they already provide for the school.

Sandvik Zambia has trained 29 out of school youths from Chingola town as peer educator's part of their corporate social responsibility.

Revco Zimbabwe have a strong peer education programme and are passionate about community outreach. This has seen them sharing knowledge with Craster International, during their lunch hours on Tuesdays and Fridays. Craster International employs close to 350 people and is a customer of Revco's. On the 15th of September Revco peer educators organised an awareness session on male circumcision for 70 Craster employees which was facilitated by Population Services International Zimbabwe (PSI)

Revco have noted that there are low levels of knowledge on issues surrounding HIV and Aids and they are making a real impact. Craster International already has an HIV and Aids policy that is not being fully utilised and Revco are trying to revive this so it can guide the workplace programme.

VCT

30th June was national VCT day in Zambia, to commemorate this event, Sandvik Zambia organised onsite VCT for its staff. The theme of the day was "Get tested together. Get tested today". VCT awareness sessions and Bridges of Hope activities were conducted to encourage testing. In Konkola VCT up take was 100%.

Sandvik Zambia also organised free VCT for the Zaminex Agricultural Show in Kitwe. 144 show goers got to know their status.

Spousal Peer Education Training

One of the underlying vulnerability factors for HIV transmission is gender inequality and gender power imbalances. Unequal power relations mean many women are in subordinate relationships making them financially and socially dependant on their spouses. SWHAP Spousal Peer Education programmes have been put in place to address these issues facing women. In September and October spousal peer education took place in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Sandvik Zambia has been supporting spouses and women in the community by training them as Bridges of Hope facilitators and also sponsoring 6 month tailoring course in Luanshya, Mfulila and Konkola. This training should provide the women with opportunities to create income generating projects.



Sandvik Tailoring Graduates

Peer Educator Training

Peer Education forms a vital component of any workplace HIV and AIDS programme. In Southern Africa this quarter, Peer Educator training has taken place in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana on Sexual and reproductive health and gender mainstreaming in the workplace. The Atlas Copco Botswana, BCL Contract Community Wellness Department, trained 33 peer educators in August including 3 from Atlas Copco. The training was held at the Bosele Hotel. Key strategy areas from the Wellness Strategy 2011 – 2012 such as ARV and stress management, nutrition, financial wellness and lifestyle diseases were shared with participants.

Bridges of Hope Training

Bridges of Hope provides practical and interactive training methods for sharing information on HIV/ Aids and wellness. This approach has been very popular with SWHAP peer educators as they find it easier to get audience interest and participation. To date Sandvik Zambia has trained 67 peer educators in Bridges of Hope, while in Zimbabwe this figure stands at 25. At a recent meeting organised by Sandvik Zambia for all its Bridges of Hope training recipients a tally showed that in Zambia more than 8000 people had been reached since October last year. President of Sandvik Olof Faxander was in Zambia during September to award certificates for 22 recently certified Bridges of Hope Peer Educators.

Condolences

Sad news from Scania Botswana who lost one of their peer educators who passed away in September. She will be sorely missed. Condolences to her family and the Scania Botswana team.



The Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is a long-term strategy to support the response to HIV and AIDS at Swedish related workplaces in sub-Saharan Africa. SWHAP is a joint programme between the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR) and the Swedish Industrial and Metalworkers' Union (IF Metall). It is financially supported by Sida.

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