

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

Regional Conference

On July 5-6th, the SWHAP organised a regional conference in Johannesburg titled "Knowing our Status and Beyond" hosting broad participation from several workplaces in the countries involved in the programme. The theme of the conference - Workplace VCT and HIV and AIDS management - sparked vivid discussions among the participants which included, among others, union representatives, employers, HIV and AIDS committee members and guest speakers. The conference led to the sharing of best practices and plenty of new ideas being planted. The conference report can be downloaded at www.swhap.org.

Extension of the SWHAP

Following approval by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the SWHAP will extend its activities until the end of 2008. This implies that workplaces engaged in the SWHAP will be able to implement their planned activities under a longer period of time. Moreover, they are offered to submit additional proposals that will further enhance their programmes and make them more sustainable.

The SWHAP Launched in Botswana

The Swedish Workplace HIV/AIDS Programme was launched in Botswana on October 23rd. During the launch, the SWHAP and its operations in various countries were presented. Several of the Swedish-related companies in Botswana already have initiatives on HIV and AIDS but the launching of the SWHAP was welcomed by the 25 participants to provide further structure and experience in enhancing the existing actions. Trade union representatives, employers' organisation, governmental institutions and the Swedish Embassy also shared their views on the topic. The SWHAP programme in Botswana will be coordinated by Ms. Edith Maziofa who is also the coordinator for the SWHAP programme in Zimbabwe.



The SWHAP launched in Botswana on October 23rd 2007

Volvo Received Excellence Award

At this year's *Focus on Excellence Award*, managed by the Transport Industry in South Africa, both Volvo and SKF were nominated for their successful HIV and AIDS programmes in the category on contribution to the industry, ending with Volvo receiving the award. The nominations are clearly recognising the important achievements that the two companies have made and the SWHAP would like to congratulate them both on their excellent work.

Positive Review of the SWHAP in South Africa

The companies participating in the SWHAP programme in South Africa have been evaluated by the independent firm Kaelo Consulting. The results of the SWHAP member companies have, on the whole, been encouraging with the majority of companies exceeding the current national AIDS Rating[®] average score. The objective scoring system highlighted the fact that the SWHAP member companies have made significant advances in their HIV and AIDS programmes, particularly in implementation areas such as education and training and VCT programmes. Another significant strength of all the SWHAP companies has been the high overall scores in relation to depth, quality and sustainability of programmes.

Following the Kaelo assessment, a networking workshop with around 30 participants was held in Johannesburg. Specific topics for discussion were the areas identified as in specific need of improvement in the Kaelo rating (e.g. measurement and evaluation). Also discussed was the new opportunity of standardisation of HIV workplace policies under the SANS 1601.

Workplace Programmes in Zimbabwe

Following the launch of the SWHAP in Zimbabwe in February this year, four Swedish-related companies have already submitted and had their applications approved for workplace programmes in cooperation with the SWHAP. Several of the companies have already launched and printed their workplace policies and started up activities such as voluntary counselling and testing.

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.

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Spouses Training in Zambia

Sandvik in Zambia has initiated specific trainings for the spouses of the employees enabling them to become peer educators in their communities. So far, 60 women have participated in sessions dealing with peer education, life skills training, HIV and AIDS awareness as well as voluntary counselling and testing. Furthermore, some of the participants will be chosen to be trained as psycho-social counsellors. Other Swedish-related workplaces in Zambia will now follow-suit and replicate the concept.



Spouses Training at Sandvik in Zambia

Workshop in Uganda

In cooperation with the Federation of Ugandan Employers, a workshop on HIV and AIDS workplace policies and peer education was held in Uganda. At the end, the participants came up with action points on how to move forward on HIV and AIDS in their companies.



Workshop in Uganda, October 2007

The SWHAP in Sweden

At the occasion of her visit to Sweden, the South African Deputy President, H.E. Mrs Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, was introduced to the SWHAP at a luncheon organised by the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR).

On September 28th, NIR organised a breakfast seminar on the theme "Is HIV and Aids a Corporate Issue?". Presentations were held by the Global Business Coalition on HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, the SWHAP Secretariat as well as the company Eltel Networks.

When the Swedish union club of Volvo met on November 6th, the SWHAP Executive Committee participated to inform the around 20 participants about the programme and discuss the role of the Swedish union in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

In the end of October, the Olof Palme International Center held its yearly conference on global development and international affairs. IF Metall was represented at the conference with its own stand, providing the 350 delegates from all over the world the opportunity to learn more about the experiences of the SWHAP. The material about the project proved popular and led to many interesting discussions about the role of workplaces in combating HIV and AIDS.

New Programme Coordinator

Since the beginning of September Mr Ludvig Hubendick has been working as new programme coordinator of the SWHAP, replacing Ms Erica Molin. However, Ms Molin will continue to be engage in SWHAP in her new position as member of the SWHAP Steering Committee. Mr Hubendick can be reached by email ludvig@swhap.org or by phone +46-8-783 82 62

The SWHAP Website Launched

In august the SWHAP website was launched and is now running with regular news updates and background information. The website address is www.swhap.org.

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