



Corridor Economic Empowerment Project in Mozambique



Since March 2011, the Corridor Economic Empowerment Project (CEEP) has worked within Mozambique, focusing on five hotspots based within **XXXXXXXXXX**.

At a **Macro level** the project has provided 16 000 national stakeholders and policy makers with technical assistance and strategic information on the link between Economic Status, Gender Equality and HIV and AIDS vulnerability. Through these informative exchanges the project has influenced the development of 3 national policies which focused on HIV and AIDS, including United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Decent work Country programme for Mozambique, PENIII/Portuguese . Through these engagements the project has provided support to 20 programmes which have been implemented by these stakeholders (National 1, workplace 7 and Business Support Structures 4).

At a **Meso level** the project, has built the capacity of 14 Business Support Structures through the training of 33 trainers on the CEEP approach. Together the project was able to train 1,735 beneficiaries on Business Skills, Gender Equality and HIV and AIDS (77% being women). This has provided the opportunity to refer these individuals for various HIV and AIDS related services.

The Corridor Economic Empowerment Innovation Fund (CEEIF) was also launched in August 2013. This fund is managed by the Project's Advisory Committee and is housed within the Zandemela, a local micro-financial institution. Together, 350 business proposals have been reviewed and approved for funding, which amounts to a disbursement of \$350,000. Zandemela also provides the beneficiaries with on-going trainings and mentoring.

Further, at a meso level the project was able to solicit \$160 500 in public private partnerships

The effects at a **Micro level**, that is at the level of the beneficiaries is apparent and clear when considering the qualitative and quantitative data that was collected in the 2013 and 2014 outcome surveys. Drawing on a representative sample of 291, the quasi-experimental design categorized beneficiaries into levels of business skills adopted (BSA) as this forms the key strategy of the Economic Empowerment, Gender Equality and HIV and AIDS trainings—it also suggests the level of internalization of the projects' teachings. The following key and significant effects were observed:

Economic Empowerment	No BSA	BSA
Mode for business skill adopted	0	2
Profits (\$) reported over the last six months	223	441
Average monthly income (\$)	25	75
Mode for Socio-economic status	0	3
Percentage with savings	73%	91%
Gender	No BSA	BSA
Any justification of GBV	61%	39%
Percentage acceptance that wife can refuse sex	73%	71%
HIV and AIDS	No BSA	BSA
Levels of comprehensive HIV and AIDS knowledge	3.7	4.7
Adoption of HIV and AIDS risk reduction strategies	0%	60%
Condom use at last sex	43%	56%
Percentage of people engaged in transactional sex	41%	3%
Percentage of people using alcohol before sex	5%	2%
Uptake of HIV and AIDS related services	85%	94%

The results from the outcomes surveys and the output reports indicate that the project has achieved some significant results within Malawi. This is evident from the achievement of the project output targets, including training of beneficiaries, providing support to business support structures, national stakeholders as well as the outcomes or effects that the project has had on these groups. Highlights of these successes are captured within the individual stories and the quantitative results presented above including the improvements in economic status, gender relations and the adoption of risk reduction strategies.



Focus areas or hotspots in XXXXXXXXXXXXX

"In corridors, you have people from various origins, backgrounds and behaviors and there is a lot of money circulating due to active traffic, which attracts girls because they know they can make some money here" says Rosa, a business owner from Chimoio, Manica Province.

She sees the financial trainings and instruments adopted by the ILO and the Swedish Government as very important since they are an alternative to these survivalist strategies and traditional commercial banking, which puts barriers in accessing credit for the poorest of the poor and those who are HIV-positive. Through this support her business activities have been successful to support her four children and seven grandchildren, including paying for their primary and tertiary studies.

"Women are the most affected by HIV/AIDS due to their lack of economic independence. A woman with no means of survival ends up using her own body as a source of income. If they can do something, they will have more power to decide about their own sex life. A financially independent woman is a protected woman," states Rosa.

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