

SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the project has been built into the project design and means of implementation. The key aspects of this sustainability approach includes:

- Trainers are located within the support structures and can offer ongoing support to the beneficiaries
- The support structures are located within local communities and have linkages to business mentors, social services and markets
- The CEEIF is managed by the tripartite Project Advisory Board. This fund will be retained for and the growth of the fund will benefit new loan applications and project beneficiaries

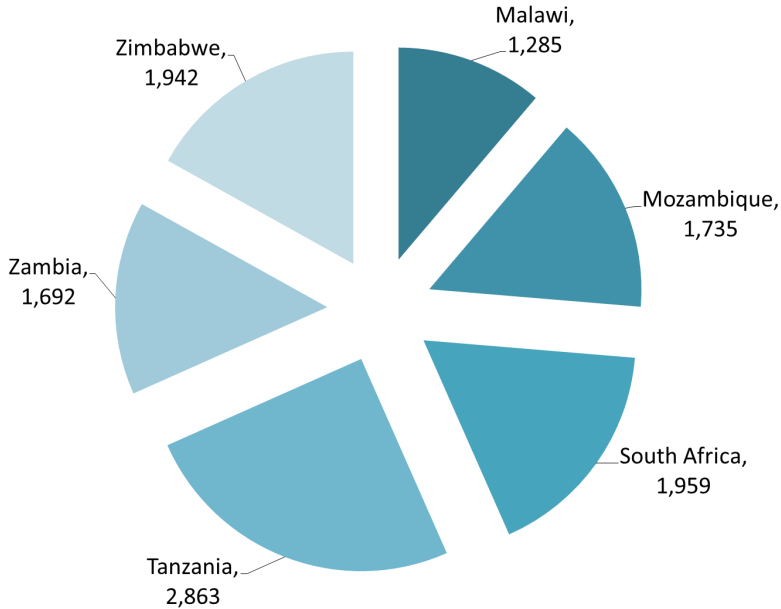
For further information please visit our website at:
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SPREAD

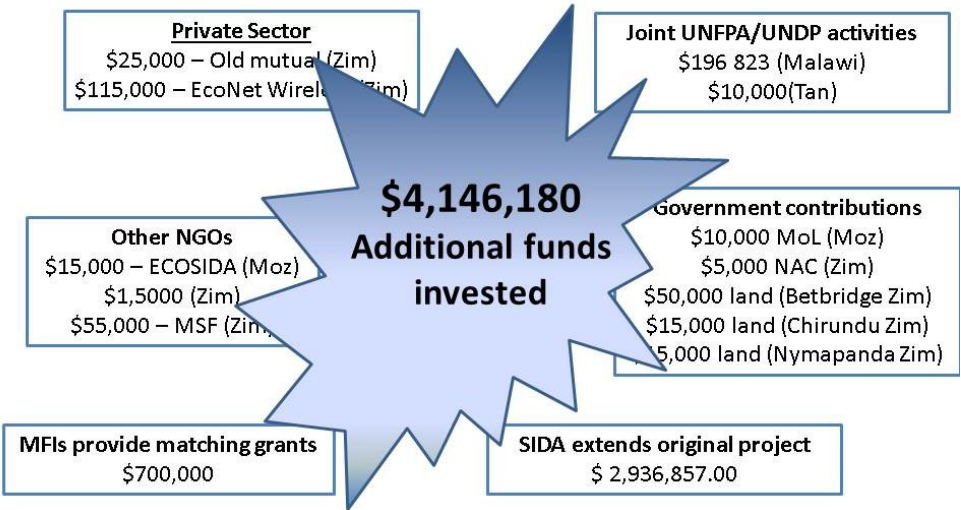
Below is a break down of the number of beneficiaries by participating country:



PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

The success of the project is not only observed from the results that are mentioned above but also from the recognition of the value of the project from other partners. This is clearest in terms of the private public partnerships that have emerged:

CEEP model promotes *investment*



Corridor Economic Empowerment Project

"You can talk about abstinence, faithfulness and condoms, but the strategies are nothing without empowering people with information and skills to embrace safer ways of making the money they need."

Globally, poverty, gender inequalities and social and economic exclusions continue to pose major challenges to HIV prevention efforts. UNAIDS report, 2014, shows that infection rates continue to be higher among poor countries, with sub-Saharan Africa accounting for about 69% of people living with HIV; among these, 58% are women. A fundamental difference between AIDS and other diseases generally linked with poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, such as tuberculosis or malaria, is its primarily sexual route of transmission. This has highlighted the importance of relational dynamics such as economic and power imbalances, which in turn influence the extent to which individuals are able to assert choices about sexual behaviour.

