



## SWHAP Achievement Award 2011

The Board of the Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is proud to announce the winner of the SWHAP Achievement Award 2011 in the category for most comprehensive programme. For the first time, the award goes to Raffia Bags Kenya for its successful and sustainable workplace programme on HIV and AIDS.

Raffia Bags Kenya, which is owned by Swedfund, has over several years implemented a successful programme responding to HIV and AIDS at its workplace which has gradually expanded from internal activities to external outreach. The programme has supported those employees that are HIV positive and has prevented more from acquiring the virus. Due to concerted efforts as well as high participation of all staff, a profound impact has been achieved with over 90% of employees consistently attend VCT sessions. Raffia has extended their VCT programme to spouses and has given serious attention to gender issues, through sessions with workers on "healthy images of manhood".

During the last 12 months, the company supported one of their biggest customers, Athi River Mining, to set up a structured programme on HIV/AIDS. Employing about 900 workers, the company is close to four times the size of Raffia Bags. This is an excellent example of how even a relatively small company can create a wider impact through inspiring and mentoring others.

The success of the programme is premised on workers-management collaboration. Raffia's Peer Educators have proactively reached out to the community by physically being involved in awareness creation among the community schools and churches as well as raising awareness among neighbouring companies. They have even linked-up infected staff with local support groups and community health workers.

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Swedish Workplace HIV/AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is a long-term initiative to address HIV and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. SWHAP currently supports some 90 workplace programmes on HIV in ten countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was jointly initiated in 2004 by the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR) and the Industrial and Metal Workers' Union of Sweden (IF Metall). The main aim of SWHAP is supporting companies and employees to prevent further spread of HIV and reduce the effects of the pandemic at Swedish related workplaces. SWHAP is funded by Sida and Norad.

The SWHAP Achievement Award has been given out since 2008. In 2011 the four categories for the award are Most Comprehensive Workplace Programme; Best Progress in Workplace Programming; Peer Educator Achievement Award; and Most Innovative Intervention. The assessment for the Most Comprehensive Programme Award was carried out through an extensive questionnaire of 17 questions and 68 benchmarks. For more information on the award, please contact [info@swhap.org](mailto:info@swhap.org). For more information on Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme, please visit [www.swhap.org](http://www.swhap.org).

Raffia Bags is the largest manufacturer of woven polypropylene bags in East Africa. It has offices in Kenya and Tanzania. The company is owned by Swedfund. For more information on Raffia Bags please visit: [www.raffiabags.com](http://www.raffiabags.com) and for Swedfund: [www.swedfund.se](http://www.swedfund.se)