Notes on Unilever Tea Tanzania Treatment and Care programs

Context:
- Since 2005, the company hospital of Unilever Tea Tanzania (UTT) has been one of the medical centers that provide free antiretroviral drugs under the National Care and Treatment Plan (NCTP).

Description of the Project:
- The goals of the project are to provide hope and comfort through good quality and appropriate care to help families remain independent and improve their quality of life. The project is also involved in identifying those in need of treatment and in monitoring of those enrolled at the CTC.
- UTT provide the medical infrastructure and staff in an area which is remote from any other appropriately equipped facility. The delivery of the NCTP is supported by technical expertise from a number of organizations, including Pharmaccess who played a key role in facilitating the involvement of UTT. Family Health International, with USAID funding, provide specific technical support to Mufindi.
- To end August 2006, there have been 850 people enrolled at the Mufindi ‘Care and Treatment Clinic’, of whom <40% are company employees and their dependants.
- UTT in Mufindi also provides the base for a community home-based care (HBC) project in collaboration with CARE International with funding from USAID, with the company employees playing a major role in delivery of the programme.

Funding:
- The project is funded by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and several international donors, among which the biggest contributor is the Global Fund, but also include PEPFAR, the Clinton Foundation and others.

Results:
- The targets originally set were to reach 300 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and 600 orphans. During the first few months of the programme 565 PLWHAs and 1678 orphans were registered, more than doubling the original targets.
- As well as being beneficial to patients, the HBC project helps the family as a whole - learning to accept the condition, learning more about the disease and what the patient needs to maintain a good quality of life - from advice on food and nutrition, to hygiene and the availability of treatment.
- Activities include home visiting, support of food, drugs and bedding to People Living with AIDS.
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children receive school fees and uniforms. There are also income generating activities, such as livestock rearing (pigs, goats and chickens).

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