The scale and worsening impacts of the epidemic suggest the limited impact of traditional prevention approaches to date, and the need to begin addressing the deeper social and economic realities. One such reality relates to women's economic vulnerability. It has been argued that this economic vulnerability increases their vulnerability to HIV by furthering their dependence on men and constraining their ability to refuse unsafe sex, negotiate the use of a condom, discuss fidelity with their partners, or leave risky relationships.

Corridor Economic Empowerment Project

With support from the Swedish International Development Agency, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), through the Corridor Economic Empowerment Project (CEEP) has been working along the South-Eastern African transport corridors to support the SADC development agenda of controlling and reversing the impact of HIV and AIDS. From Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa, the CEEP approach has been successfully implemented. CEEP's underlying strategy addresses the basic and immediate needs of beneficiaries by focusing on the structural drivers of the epidemic. The project empowers beneficiaries both economically and personally to address the challenges that arise within the local contexts.



Mazombe Savings and Credit Co-operative

This co-operative is based in, Ilula Town Council, Kilolo District in Iringa Region, Tanzania. The SACCOS members include women girls beneficiaries, who have been vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and were traditionally operating as food vendors and local brewers providing services to the local communities, truck drivers and migrant workers operating along this hot spot. This setting made them vulnerable to sexual harassment and at times, these women would engage in transactional sex, a high risk survivalist strategy common along the transport corridors.

Drawing on the ILO's Recommendation 193, the power of co-operatives, the SACCOS has combined their skills and resources to improve both their individual and group business.

After the ILO/CEEP training on entrepreneurship, the women group through their SACCOS applied for CEEIF loan of TZS 8,900,000 equivalent to \$ 4,800 from which they were able to buy a motor-tricycle. This strategic business move, allowed the group to provide other local businesses with transport to the nearby markets. Not only does this move their business up the value chain but also fosters sustainability. Through the success of this business idea, they are not only earning profits but have also maintained a 100% repayment rate.

Mazmbe SACCOS has trained trainers and 20 peer educators who then reached 266 beneficiaries. During these trainings, a savings culture was fostered through introduction of cash box system. They also provided training on technical skills, e.g. how to make tomato paste

The Framework

Working within a systems framework, the CEEP approach focuses on the interaction of systems at a Macro, Meso and Mirco level.

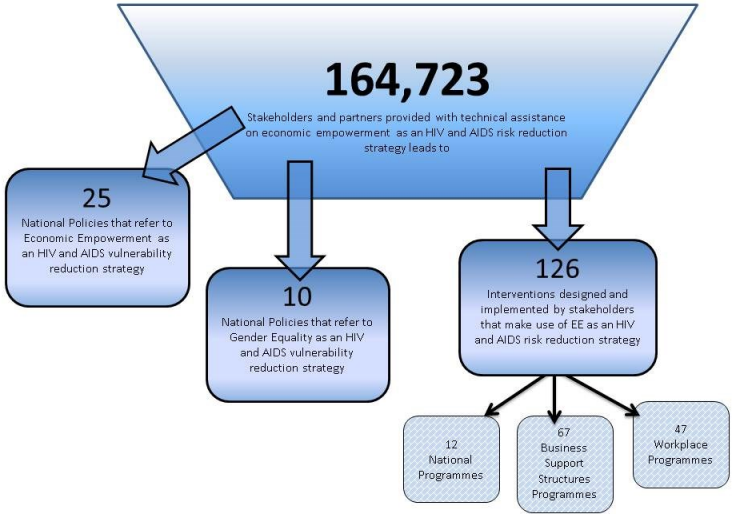
The focus on the Macro level fosters an enabling environment through the work with national governments and policy makers to ensure that the relevance of this approach is seen at all levels and support is offered to the project.

At a meso level, the project focuses on building the capacity of business support structures within the participating countries and regions. These support structures provide the platform from which to access and assist the informal traders located within the project's hotspots. This assistance includes the provision of peer education, training and mentoring to the traders to improve their businesses as well as the provision of information and referrals to health services where applicable.

At a micro level, support is offered to the beneficiaries at three levels. At the first level, economic empowerment is central and here beneficiaries are provided with knowledge skills and resources to start or improve their businesses. At a second level, issues of gender equality is addressed and beneficiaries examine the manner in which gender can increase their HIV and AIDS vulnerability as well as the social space to implement their economic empowerment skills. And at a third and final area seeks to provide beneficiaries with information and resources (referrals) to make informed decisions about the manner in which they may be placing themselves at risk and what can be done to reduce this risk.

