

International Workshop on “Responding to HIV and AIDS in the Fishery Sector in Africa”

Lusaka, Zambia
21-22 February, 2006

In the last decade, it has become evident that fishermen in many developing countries are among the populations most at risk to HIV, with prevalence rates often five to ten times higher than those in the general population.

The elevated HIV prevalence and the alarming morbidity and mortality due to AIDS place fisherfolk and their communities among those meriting close attention in policy and support programmes in response to the disease.

Working in the fishery sector has posed particular challenges to service providers working on HIV and AIDS for a number of reasons. These include the mobility and remoteness of many fisherfolk, their transient community structures and lack of involvement with other social services. Nevertheless, around the world, governments and civil society groups have started to respond to HIV and AIDS in fishing communities and the fishery sector more generally.

Co-hosted by the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives (MACO), and the National AIDS Council (NAC), the international workshop was held to assess progress made in responding to HIV and AIDS in the fishery sector in Africa and to identify priorities for further research and development support.

Ninety participants attended from 13 countries in Africa and from international organizations. They represented government agencies in the fisheries and health sectors, research institutions, and civil society organizations active in working with fishing communities.

The purpose of the workshop was to enable professionals and organizations working in response to HIV and AIDS in African fisheries to share experiences, appraise the efficacy of their approaches and identify actions in research and development that will further improve their impact.

The workshop pursued and achieved the following objectives:

- Review and compare research findings and approaches applied in response to HIV and AIDS in fishing communities and the wider fishery sector
- Identify good practice examples for wider application
- Identify next steps in development and research to scale up these examples
- Initiate a network of practitioners in Africa for capacity building, scaling-up and further development of approaches

The workshop was jointly organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the WorldFish Center with support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

For further information and outputs, email enquires can be addressed to Lusaka2006@worldfish-eg.org

[Link to documents]

- HIV/AIDS in the Fisheries Sector in Africa (2005)
- Proceedings of the International Workshop: Responding to HIV and AIDS in the Fishery Sector in Africa (2006)