



SWHAP Zimbabwe Newsletter October 2010

The economic down turn has impacted negatively on AIDS treatment and HIV prevention programmes in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe has not been an exception. Many local companies faced a difficult 2009 and 2010 with retrenchments and turnover making it difficult to devote the necessary time and resources for comprehensive work place programmes. Some companies are only starting to recover fiscally in the second half of 2010. At a recent network meeting held in Harare, the challenge almost all SWHAP partners cited was that of declining funding for HIV / AIDS workplace activities. Despite these economic difficulties SWHAP partners have continued with their work place activities and the emphasis now is on achieving cost effectiveness with low cost high impact activities.

Networking

The SWHAP Zimbabwe network meeting was held in Harare on the 4th of October. It brought together 25 peer educators from 7 organisations to share best practise and lessons learnt. The theme for the meeting was Wellness. Presentations by technical partners ZAPSO on cancers and male circumcision sparked lively debate and discussion. Representatives from each of the SWHAP partners were given an opportunity to share programme activities and challenges faced.



Atlas Copco presentation at the Peer Educators Network Meeting

Community Outreach

SHWAP partners are to be commended on their continued commitment to community outreach programmes, these are usually initiated and spear headed by peer educators. The following is a brief summary of some of the community outreach efforts by SWHAP peer educators.

SKF Revco- The Kwekwe branch of SKF Revco distributes condoms to a neighbouring bakery, this outreach activity has become very popular in the area.

Scanlink - Scanlink offers a driver training course to two drivers from every company that purchases a vehicle from them. Included in this course is a short section on HIV/AIDS, and at the end of the course condoms and information pamphlets are handed out to the participants. The course is run by a SWHAP peer educator. To date Scanlink have trained 195 drivers.

Sandvik Zimbabwe- Peer educators at Sandvik paid Brotherhood, a clothing manufacturer a visit. They used this opportunity as a platform to educate the workers committee on how to set up workplace programmes.

Atlas Copco Zimbabwe- In July Atlas Copco Zimbabwe held their Wellness Day at the Golden Mile Hotel in Kwekwe. They invited Atlas Copco employees, friends and spouses as well opened up VCT to Golden Mile hotel staff and visitors.

Tusilago Kitchens- Tusilago Kitchens peer educators have used social soccer matches to distribute condoms to other companies for example, UBM and Unilever.

Dyno Nobel Zimbabwe- Dyno Nobel Kwekwe peer educators often have opportunities to share knowledge with District Aids Action Committee and other Kwekwe district stakeholders.

Supply Chain Programme

Congratulations to Sandvik Zimbabwe for receiving funding approval for their supply chain programme, which will be officially launched in the first week of November. Sandvik have gained expertise in creating and implementing HIV/AIDS policies from the SWHAP programme they will be passing on this knowledge to their supply chain. The majority of these companies are small enterprises that do not have the resources to fight the challenges that HIV/AIDS can bring in to the workplace. The supply chain initiative is important, with mentorship from Sandvik and external technical support, these companies will be able to set up comprehensive workplace programmes for the benefit of their employees. An important by product will be increased efficiency and service delivery for Sandvik and overall contribution to the national response.

Training

Training continues to be an important aspect of SWHAP workplace activities. In order to develop sustainable, cost effective programmes, companies need to build internal capacity, as such ongoing peer education is essential. Scanlink held peer counselling training in August, while SKF Revco held peer educators refresher training in September.

An important component of all training is facilitation of sharing of knowledge. The main objective of spousal training is to create awareness and same understanding of HIV/AIDS between spouses thereby creating an enabling environment for discussing pertinent issues such as safe sex and testing. SKF Revco held their spousal training on the 8th of October at the Courtney Hotel in Harare. 12 spouses attended the one day training workshop. In a sea of ladies there was one gentleman, Mr. Hove husband of Kudzi Hove a SKF Revco peer educator based in Kwekwe.

Other News

In other news Tusilago Kitchens, the newest member of the SWHAP Zimbabwe family, held a management sensitisation seminar on the 9th of September. This meeting was attended by the board of the company who have promised their full commitment to the HIV/AIDS workplace programmes.



Mr. Hove at the SKF Revco Spousal Training *"I have found the training to be most useful"*

Male Circumcision

Male Circumcision as an additional preventative measure to combat HIV/AIDS continues to gain momentum amongst the SWHAP partners. Since May 2010 Atlas Copco, Ericom and Scanlink have all conducted Male Circumcision awareness training. Two employees from Ericom underwent the procedure and have made a full recovery. To the applause of the entire group at the SWHAP Zimbabwe network meeting, Amos Limbai from Sandvik testified that he had been circumcised *"It's not that painful, in two weeks I had recovered"*.



Circumcison awareness training at Scanlink