Solidarity with Nigerian workers

Update on progress on HIV-AIDS

1 May 2016

Update on NLC project on HIV/AIDS

*Maureen Onyia-Ekwuazi, Head of the Occupational Health and Safety Department at the Nigeria Labour Congress has sent us the following report on what has happened in Nigeria since the conclusion of a TUC Aid project on HIV/AIDS which was implemented between 2009 and 2012. It shows the lasting impact that such projects can have.*

*In particular, shortly after the NLC/TUC Project ended, NLC successfully lobbied the National Assembly - alongside several other stakeholders - to attain a law on Anti –Stigmatization on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.*

The project was rated very successful especially because of its impact in the two local hospitals were HCT took place.

The Project’s last report was circulated to several Nigerian Organizations and it cut the interest of National Agency for Control of HIV/AIDS (NACA) who invited NLC to submit proposals.

The NLC continued with awareness at the Workplace both in formal and informal sectors to test Nigerian Workers as HCT became a major issue in Nigeria supported by NACA

In 2013/2014, the NLC tested about 10, 654 Nigerian workers and their families while in 2014/2015, over 10, 500 workers were also tested. This year, the Congress target has been increased to 15, 000

The 2016 programme has now incorporated several other activities as NLC has increased its strategy to ATM – AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Therefore the NLC collaborates with Society for Family Health in providing services to Nigerian workers on Malaria and TB.

The NLC has also trained several volunteers who work with the Health and Safety department to provide these services to Nigerian Workers. The unique side of this year is that the programme is designed to move from one workplace to the other with a team of doctors and Nurses from the Medical and Health Workers union and National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives to provide tests on Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, Malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, and Eye tests.

The 2016 phase started this April and has tested about 2,200 workers who also went through the tests listed above. Information on how to manage their health usually preceded the tests and they are given by NLC experts on Health and Safety.