



ILO SIDA- COOP Africa project “HIV/AIDS Prevention and Impact Mitigation in the World of Work in Tanzania”

DAR ES SALAAM – June 2008. The International Labour Organization recognizes HIV/AIDS as a work place issue not only because it affects labour and productivity, but also because the workplace can play a vital role in a wider response to limit the spread and the effect of the epidemic. The ILO being the UN agency with special responsibility for the world of work has been championing the development and implementation of actions aiming at: raising awareness of the economic and social impact of HIV/AIDS in the world of work; helping governments, employers and workers address HIV/AIDS through technical, cooperation, training, and policy guidance on prevention, care and social protection; and fighting discrimination and stigma related to HIV status.

To uphold the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic in the world of work, ILO identified the potential of working with cooperatives. Cooperative institutions can reach workers in informal sectors who are mostly left out by many HIV/AIDS interventions which are targeting workers in the formal settings. In 2001 ILO conducted a regional workshop in Swaziland which defined the role of cooperatives in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Moreover ILO developed a “Cooperatives in the Fight against HIV/ AIDS: A Cooperative Board Member’s Guide” which provides working framework for cooperatives in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Under the umbrella of a new program entitled Cooperative Facility for Africa, ILO is launching a new project on “**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Impact Mitigation in Tanzania**”. This is an extension of similar interventions being implemented in other 4 African countries (Mozambique, Ethiopia, Benin, and Cameroon). The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

The project aims at contributing to improving conditions and status of affected women and men working in targeted informal settings. It will more specifically, increase the number of cooperatives developing and implementing programmes on HIV/AIDS in rural and urban areas; and improved support services and people’s health care access through cooperatives apex and community-based organizations and through micro and small business and informal sector associations. The project implementation will be directly linked to and will contribute to achieving the outputs of the Tanzania One UN Joint Programme three, i.e. support to national response to HIV and AIDS (mainland and Zanzibar).

The project focuses on building capacities of national and sub-national cooperative organizations and institutions, as centers of competence on HIV/AIDS related issues; work with and assist local (grassroots) cooperatives in rural areas to organize and position themselves as centers or focal points that will actively engage in fighting against the pandemic and its consequences among cooperative members and their communities. Primary cooperative societies will be assisted to take up the fight against HIV/AIDS as part of the services offered to members on a regular basis. A challenge fund-type of mechanism, especially on capacity building and advocacy, is established under the program “Cooperative Facility for Africa - Coop^{AFRICA}” funded by DFID.



The project is based at the ILO Office in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), works in collaboration with the ILO Global Programme on HIV/AIDS in the World of Work (ILO/AIDS), the Cooperative Branch (COOP), the Small Enterprise Development Programme (SEED) and the Programme “Strategies and Tools against social Exclusion and Poverty (STEP). The project also collaborates with the ILO Regional Office for Africa, international and national partners – including UNAIDS. Main national partners will be the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC); the Moshi University College of Cooperative and Business Studies (MUCCoBS); the Department of Cooperatives in the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Food Security, the Ministry of Health and the Tanzania AIDS Commission (TACAIDS).

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