

Ensuring a healthy
workplace and workforce

HIV/AIDS Program



The HIV/AIDS pandemic has severe humanitarian consequences and disastrous effects on households, businesses and societies at large.

The Swedish Workplace HIV/AIDS Program (SWHAP) was established to prevent the spread of the disease and minimize the impact. SWHAP initiates and co-funds long-term HIV/AIDS programs in Sweden-related workplaces in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Without preventative actions, HIV/AIDS can cause huge costs to individual companies in terms of increased staff turnover, sick-leave costs, accidents, and increased death and disability insurance.



Improves quality of life

A program that helps people detect HIV at an early stage of the infection has the best chances of succeeding.

Atlas Copco implemented voluntary testing and counseling in South Africa in 2003. Today, there are policies in place including nondiscrimination of HIV infected employees and comprehensive programs in many countries. The programs are managed in cooperation with local experts.



Atlas Copco's programs are voluntary, confidential, and free. They include testing, counseling, doctor visits, and offer vitamins and antiretroviral drugs. No one who joined the program with a negative test result has later been tested positive for HIV/AIDS.



Did you know?

HIV infects the cells of the immune system, destroying or impairing their function. The term AIDS is used for the disease caused by HIV.

HIV can be transmitted e.g. through unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person or transfusion of contaminated blood.

Although there is no cure, access to medicines, good nutrition, safe water and basic hygiene can help an HIV-infected person maintain a high quality of life.

Did you know?

More than 33 million people in the world have been infected with HIV, which is rated a pandemic.

Of all the people in the world infected with HIV, two thirds are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2007, nearly 3 million people became newly infected and 2 million died of HIV/AIDS.

Tuberculosis is the main cause of death among people living with HIV/AIDS.





Award-winning program

Atlas Copco supports its companies in developing HIV/AIDS programs in countries where there is a need; in Africa and elsewhere. Knowledge and experience of such programs are transferred between companies and across geographical borders.

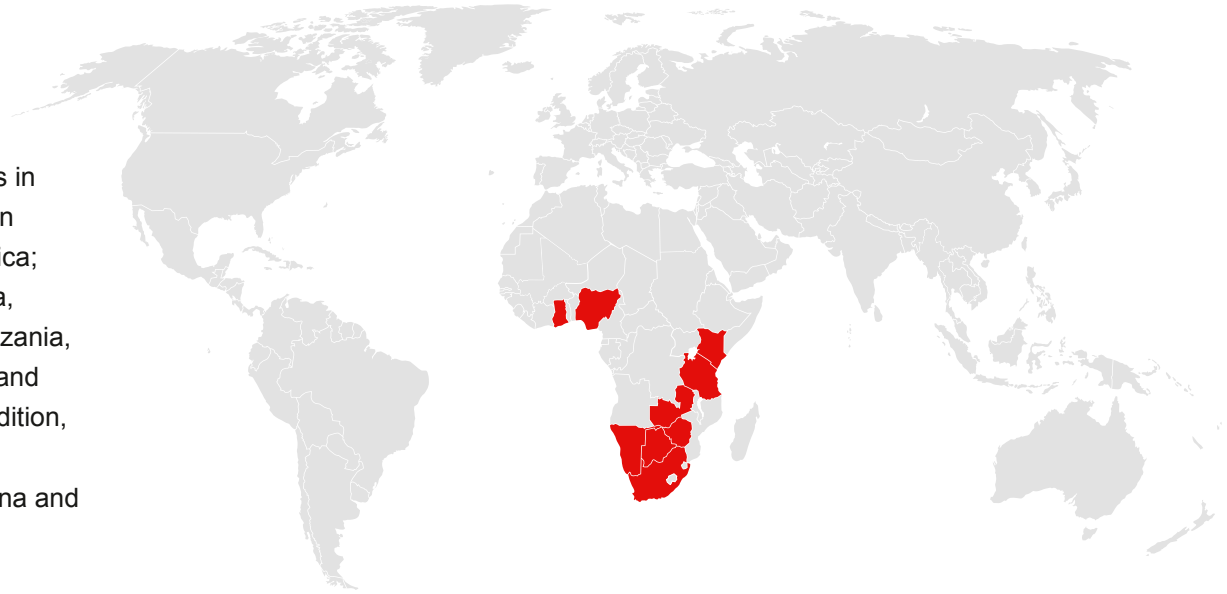
Successful programs require leadership and commitment. For instance, there is always a committee with representatives from both management and employees. Commitment also means that managers take the lead and stand first in the lines to take the test.



In 2009, Atlas Copco South Africa was recognized with the SWHAP Achievement Award for the best workplace program. The award was established to encourage and reward successful and innovative workplace initiatives that prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and decrease the effects of the HIV pandemic.

HIV/AIDS program

SWHAP operates in seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa; Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, Atlas Copco has programs in Ghana and Namibia.



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