

## SWHAP Newsletter December 2013

### SWHAP Conference and Achievement Awards 2013

SWHAP held its annual conference for 2013 from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of November in Johannesburg, South Africa. The theme “Taking ownership of health and wellness: building on lessons from HIV and AIDS Programmes” promoted responsibility for health and wellness at both employer and employee level. SWHAP Achievement Award nominees, show-cased wellness programmes addressing HIV, communicable and non-communicable diseases and lifestyle issues affecting employees and their families. These presentations also highlighted the effective partnerships with unions, service providers, international organisations and business coalitions that have contributed to successful programmes. The conference was well attended with 201 participants from 12 countries.

The SWHAP Achievement Awards for 2013 were presented at an awards ceremony held during the conference. Congratulations to Metso South Africa who retained the prize for the Most Comprehensive Programme in 2013 having won the award in 2012. Metso was also previously awarded for Best Progress in 2011.

Other winners of SWHAP Achievement Awards were Babcock Ntuthuko Generation, South Africa for Best Progress and Sandvik, Zimbabwe for the Most Innovative Intervention. The recipients for the National Peer Educator Awards were: Claudette Jollebo, Tamarind Translations Kenya, Susan Musonda, Atlas Copco Zambia, Robert Chibukwe, Scanlink Zimbabwe and Pule Mahlako, Assa Abloy South Africa.

### World AIDS Day

On December 1<sup>st</sup> SWHAP joined UNAIDS and other actors in observing World AIDS Day. There were various events including, commemorative marching in the DRC and Zambia and community outreach to

vulnerable populations such as prisoners and orphans in Zimbabwe and Kenya. In Namibia, South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania confidential voluntary counselling and testing was made available at the workplace for employees with those testing positive being referred for treatment or support services. In Namibia SWHAP partnered with Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union for a commemorative event at the Vineta Stadium, attended by shop stewards from SWHAP supported companies in that country. To read more on these events please follow the [link](#).



VCT and Wellness Tests at Ericsson in Uganda

### Scania Roadshow Driver Testing Campaign

More than 13,000 people are killed on the South African Roads every year, with numbers peaking during the festive season. Scania South Africa in partnership with the Department of Transport and SWHAP ran a road safety and wellness campaign to contribute to a safer festive season. The Scania Roadshow Driver Testing Campaign ran in four provinces and took place between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, offering “wellness” checks for truck drivers as well as their vehicles. Over 500 drivers had their glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol tests done and 475 participated in voluntary HIV counselling and testing at selected truck stops on well-established trucking routes. 13% of drivers tested positive and received referrals for treatment where necessary as well as follow up support from a local service provider.

The Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme (SWHAP) is a long-term strategy to support the response to HIV and AIDS at Swedish related workplaces in sub-Saharan Africa. SWHAP is a joint programme between the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR) and the Swedish Industrial and Metalworkers' Union (IF Metall). It is financially supported by Sida.

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The Scania campaign is an example of a workplace community outreach programme that leverages on core competencies to improve the health outcome of the community, through providing convenient opportunities for testing and raising awareness. Commercial truck drivers, especially those covering long distances, are faced with a myriad of health issues including high cholesterol, blood pressure, stress, exhaustion, and communicable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. A combination of long hours and mobility means that many do not have the time or opportunity to access health services and when problems and symptoms arise they are often ignored. Additionally time spent away from partners and families also means that they are more prone to risky sexual behaviours and multiple concurrent partnerships increasing their vulnerability to HIV infection. All drivers tested during the campaign received a SWHAP Driver Buddy Pack with condoms, practical information on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV prevention and a treatment “Road Map” booklet detailing health care centres along trucking routes where drivers can access HIV prevention information and services.



*Scania Roadshow Driver Testing Campaign*

### **Launch of VCT @Work Programme in Kenya**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November SWHAP in Kenya joined the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other public, private and civil society organisations in promoting voluntary counselling and testing in the workplace through the “VCT@Work” initiative. The ILO hopes to reach 5 million workers with voluntary HIV counselling and testing by 2015. As well as providing opportunities for testing, the initiative aims to ensure that those testing positive are referred to appropriate treatment, care and support services. One key pillar of the initiative will

be multi disease testing in efforts to de-stigmatise HIV and encourage increased uptake of VCT. This is a strategy currently being employed at many SWHAP supported workplaces where HIV and AIDS is being addressed within a general wellness context. “VCT@Work” is expected to be launched in the DRC in January next year.

### **Peer Educator Appreciation Days**

During December Peer Educator appreciation days were held in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Over 170 Peer Educators from 14 companies attended the training and team building events. The trainings emphasised the importance of team work, provided a recap of the main concepts of peer education and addressing HIV and AIDS within a wellness framework. Brag sessions revealed that many Peer Educators had taken workplace programmes into their communities, churches and extended families. As part of efforts to promote further networking amongst the Peer Educators, a social networking platform was created using a popular mobile phone application. This platform will be used to discuss health and wellness concerns, share links to information and to notify members of network meetings.

### **Making strides in the DRC**

In the 18 months since the SWHAP programme was launched in the DRC significant progress has been made in setting up workplace wellness programmes. During this period, six companies have joined the programme, four have launched HIV & AIDS and Wellness policies with the remaining two companies expected to launch early next year and 20 Peer Educators have been trained. SWHAP in the DRC regularly participates in meetings with the Programme National Multisectoreil de Lutte Contre Le VIH (PNLMS), working to ensure workplace programmes contribute within the national strategic response for HIV and AIDS. More recently the DRC National Coordinator Mianda Mwepu-Hatton represented SWHAP at a roundtable meeting with Olof Palme Prize and Right Livelihood Laureate Dr Mukwege, recognised for his work with gang rape survivors in Eastern DRC.

### **New SWHAP Team Members**

A very warm welcome to Emmanuel Modikwane, Coordinator for South Africa, and Lillian Shembilu, Programme Assistant in Tanzania.

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