

SWHAP Zimbabwe Newsletter April 2011

The first quarter of 2011 has been very busy for the SWHAP in Zimbabwe, with partners engaged in many networking activities and training.

“Does Leadership Matter in Workplace HIV Management.”

SWHAP 2011 networking activities kicked off with a CEO breakfast seminar on Leadership in Workplace HIV Management. 40 participants representing 25 organisations including, SWHAP and ZBCA partners, as well as Sandvik supply chain CEOs were present. Speaking to the participants Carl Skau Swedish Embassy Political and Commercial Affairs Counsellor, noted that business have a critical role to play in being “*engines for economic recovery*”. The emphasis of the seminar was on strong leadership and creation of long term strategies to deal with manageable diseases in the work place such as HIV and Aids, diabetes, TB and high blood pressure.



Carl Skau flanked by Sandvik Supply Chain CEO's

Spousal Peer Educators Network Meeting

In February 31 spouses attended a workshop on “*Couples Communication*”. The purpose of the workshop was to teach participants effective communication strategies to reach out to their spouses and communities. Popular talk show host Mai Chisamba talked openly about sexual relationships between

couples and factors that lead to Multiple Concurrent Partnerships, one of the major drivers of HIV and Aids.

SWHAP spouses have been busy since their last training they have distributed IEC materials to ministers and youth at churches, as well as their communities.



Mrs Buwe and Mrs Kutekwatekwa at the SWHAP Spousal Network Meeting

Sandvik trained 19 Spousal peer educators in March. An employee from Brotherhood a neighbouring company was invited to attend the training as part of Sandvik’s community outreach.

Peer Educators Network Meeting

This was held at the end of April and the topic “Men’s Reproductive Health and Work Life Balance” was aimed at encouraging men to be proactive about issues pertaining to their health.

Dialogue on Gender Wellness , and HIV and AIDS in the work place.

SWHAP was called on to provide expertise at the recent Dialogue on Gender in the Workplace organised by ZBCA, SIDA, Development Data and Zimbabwe Aids Network. Edith Maziofa SWHAP Regional Coordinator Southern Africa was on the panel of experts that provided insights into key presentations.



Panel of Experts at the Gender Dialogue

Sandvik Supply Chain

Since the launch of the Sandvik Supply Chain Programme in November 2010, 7 companies have signed on for the first phase. Sandvik with support from the ZBCA, have held management and employee sensitisations, identified and trained focal persons and steering committees as well as conducting situational analysis and KABP surveys.

The Sandvik Supply Chain Programme has been greeted with enthusiasm from Mentee Company's management and employees. All parties involved have expressed their commitment to making the programme a success and this has been evidenced by their presence and participation at the CEO breakfast seminar, the Gender Dialogue Workshop as well as the three day policy development workshop. The coordinators at Sandvik have worked hard in encouraging participation and large turnout. In April Peer Educators organized social soccer with their supply chain companies, Battery Doctor and Divvyman. This provided a platform for discussions on HIV and AIDS in the workplace. Policy launches and training of supply chain peer educators are to follow in June.

In related news congratulations to **Atlas Copco** for receiving funding approval for their mentorship programme. Atlas Copco will mentor two companies, helping them through the policy development process as well as training committees and peer educators.

Congratulations Ericom!

On the 25th of March 2011 the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce ZNCC presented Ericom with the second runner up award for their HIV AIDS Programme.

The ZNCC is the oldest business representative organization in Zimbabwe with activities dating to 1894. Accepting the award on behalf of Ericom, HIV and Aids coordinator Mary Musika and Bulawayo Branch Peer Educator Nomathemba Nyandare said they were extremely pleased with the progress of the Ericom HIV and Aids programme.

"In these days of where HIV and AIDS is wrecking havoc in the workplace, big up to Ericom for championing the programme for the benefit of its employees" Goodman Chitanga SKF

Ericom is also to be congratulated on contribution savings to its Group Life Cover and Pension fund. As a result of a comprehensive and well run HIV programme Ericom is saving close to \$10 000 a year. This is a fantastic achievement!



The Ericom team with their award

Community Outreach

Already in 2011, 55 drivers have been trained through the Scanlink driver training programme. Scanlink introduced an HIV and AIDS curriculum to its normal driver training course and after noticing that there were very few opportunities for following up trained drivers (they are hard to contact due to the mobile nature of their jobs and only come back to Scanlink for refresher training when their buses have passed 20 000km) Scanlink with assistance from SWHAP is in the process compiling a drivers tool kit, that will contain a CD with information on HIV and AIDs, a road map with refreshment stops, a wellness diary, condoms, and information on healthcare facilities on selected routes. It is hoped that such a toolkit will help drivers make informed decisions about their sexual health.

The International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR) and the Swedish Industrial and Metalworkers' Union (IF Metall) have jointly decided to initiate and implement a long term programme to support and contribute to the establishment of HIV & AIDS programmes at Swedish related workplaces, through projects in Sub Saharan Africa. The Swedish Workplace HIV & AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is financially supported by Sida. **Contact: Programme Coordinator Mr. Ludvig Hubendick, info@swhap.org + 46 8 783 82 62 or + 46 707 919 377 or visit www.swhap.org**