

NEWSLETTER MAY 2006

SWHAP Steering Committee to Johannesburg

Beginning of March, the SWHAP Steering Committee visited Johannesburg. The steering committee participated in the coordinators' meeting, visited some of the SWHAP workplaces in Johannesburg as well as an Aids hospice. The steering committee furthermore took part in the SWHAP South Africa workshop held on March 2nd 2006.

Approved Applications

To date, applications from 17 workplaces of financial support of an amount of approx MSEK 6,4 for HIV/AIDS programmes in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa have been approved by the Swedish Workplace HIV/Aids Programme (SWHAP). An additional four applications have been submitted and are awaiting approval. The programmes include, but are not limited to, activities such as training, voluntary testing, counselling and distribution of medicine. Some companies also include the families of the employees at the participating Swedish workplaces as direct beneficiaries of the SWHAP. In total, the SWHAP currently embraces some 8000 employees at Swedish-relate workplaces in sub-Saharan.

SWHAP Activities

Kenya

On 19-21 of April, the SWHAP coordinators met in Nairobi. The purpose was threefold; to participate in a joint peer educators training, to hold a SWHAP Kenya network forum and to have the quarterly coordinators meetings. Apart from general education and update on HIV/Aids the participants received advice on basic counselling skills, condom demonstration and how to conduct interventions amongst their peers. Further, representatives from the SWHAP companies in Kenya met to discuss networking strategies.

Finally, the SWHAP national and programme coordinators met to exchange experiences and to discuss several issues regarding the programme; administrative as well as strategic.

South Africa

A majority of the companies active in the SWHAP have now implemented their workplace HIV/AIDS programmes, have completed VCT and could customise their programmes according to the needs and prevalence rate of the company. It was therefore generally agreed that each company will work to enhance and extend their programme to provide VCTs to those not yet tested, to prevent further infections, to support and manage the positive employees and to extend programme to family. Furthermore, all companies are to build capacity internally to ensure the continuation of programme after year 3.

New SWHAP Steering Committee Members

Since 2006, the SWHAP Steering Committee has four new members; Chairman Lars G Malmer, Senior Vice President Group Communication SKF, Andreas von der Heide, CEO NIR, Anders Ferbe, Second Vice Chairman IF Metall and Mats Svensson Head of International Department IF Metall. Sofia Svingby, Programme Director NIR and Birgit Birgersson-Brorsson, International Secretary IF Metall remain in the Committee.

Changes within IF Metall and NIR

Swedish Metall approved on their congress in November 2005 to join together with Industrifacket (Industrial Workers' Union). The new president is Stefan Löfvén, former Steering Committee member of the SWHAP. Please visit www.ifmetall.se for more information.

Since 1 January 2006 Andreas von der Heide is the acting CEO of NIR. Please see www.nir.se for more information about NIR. Sofia Svingby holds from the same date the formal responsibility for the SWHAP at NIR.

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 South Africa, Zambia and Kenya.

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