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ITF Global Transport Workers and HIV/AIDS Project

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This issue...

At a time when HIV is still spreading steadily across the globe, we are also witnessing progress in controlling this deadly disease. Responses to the AIDS epidemic have grown and improved considerably over the last few years. The objective of this E-bulletin is to circulate AIDS-related news, publications, literature and research to affiliated unions and others working in this field. It is a part of our new Global HIV/AIDS project, which is targeting ITF affiliates all over the globe. Get involved! For further information and queries please contact Dr. Syed Asif Altaf, Global HIV/AIDS Project Coordinator, Altaf.Asif@itf.org.uk or the Regional Education Coordinator in your ITF region, ITF Education Department: education@itf.org.uk.

This issue of the E-bulletin will look at how transport unions all over the world observed the World AIDS day, 2010.

World AIDS day, 2010: Transport Unions challenge HIV stigma at workplaces

Started on 1st December 1988, World AIDS Day is about increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. The World AIDS Day theme for 2010 is '*Universal Access and Human Rights*'. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

The ITF remains committed to action to combat HIV/AIDS in the workplace to help million of its members in their fight against the deadly infection, to ensure a rights-based approach to the interventions, to advocate for strong privacy and confidentiality safeguards and to ensure stigma free work places. ITF affiliates all over the world were active during World AIDS day, 2010 and implemented different activities. When we were writing this bulletin, more than 90 affiliates from 35 countries have already sent us reports of their activities. We expect more affiliates will soon report. The following are activities which have already taken place:

Argentina: Centro de Jefes y Oficiales Maquinistas organised leadership-level discussions on the importance of addressing HIV/AIDS with the aim of incorporating HIV/AIDS issues into negotiations in collective agreements.

Australia Services' Union used their website for HIV campaigning. They worked in partnership with the gay, transgender, bisexual and lesbian network. They also distributed ITF campaign materials to different workplaces.

Barbados Workers Union joined the national AIDS programme to mark World AIDS day

Belgium: ACV-Transom put up HIV campaign materials in different workplaces.

ITF coordination committee of Burkina Faso made special arrangements with the state television for airing of the ITF film "Highway of Hope".

Burma Seafarers Union organised a meeting with ITF Thai coordination committee and a local NGO to formulate a health care and HIV prevention programme for migrant workers in the fishing sector.

Sihanoukville port trade union of Cambodia organised special a peer educators' life skill training programme for its members and also for the informal workers in the export processing zone around the port.

Canada: CAW launched a manual on HIV/AIDS which includes information on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Canada and internationally, transmission, getting tested, treatment, model collective agreement language and a wealth of other helpful data. This project is the first of its kind of any trade union in Canada and will hopefully serve as a model for other unions. **To download the booklet and poster, please visit:** <http://www.caw.ca/en/services-departments-human-rights.htm>

Different branch offices of CAW put HIV campaign materials in different workplaces.

Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Conductores de Camiones de Chile organised discussion session on HIV/AIDS and also distributed campaign and awareness materials to workers in different workplaces.

Colombia: SNTT organised a meeting aimed primarily at youth, in the poorer neighbourhoods of Cartagena to address issues related to HIV/AIDS. A viewing of 'Highway of Hope was arranged. The union distributed ITF HIV/AIDS materials.

Ecuador: Comité de Empresa de los Trabajadores de Corpaq conducted an open house on December 1, 2010. This event counted with the participation of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, City Health Unit North, various foundations and students from several schools in the capital of Ecuador. Materials were distributed to 2,000 workers at the airport and more than 4,000 passengers. They also organised a cultural programme for members and families to disseminate HIV/AIDS information.

Ethiopian Transport and Communication Workers Trade Union Industrial Federation (TCWTUIF) organized a seminar to disseminate the ITF survey on HIV/AIDS in the civil aviation sector. They published a special newsletter and mobilised workers for VCT.

SITEAIES of El Salvador has started negotiations with management to incorporate HIV/AIDS related clauses in the CBA. They have organised number of seminars for members in different workplaces to challenge stigma and discrimination.

France:CGT organised a discussion session on HIV/AIDS at workplaces. They also distributed ITF's campaign materials to trade union federation and stops in highways.

Ghana:A tripartite workshop to create a pool of trainers was organised in collaboration with the employers organization(IU), ILO and the Ministry of Transport. The ITF coordination committee in Ghana also organised a discussion on the importance of working together in preventing HIV/AIDS infection and providing care and support.

Grenada Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union organised a march in the city. They organised a discussion session on health and safety at workplaces and distributed pamphlets, leaflets and condoms and showed the the ITF documentary on HIV/AIDS.

Guatemala: Sindicato de Trabajadores Portuaris organised a discussion session on November 25, the international day for violence against women in the National Port Company Santo Tomas de Castilla. They distributed condoms to workers. They also decorated a truck with festoons, ITF posters, condoms, palm trees, red ribbons, an oil painting and material sent by the ITF to move around port.

