

PROMOTING HIV/AIDS RESPONSIVE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT SECTOR IN KENYA (HARE COOPS KENYA)



Project site: Nairobi Kenya



Co-operative College of Kenya students visiting Persons Living with HIV in Mbotela, Nairobi

Background

The Cooperative College of Kenya addresses the training needs of cooperative organizations in Kenya. It has instituted an AIDS Control Unit (ACU) and launched an HIV/AIDS policy to provide a framework for HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. The ACU believes that a healthy workforce will result in delivery of better services to the cooperative movement.

The Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) carried out a study on the impact of HIV/AIDS in selected cooperatives in Kenya, revealing HIV/AIDS prevent their development and sustainability. The study also revealed that cooperative members have little understanding of HIV/AIDS issues and also have very little information materials available.

Gender inequality is a critical factor as a higher proportion of women are infected with HIV. To reverse the global spread, we must break the chains of gender inequality, fueling the spread of the disease.

Project summary

The aim of the project is to promote HIV/AIDS mainstreaming within the cooperative movement

through capacity building of apex organizations, district cooperative officers and selected cooperative organizations.

The project will identify four cooperative organizations in which extensive HIV/AIDS interventions can take place, while promoting a non-discriminating work environment with access to voluntary counseling and testing. Gender dimensions in relation to HIV/AIDS will be taken into consideration in every stage of the project.

The targeted primary cooperatives will act as model initiatives, which will hopefully strengthen social responsibilities. HIV/AIDS orphans will get support from other community members. The support will include, but not be limited to, supporting them in raising dairy cattle, beekeeping and farming.

The identified cooperatives will be assisted in the writing of HIV and AIDS policies, appointing focal point people and training members on HIV/AIDS. Gender will be considered in the selection of peer educators and those trained will disseminate information to other members.

The project seeks to empower youth in selected cooperative organizations by providing factual

information on HIV/AIDS, as an informed youth ought to help reduce the number of HIV infections.

Contributions to the Decent Work Country Programme's priorities (DWCP):

- Fight against HIV/AIDS at the workplace;
- Increase youth empowerment, youth employment and eliminate child labour, particularly in its worst form.

Partners

The Cooperative College of Kenya will be working closely with:

- The Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC), providing funds for given activities;
- The Kenya National Federation of Cooperatives (KNFC);
- The Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (KUSCCO);
- The Kenya Rural Savings and Credit Cooperative Union (KERUSSU);
- The Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing.

KUSCCO and KERUSSU will identify the 4 primary cooperatives while KNFC and the Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing will act as advisors.

Beneficiaries

Cooperative institutions and organizations, namely the Cooperative College of Kenya, the Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing and apex cooperative institutions;

Selected cooperative managers, leaders and their members, especially those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS;

Indirect beneficiaries include members of the cooperative movement in Kenya and the general public. A reduced impact of HIV/AIDS in the sector, will to some extent, lead to improved national economy.

Expected achievements

- Development of effective modules/curricula and other training materials;
- Development of the college's capacity to engage the Cooperative Movement to respond effectively to HIV/AIDS;
- HIV/AIDS control and outreach units strengthened and/or established in national cooperative institutions (including Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing);
- HIV/AIDS workplace programs established and operational in selected cooperative societies;
- Creation of model initiatives to mitigate the impact of AIDS on affected members, initiated through the reinforcement of the cooperatives social responsibility.

We hope these achievements will lead to reduced HIV infection levels among the project beneficiaries and improve the quality of life for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and those orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

Project duration & Budget

Project duration: 2 years, May 2009 - April 2011

Total budget: USD 80,742

Contribution from COOP^{AFRICA}: USD 50,000

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This project is funded by DFID