

## Responding to HIV and AIDS in the Fishery Sector in Africa

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.

An International Workshop entitled 'Responding to HIV and AIDS in the Fishery Sector in Africa', co-hosted by the Zambian Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, and the National AIDS Council of Zambia, took place in Lusaka, Zambia from 21-22 February, 2006. The purpose of the workshop was 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. Delegates attended from 16 countries within Africa, as well as internationally.

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

For further information and for output following the workshop contact +2027364114.

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