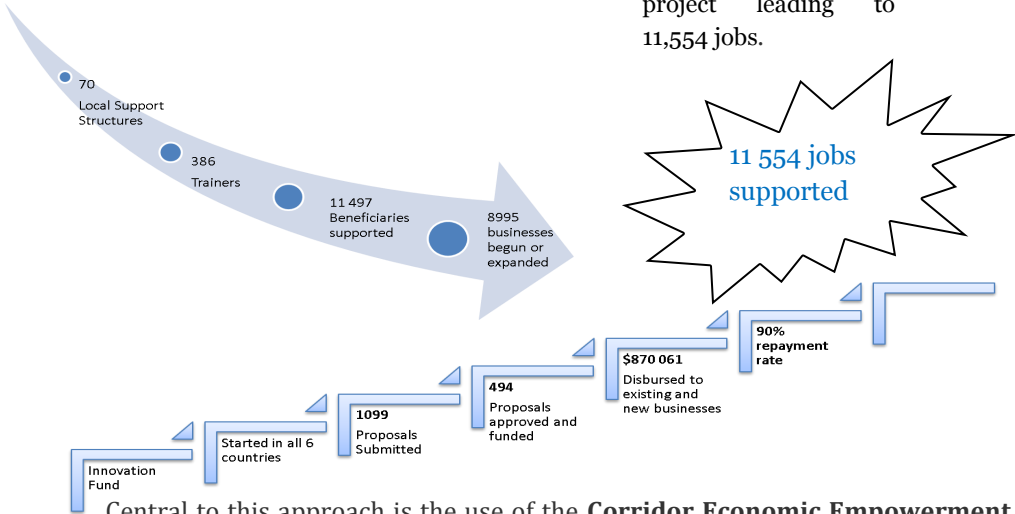
MACRO EFFECTS:

Through the provision of technical assistance and strategic information to 164,603 stakeholders and policy makers, Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality as two methods for HIV and AIDS risk reduction have been incorporated into National polices and intervention programmes run by the stakeholders. This enthusiastic response speaks to the relevance of the project at a macro level



MESO EFFECTS

Across the 6 countries, 70 business support structures and co-operatives have been supported to implement the project. These groups draw on 386 trainers to provide capacity building to 10,970 beneficiaries on business skills, gender equality and HIV and AIDS. Extrapolating from the latest outcome survey, it appears that approximately 8,995 businesses have been supported through the project leading to 11,554 jobs.



Central to this approach is the use of the **Corridor Economic Empowerment Innovation Fund (CEEIF)**. This fund has been put in place to ensure that these vulnerable groups, who are usually excluded from accessing loans due to the lack of security, now have access. One way in which this is achieved is through the support offered by co-operatives and business groups. To ensure CEEIF sustainability, an advisory committee, made up of tripartite constituents monitors the administration of the fund by a local Micro-Finance Institution.

MICRO EFFECTS:

“I am now able to send my children to school and afford three decent square meals in a day. That business training was a springboard to change in my life situation”

Economic Empowerment:

The support offered to the beneficiaries on the project has led to the significant improvement of business skills and access to finance to start or expand businesses.

Further, the personal effects were felt by the beneficiaries with significant improvements in:

- Profits (\$607 in the last six months for the untrained group and \$856 for the trained group),
- Personal income (\$93 per month for the untrained group and \$138 for those trained,
- Savings (16% compared to 49% for those untrained and trained respectively)
- Spending on health (\$40 to \$111 per month)
- Spending on education (\$15 to \$45 per month)
- Spending on nutrition (\$54 to \$149 per month)
- Overall, these improvements were felt by the trained beneficiaries and this was reflected within the significant improvements in their self-reported socio-economic status.

Gender Equality:

The second aspect of the project seeks to address gender equality, not only by economically empowering women within families but also through addressing gender issues. These steps have led to improvements in women finding space and agency in making household decisions (49% to 63% form untrained to trained); in the general attitude that a wife has the right to refuse unsafe sex (64% to 71% form untrained to trained) and in a lower acceptance of any justification for GBV (57% to 47% form untrained to trained).

HIV and AIDS

The project has observed some important changes within the area of HIV and AIDS vulnerability, notably:

- There has been significant improvements in comprehensive knowledge on HIV and AIDS
- 56% of the trained beneficiaries adopted risk reduction strategies, in the last six months as compared to 8% of the untrained beneficiaries. These strategies include significant improvements in partner reduction, reduction of transactional sex and reduction of alcohol and drug use before sex. Condom use, while not statistically significant, still has a noticeable improvement for those trained.
- In addition, there were improvements with 88% of the trained beneficiaries accessing HIV and AIDS related services (as compared to 72% of the untrained group) including accessing condoms, HCT, treatment, PMTCT and reproductive health services.