Guyana: Clerical & commercial workers' union in partnership with the government and employers organized dialogue with the management on the implementation of workplace policies on HIV/AIDS.

Honduras: Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Empresa Nacional Portuaria organised a Solidarity Walk. The also organised family day for members and their families. They distributed leaflets, flyers and condoms at workplaces and showed the ITF documentary on HIV/AIDS.

ITF affiliates in **India** including All India Railwaymen Federation(AIRF), National Federation Indian Railway(NFIR), Transport and Dockworkers' union, Mumbai, Transport and dockworkers union, Kandala, Forwad Seamen union of India(FUSI), Cochin Port Staff Association, Calcutta Port Shramik Union,National Union of Seafarers of India(NUSI) organized different activities during the WAD which included awareness programmes for workers, street drama, visiting ships and distributing awareness materials and condoms to seafarers, put up ITF posters in workplaces, procession where leaders and members paraded around the railway stations, organising meeting with management to develop workplace policy on HIV/AIDS, health camp for truckers coming to port.

In Indonesia, the Norwegian Seafarers' Union and the Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia ran an information stand in Bali seafarers' centre and held a day of activities including an "AIDS game" inviting seafarers to test their knowledge of the issue and find out more.

Kenya: Kenya Long distance truck drivers' union organised a week long moonlight VCT at all the major truck stops along the northern corridor to encourage truckers to go for voluntary HIV testing. They also organised procession with number of trucks decorated with ITF's campaign materials. Acrobatic shows and entertainments were conducted by different groups where HIV messages were also given.

Kenya Dock workers union organised a rally which passed around the port and adjacent areas. They also organised street drama in different strategic points in the highway.

The Government Services Employees Association of Mauritius held a one-day workshop on the 1st December 2010 to commemorate the World Aids Day at the seat of the Association, Unity House, Beau Bassin. The aim of this workshop was to create awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS in Mauritius both socially and economically. This year's theme is "Universal Access and Human Rights".

Transport Corporation Employers Union of Mauritius organised education programmes for workers. They have also started the process of developing a national policy on HIV/AIDS and transport sector.

Mexico: ATM organised national wide campaign on HIV/AIDS and distributed condoms and awareness materials in different workplaces.

The Namibian Transport and Allied Workers' Union organised a trucke convoy which travelled through Windhoek and on to the Brakwater weigh bridge. From there the truckers drove to all the city's main railway stations. During the trip, unionists distributed male and female condoms and HIV/AIDS awareness material. They also ran condom demonstrations and awareness raising sessions for all drivers.

Both **Nepal Independent Transport Workers' Association of Nepal** and **Nepal Transport Labour Association (Nepal Yatayat Mazdoor Sangh) (NETWON)** organised campaign activities along India and Nepal border points. They organised discussion sessions, distributed awareness materials including condoms to truckers at border points.

The Air Transport Services Senior Staff association of **Nigeria** in collaboration with employers printed 1000 educational pamphlets for members and passenger in 3 major airports. They also organised a seminar with management to deal with HIV more effectively at workplaces.

Pakistan: A seminar was organised by the **Pakistan Railway workers' union** at Railway Colony Karachi Contentment in collaboration with a local NGO.

The Pakistan Transport Workers' Federation organised workplace seminars on HIV/AIDS.

USTT of Paraguay met with representatives from government, employers to sign a tripartite declaration for development of a HIV/AIDS policy for the transport sector in Paraguay.

The Union Sindical Obrera in Spain ran a campaign focusing on the importance of implementing the International Labour Organization's recommendation on HIV/AIDS in the world of work; activists also produced a newsletter on HIV/AIDS for members.

Tanzania: Mission to Seafarers organised discussion sessions for visiting seafarers. They put up ITF campaign materials in the seafarers centre.

Thailand: ITF-THAI led by its Women Group joined The Foundation of AIDs Rights for organising activities to commenorate World Aids Day such as collecting the information, conducting poll and survey, distributing leaflets, and campaign on using condoms. Thai Airways UNION fair held at head office was attended by all ITF Thai unions. It's the biggest charity fair for members to meet and greet each other. The union collected 8,000 US \$ for donation to a charity.

The Federation of Transport Workers' Unions of Togo (FESYTRAT) in collaboration with the Workers Trade Union Confederation of Togo (CSTT) organised a discussion session on the "ILO Recommendation No. 200 on HIV / AIDS and the world of work"

Ugandan Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union (ATGWU) organized a number of programmes at different wellness centres that they run in partnership with Solidarity Centre and North Star Foundation. They also organised cultural programmes at these Wellness centres.

Railway union Federacion de Trabajadores Ferroviarios de Venezuela organised dissemination of information, posters and condoms in subway stations, to drivers and near the railway station in Caracas, Venezuela.

Communication and Transport Workers' Union of Zanzibar organised meeting to inaugurate workplace policies at five sites, including port and aviation services, the department of road transport and the department of aviation.