



Corridor Economic Empowerment Project in Zambia



Since March 2011, the Corridor Economic Empowerment Project (CEEP) has worked within Zambia, focusing on five hotspots based within of Lusaka, Chipata and Katete Districts .

At a **Macro level** the project has provided 17 000 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 The National AIDS Strategic Framework (NSAF) 2011 - 2016, The Citizen Economic Empowerment Act, 2006, Decent Work Programme for Zambia . Through these engagements the project has provided support to 8 programmes which have been implemented by these stakeholders (National 1 and Business Support Structures 7).

At a **Meso level** the project, has built the capacity of 8 Business Support Structures through the training of 33 trainers on the CEEP approach. Together the project was able to train 1,471 beneficiaries on Business Skills, Gender Equality and HIV and AIDS (83% 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 September 2013. This fund is managed by the Project's Advisory Committee and is housed within the Cavmont Bank. Together, 53 business proposals have been reviewed and approved for funding, which amounts to a disbursement of \$126,983. Cavmont also provides the beneficiaries with on-going trainings and mentoring.

Further, at a meso level the project was able to solicit \$390,000 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 2014 outcome surveys. Drawing on a representative sample of 542, 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	5
Profits (\$) reported over the last six months	18	1,035
Average monthly income (\$)	30	84
Mode for Socio-economic status	1	3
Percentage with savings	49%	94%
Gender	No BSA	BSA
Percentage of women involved	52%	59%
Percentage acceptance that wife can refuse sex	64%	77%
HIV and AIDS	No BSA	BSA
Adoption of HIV and AIDS risk reduction strategies	6%	36%
Condom use at last sex	25%	48%
Percentage of people engaged in transactional sex	18%	2%
Uptake of HIV and AIDS related services	79%	84%

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 include
Lusaka, Chipata and Katete Districts**

WHAT THE BENEFICIARIES SAY:

"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. I have now expanded my business by including growing and selling maize as it is a profitable business", says Margret from Munchini Compound, Chipata District.

The widow has 10 children and is able to support them through her thriving business. Before she joined the project, through the Chisomo Community Programme, things were hard. But since the trainings and support offered through the project

Over time as she applied the acquired business knowledge and skills, her sales, profit and savings increased. Her business grew to an extent where she bought a fridge (in which she stores soft drinks she sells), a television set and hired local builders to renovate and expand her house which had been in a sorry and dilapidated state following the demise of her husband. Margaret even electrified the house!

Contact:

Mr L. Nkhoma
National Project Co-ordinator
International Labour
Organization
Plot 4635, Lubwa Road, Rhodes
Park Lusaka
Zambia
tel: 260(211) 252743/25277
nkhoma@ilo.org
<http://www.ilo.org>