

NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

Knowledge Exchange between Countries

The SWHAP works hard to ensure that positive experiences at one workplace are multiplied and spread to other workplaces within the programme. One way of doing this is to encourage and facilitate experience outflow between companies in different countries that are part of the SWHAP. This is also a good way to kick start new programmes. For example, HR Manager and one of the driving forces behind the HIV/Aids programme at Sandvik in Zambia, Mrs Ruth Mubita, was present at the management sensitization session at the Sandvik office in Dar es Salaam. She shared experiences from the Zambian programme, including their HIV/Aids-policy and presented a documentary from Zambia. The presentation was highly appreciated at the Sandvik office in Tanzania.

Community Outreach in Kenya

In May the SWHAP network in Kenya organised a joint community outreach activity and visited Kiambu People Living with HIV and Aids (KIPEWA). Five companies (Scania, Amazon Motors, Sandvik, Technical Engineering Services (Ericsson) and Tetra Pak), participated in the event. They donated food, clothes and medicines to the affected and infected members of this community based organisation. The event was part of the initiatives of community response within their HIV and Aids Programmes supported by the SWHAP.



Community Outreach in Kenya May 2007

Participation in the Copperbelt Agricultural and Commercial Show

The workplaces in the SWHAP in Zambia (Atlas Copco, Dyno Nobel, Sandvik and SKF) jointly participated in the 2007 Agricultural and Commercial Show in the Copperbelt. The theme of the show was 'The Golden Jubilee – history for our future'.



The venue for the Agricultural and Commercial Show

The participation in the show was part of the SWHAP workplaces' strategy for community outreach with the main objective to offer free Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) to the show attendees. The VCT organised by the SWHAP network was completed using the finger prick method and 166 people were tested. This method is quick and clients have a short waiting period for the result. Additionally, the SWHAP companies offered Information, Education and Communication materials to all those that visited the stand and were interested in health related topics.

SWHAP at the Global Business Coalition on Aids

In the beginning of June, the Global Business Coalition on Aids, TB and Malaria (GBC) held its annual technical meeting and gala dinner for championing outstanding initiatives in the corporate world in the fight against HIV & Aids. The SWHAP was represented at the conference by Ms. Erica Molin, who took advantage of the opportunity to spread the word about the successful work of the SWHAP and to build relations with the GBC and other influential international organisations and corporations.

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-linked workplaces, through projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Swedish Workplace HIV/Aids Programme (SWHAP) is financially supported by Sida.

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Kick start in Uganda

With support from SWHAP, Scania in Uganda has kick-started its HIV and Aids workplace activities. The interventions will include a KAP survey, training on HIV and Aids as well as Voluntary Counselling and Testing. Scania's programme in Uganda makes use of the experience and work done by Scania in Kenya.

Workplaces in SWHAP Zimbabwe Make Excellent Progress Together

Awareness sessions have been conducted at five of the workplaces in the SWHAP in Zimbabwe (Atlas Copco, Ericom Communications (Ericsson), Sandvik Mining and Construction, Scanlink (Scania) and SKF). The objectives of the awareness sessions were to provide basic facts about HIV and Aids and to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding the topic to the employees. The sessions also aimed at raising awareness on Voluntary Counselling and Testing and its importance. The sessions addressed HIV transmission, progression and personal prevention strategies. The participants confirmed that the awareness sessions were educative and much appreciated.

Also, a three-day Peer Education Training was conducted for the SWHAP partner companies. In total 23 peer educators' from five companies were trained. The training covered topics on HIV and Aids and concepts on peer education. The group was very interactive and promising.

Feasibility Study for Botswana

The SWHAP has conducted a feasibility study in Botswana to determine the interest and need for the SWHAP within the country and at the concerned companies. There are six to seven Swedish related companies and agents in Botswana that would be relevant for the programme. The study concludes that workplaces, the employees and the companies would benefit from participating in the SWHAP networks to improve and/or establish programmes for the employees, supply chain and/or temporary employees. Thus, the pre-study recommends that the SWHAP be extended to the Swedish related workplaces in Botswana.

Regional SWHAP Meeting in Johannesburg 5-6th July

On 5-6th July the SWHAP gathers representatives from all workplaces participating in the programme from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to a meeting in Johannesburg. The main topic for discussion is "*Knowing Our Status and Beyond - Workplace Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) and HIV and Aids Management*". The objective for the meeting is 1) to share and collate experiences, knowledge and ideas on workplace VCT and HIV & AIDS management in practice, 2) to document experiences, knowledge and ideas via a conference report/'best practices' publication and 3) to advice on strategic choices for the way forward for SWHAP.

Approximately 100 persons will attend the meeting. Key note speakers are Mr. Clem Sunter, Chairman of the Anglo American Chairman's Fund, Mr. Brad Mears, CEO of SABCOHA, South Africa Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS and Dr. Alex Coutinho, Director, The AIDS Service Organisation (TASO) in Uganda.

UNAids Releases Guidelines on Testing

In May 2007 UNAIDS and the World Health Organization released operational guidance on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling in health facilities. The guidance recommends that traditional voluntary testing and counselling be supplemented by provider-initiated testing in all health settings in generalised HIV epidemics and in selected health facilities (such as tuberculosis, sexual health or antenatal health clinics) in areas with low or concentrated HIV epidemics.

The organisations do not support mandatory testing of individuals and emphasised that an understanding of social and epidemiological context in which testing is taking place is fundamental. The method should be guided by the "Three Cs", i.e. involve informed consent, be confidential, and include counselling.

For more information see:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/Policies/Testing/default.asp>