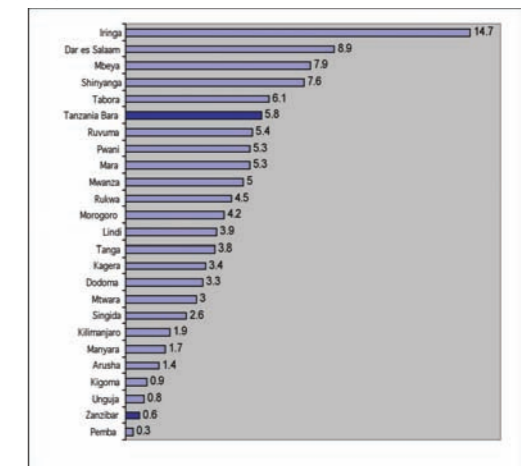


HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND IMPACT MITIGATION IN THE WORLD OF WORK IN TANZANIA



National Bureau of Statistics Tanzania

Regional HIV / AIDS Prevalence Rate: 2007/08



Tanzania HIV/ AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey 2007-08

Background

The International Labour Organization is the UN agency with responsibility for the world of work and has been championing the development and implementation of the response to HIV and AIDS in the world of work. To uphold the response to HIV and AIDS pandemic in the world of work, ILO has identified the potential of involving cooperative organizations. Cooperatives can reach workers in the informal economy living in both rural and urban areas.

The contribution that cooperatives could make towards the prevention and mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS in Africa first received attention in 2001, when the ILO in collaboration with cooperative stakeholders organized a regional consultative meeting in Swaziland on the role of cooperatives in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

At this meeting it was pointed out that:

- Cooperatives could contribute to the prevention and control of the spread of HIV through promotion of safe sex practices and through participation in widespread awareness campaigns.

- Cooperatives could contribute to provision of care and support for persons living with HIV and AIDS and orphans through providing services to the community.
- Cooperative apex organizations could coordinate HIV and AIDS prevention and impact mitigation programmes at a national scale.

Project Summary

Under the umbrella of the Cooperative Facility for Africa Programme – Coop^{AFRICA}, the ILO is implementing a project on “HIV/AIDS Prevention and Impact Mitigation in the Word of Work in Tanzania”. This is an extension of similar interventions being implemented in other four African countries (Mozambique, Ethiopia, Benin, and Cameroon). The project is funded by the government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

The Project aims at mobilizing cooperatives, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in responding to HIV and AIDS in the workplace

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Cooperatives against HIV/AIDS: The potential.

Cooperatives have great potential to contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS. For instance, Cooperatives:

- a. Are grassroots organizations with a large captive audience, formalized, accepted and popular;
- b. Have a great capacity for building awareness on various issues affecting the community;
- c. Operate in the rural areas where other service institutions are either absent or not firmly established;
- d. Are Sensitive to the needs and problems of their members and the community at large;
- e. Have infrastructure for organizing programmes;
- f. Serve as centers of learning and engage in dialogue to develop ideas that help advancing the well-being of the members and the broader communities within which they operate.

The project focuses on building capacities and facilitates national and sub-national cooperative organizations as centers of competence on issues related to HIV and AIDS. It intends to support primary cooperatives to respond to HIV and AIDS as part of the services offered to members on a regular basis, while also establishing a challenge fund to build capacity and further develop advocacy activities. The project implementation will directly contribute to achieving the outputs of component 3 of the One UN Joint Programme – i.e. support to national response to HIV and AIDS.

Through capacity strengthening, cooperatives would be able to play both roles, as a channel of HIV and AIDS prevention initiatives and a tool for impact mitigation. To contribute to the prevention of HIV and AIDS, cooperative societies could generate and disseminate relevant information and knowledge and actively engage in the provision of prevention services. On the other hand, cooperative societies could contribute to impact mitigation by ensuring strengthened economic base of its members through access to entrepreneurship skills and income generating activities. Cooperatives could also play a vital role of facilitating its infected and affected members to access proper HIV and AIDS health services.

The project targets workers in the informal economy, their families and the community at large, for the following reasons:

1. Workers in the informal economy have little or inadequate access to health services;
2. Social protection coverage for informal economy workers and their families is limited;
3. Informal economy workers have limited access to savings and credit facilities;
4. Absenteeism from work due to sickness resulting from HIV and AIDS or caring for the sick often implies loss of income and assets for people working in the informal economy.

Expected Achievements

The ultimate goal of the project is to improve conditions and status of women and men that are infected and affected by HIV and AIDS who work in targeted areas of the informal economy.

Expected achievements are:

1. Increased number of cooperatives developing and implementing activities that address HIV and AIDS in rural and urban areas;
2. Small businesses are established and sustained that mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS;
3. Improved support services and access to health care services through micro and small enterprises including cooperative apex bodies.



Members of Mwendapole Agriculture Cooperative Society in Kibaha,Coast Region

Project Beneficiaries

In Tanzania, initially the project is implemented in three regions: Kilimanjaro (Rombo and Hai districts), Iringa (Iringa Municipality) and Coast (Kibaha district). The project carries out policy and advocacy activities at the national level. The final beneficiaries include members of the selected Community Based Organizations (CBOs), cooperatives and their families.

Project Duration and Budget

The project runs for 18 months, starting from June 2008 to December 2009.

Project Budget: USD 450,000, including regional component.



Board members of Nronga Women Dairy Cooperative Society

Project Partners

The project is based at the ILO Office in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and works in collaboration with a number of ILO programmes, including the ILO Global Programme on HIV/AIDS in the World of Work (ILO/AIDS), the Cooperative Programme (EMP/COOP), the Small Enterprise Development Programme (EMP/SEED) and the Programme “Strategies and Tools against Social Exclusion and Poverty” (ILO/STEP). The project also collaborates with international and national partners – including UN agencies in the framework of the ONE UN reform (eg. UNAIDS). Main national partners include the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC), the Moshi University College of Cooperatives and Business Studies (MUCCoBS), the Department of Cooperatives in the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Food Security, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the

Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), the Prime Minister’s Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development, the Association of Tanzanian Employers (ATE), and the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA).



Nronga women Dairy Cooperative society in Kilimanjaro Region.

PHOTO: ILO

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