

Fighting HIV/AIDS in the Road Transport Sector



Background

Regions with a high level of population mobility normally witness higher HIV prevalence rates. HIV prevalence tends to be especially high along transport corridors and border areas. There is strong evidence showing that high levels of mobility increase the risk of casual sexual relations and thus sexually transmitted infections including HIV. Mobile and migrating populations are consequently at a high risk to acquire and to transmit HIV infections. This is especially true among long distance truck drivers and road maintenance workers, who spend lengthy periods on duty away from their homes .

Truck drivers represent a comparatively wealthy population group while many of the communities along the main roads are composed of subsistence farmers and people with no or low income. Thus, commercial and transactional sex has increasingly become an income generating method, especially at border sites and truck stops.

Service package

GTZ offers evidence-based advisory services for the planning, management, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive HIV/AIDS programmes in the road transport sector.

GTZ offers the following modules

- > **Capacity Building:** In partnership with local NGOs, GTZ develops and supports HIV/AIDS peer education programmes for truck drivers, road maintenance workers, their wives and family members, employees of private and public institutions linked to the transport sector, as well as male and female sex workers. GTZ offers innovative approaches and training modules on HIV/AIDS.
- > **Providing Effective Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI):** GTZ supports the design of roadside health and information units, providing STI services for long distance truck drivers and other vulnerable population groups. GTZ advises on the introduction, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of STI treatment according to international recommended practices, including training and supervision of health personnel (including training of trainers), monitoring of user rates and use of drugs, procurement of drugs and medical supplies, as well as quality control of these services.
- > **Providing Policy Advice:** GTZ advises ministries of transportation and infrastructure development on HIV/AIDS policies and the integration of HIV/AIDS interventions into the road transport industry. This includes situation analysis, recommendations for implementation strategies, impact assessment and development of national strategies and action plans.
- > **Promoting HIV/AIDS Workplace Policies and Programmes:** GTZ is experienced in the implementation of HIV/AIDS workplace policies and programmes, and provides technical assistance to private sector enterprises in the transport industry, as well as to ministries of transportation and infrastructure development on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS workplace programmes.

> **Providing Management Consultancy**

Services: GTZ advises and supports governments in the general management of national and regional transport corridor HIV/AIDS projects. GTZ offers services and capacity building in financial management, procurement, as well as the design and evaluation of monitoring and evaluation systems.

Benefits

Through comprehensive anti-HIV/AIDS measures, all stakeholders in the transport industry and the affected communities are being informed and motivated to practice safe behaviour; the demand for STI/HIV care and treatment services increases. The immediate and professional counselling and treatment of transport sector employees with sexually transmitted infections lead to the reduction of HIV-infections and increase preventive behaviour. All GTZ anti-HIV/AIDS measures in the realm of the road transport sector are based on comprehensive and participatory approaches involving communities, NGOs, the private as well as the public sector, thereby ensuring a greater degree of sustainability of HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation strategies.

GTZ commitment

GTZ has many years of experience in the integration of multisectoral HIV/AIDS interventions. Mainstreaming of anti-HIV/AIDS measures in all sectors is a top priority and a cross-sectoral theme of GTZ. In the field of transportation and infrastructure development, GTZ has particular expertise in the areas of capacity building, the development of participatory approaches, policy advice, as well as STI control.

The overall approach is firmly established in the SADC region, where GTZ has implemented the EU funded regional project "Actions to Combat HIV/AIDS in the Road Transport Sector," from 2000 to 2002. The main goal of the project was to reduce HIV and STI incidence and to increase STI preventive and treatment-seeking behaviour among road transport sector workers and their families along the main transport corridors between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.



Since 2004, GTZ acts as Management Consultant to the Executive Secretariat of the World Bank funded "Abidjan - Lagos Transport Corridor HIV/AIDS Project," a multi-country initiative designed to increase access to prevention services and care & support to those affected by HIV/AIDS. The project pays special attention to migrants and the populations living in border regions along the Abidjan - Lagos corridor. GTZ supports and advises the Executive Secretariat in the coordination and management of the project and is responsible for the project's financial and procurement management. In addition, GTZ develops and implements the monitoring and evaluation system of the project and technically evaluates community and civil society proposals received by the Executive Secretariat.



Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

Division 4300
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
Postfach 5180
65726 Eschborn, Germany
Tel.: +49-(0)-6196-79-0
E-Mail: aids@gtz.de
Internet: www.gtz.de/aids