

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006

Meeting in Stockholm

On September 1st, the Swedish Workplace HIV/Aids Programme (SWHAP) organised a meeting in Stockholm with representatives from ten of the major Swedish companies participating in the programme. Chairman of the Steering Committee and Senior Vice President, Group Communications at SKF, Mr Lars G Malmer hosted the meeting. The opening speech was given by Swedish HIV and Aids Ambassador Mr Lennarth Hjelmåker, who stressed the focus on prevention as well as the role of business- and civil society in order to successfully fight the epidemic. Ms Ophelia Haanyama-Ørum, Project Manager at Noaks Ark, shared her experiences as HIV positive yet at the same time strong and vigorous mother and wife. Mr Hans Rosling, Professor of International Health at Karolinska Institutet gave an interesting lecture on the conditions for a reversal of the HIV/Aids epidemic and when this is likely to happen. The meeting ended with a discussion on how Swedish companies can become spearheads in workplace HIV and Aids activities and how Swedish companies can make use of the SWHAP to achieve the best possible result in the fight against HIV and Aids.



Mr Lennarth Hjelmåker, the Swedish HIV and Aids Ambassador

Latest Developments in the SWHAP-countries

In Zambia a joint voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) campaign for employees and their spouses is being organised by all the SWHAP companies in the country. Also in Kenya a VCT campaign is coming up, however not as a joint event. In South Africa a new company is joining the programme and the current number of companies in the South African network is thereby thirteen.

Possible Expansion of SWHAP

The national coordinator in Kenya, Mr Daniel Mwaura, visited Uganda in the end of August to interview companies and other stakeholders for a feasibility study for a possible expansion of SWHAP to Uganda. On 18th-22nd of September, Ms Erica Molin will visit Zimbabwe and Ms Louise Hallgren will visit Tanzania to complete similar studies for these countries.



Current Numbers

In **Zambia**, currently four companies are participating in the SWHAP network. Approximately 900 employees benefit from the programme in the country.

In **South Africa** thirteen companies participate in the national network, including some 7 900 employees.

In **Kenya**, ten companies participate in the SWHAP network, including approximately 500 employees. Five companies have submitted applications that have been approved by the SWHAP Steering Committee.

In total the SWHAP has approved co-financing for workplace programmes for more than SEK 7 million.

News on HIV and Aids: Breakthrough for Swedish HIV Vaccine

A Swedish HIV-vaccine study at Karolinska Infectious Disease Department (KI) and Smittskyddsinstitutet (SMI) has shown startlingly good results. More than 90% of the test persons in the first trial phase have developed an immune system against HIV. The vaccine is designed to protect against several of the existing forms of the virus. For more information go to www.ki.se

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.

Contact: Programme Coordinator Erica Molin NIR, erica@nir.se + 46 8 783 82 68 or + 46 709 472 149