

SWHAP Newsletter August 2010

SWHAP sub-Regional Conference in Zimbabwe

On the 20 and 21 of May, more than 80 participants from workplaces and organisations met in Harare for the SWHAP 2010 Southern Africa Conference. The theme of the conference was "Addressing Reality" which sparked lively debates and ideas on what needs to be addressed. The outcome of the Conference will form part of a publication to be distributed by the end of the year.



SWHAP Achievement Awards

The new criteria for the 2010 SWHAP Achievement Awards have been launched and can now be found on the SWHAP website. This year, there are four different sets of awards for the most comprehensive workplace programme; the best progress in workplace programming; the best peer educator; and the most innovative intervention.

The deadline for nominations from SWHAP affiliated workplaces is 15 September except for the peer educator award which has different national deadlines. The criteria can be found at the following SWHAP website [link](#).

International Aids Conference 2010

SWHAP was present at the 2010 International Aids Conference that took place in Vienna on 18-23 July. The conference provided an opportunity for SWHAP to present case studies on spousal peer educators; cost impact assessments of workplace programmes; reduction of pension fund risk costs due to HIV programmes; and stigma reduction at the workplaces. SWHAP also presented its experiences at the ILO workplace partners' pre-conference and featured materials in the workplace partners' forum during the conference. The case studies presented can be found in the following [link](#).

Sandvik Zambia Awarded

SWHAP would like to congratulate Sandvik Zambia for winning first prize for Most Comprehensive Workplace Programme by the Zambia Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS. Sandvik also distinguished itself by being awarded first prize at the Copper Belt Agricultural Show for its corporate social responsibility initiatives.

International Labour Standard on HIV and AIDS

A new international labour standard on HIV and AIDS was adopted at the annual conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva on 17 June. The standard is the first internationally sanctioned legal instrument aimed at strengthening the contribution of the world of work to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

The standard is well in line with the activities and policies of SWHAP and the participating workplaces. It contains provisions on potentially life-saving prevention programmes and anti-discrimination measures at national and workplace levels. Moreover, the importance of employment and income-generating activities for workers and people living with HIV is emphasized, particularly in terms of continuing treatment.

South Africa Peer Educators Network

Two meetings have been held for the SWHAP Peer Educator Network in April and July. They brought together more than 20 peer educators to discuss and inspire further actions from peer educators at the workplaces. The first meeting focused on the roles and responsibilities of peer educators and the second meeting focused on women and HIV as National Woman's Day.



Swedish Workplace HIV/ AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is a joint initiative by the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR) and the Swedish Industrial and Metalworkers' Union (IF Metall). SWHAP supports and contributes to the establishment of HIV and AIDS programmes at Swedish related workplaces, through projects in sub-Saharan Africa. SWHAP is financially supported by Sida.

Contact: info@swhap.org +46 8 783 82 62 or visit www.swhap.org

Revco Peer Educator Programme

The REVCO Peer education programme continues to be a success story and includes use of e-discussions, drama groups and DVDs with HIV messages. The peer staff sessions often report 100% attendance every Friday. HIV awareness sessions are done on a monthly basis with particular HIV areas being addressed as requested by staff.

New Workplace Programmes

Several new workplace programmes have been approved. Among them is the successfully launched Babcock programme. It has received strong support illustrated by a VCT uptake of 94% in connection to the launch. Similarly, Metso Minerals recently joined SWHAP and achieved VCT uptakes of 87%.



Other workplaces with newly approved applications for co-funding include Raffia Bags in Tanzania and Kenya, SKF/Revco Zimbabwe, Ericom Zimbabwe, Tusilago Zimbabwe, and Scania Botswana.

Circumcision and Malaria Activities in Zambia

SWHAP partners in the Copperbelt intensified awareness on benefits of male circumcision. This was, in particular, carried out during the national free male circumcision roll-out during which male employees took up circumcision.

Companies have also continued to integrate malaria and TB screening as part of their HIV programmes. Between May-June, Atlas Copco and Sandvik distributed 3 bed-nets per family and provided support with indoor residue spraying as part of the "Roll back malaria campaign" to which Sandvik is one of the key sponsors. A previous malaria campaign at Dyno Nobel has already resulted in a dramatic drop in sick-leave among the employees.

Community Activities in Zambia

Sandvik, SKF and Atlas Copco in Zambia have reached out to spouses with training on peer education and counselling and are supporting spousal-led community interventions. The spouses are supporting community level initiatives among the youth, church groups, health centres and schools. Moreover, Sandvik has helped the spousal clubs in Luansha, Konkola, Chambishi and Ndola to register with the government. The commitment of the peer educators at Sandvik and Atlas Copco is also extending to the District AIDS Task-Force where they are represented.

SWHAP in Namibia

The SWHAP programme in Namibia has commenced through a network that will guide workplaces to start their programmes. To date, Auto Sueco, Atlas Copco and ABB have joined the programme. The companies have adopted HIV policies and been supported with HIV awareness sessions for all staff members, legal issues around HIV & AIDS, identification and training of peer educators and committees as well as management sensitization sessions. The companies will be supported through the network until they conduct VCT and linked to post-test support.



New Publications: Peer Educators Handbook

A peer educator handbook has been developed by the Kenya HIV/AIDS Business Coalition within the SWHAP supply chain initiative. The handbook can be found in the following [link](#).

Upcoming Activities

- 26 and 27 August: SWHAP Eastern Africa Regional Conference in Dar es Salaam.
- 12 November: SWHAP South Africa Conference in Johannesburg.

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