

## **Malaria is on the rise in Pakistan, health workers warn**

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## **Re: Malaria is on the rise in Pakistan, health workers warn:**

### **VIH-SIDA at Workplace in DRC: Health workers warn**

The HIV / AIDS has grown into a global crisis. This is one of the most formidable challenges to development and social progress. In the most affected countries, the epidemic is eroding decades of development gains, undermining economies, threatening security and destabilizing societies (1, 2).

DRC as elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, the epidemic poses a public health problem is extremely serious and a threat to economic recovery and development. HIV prevalence in 2006 is between 6-9% in the general population in people aged 15 to 49 years (3).

According to the National Program against AIDS, a major challenge in itself, the HIV / AIDS compounds the many other challenges facing the DRC. Data collected by the PNMLS estimate there are about 3 million people living with HIV / AIDS in the DRC, for a prevalence in the adult population of about 5%, with provincial variations ranging from 3.1% in Kinshasa to 7.5% in Lubumbashi (PNMLS, 2005) (3, 4).

Beyond the suffering it imposes on individuals and their families, the HIV / AIDS has become a terrible threat to the world of work: it hits the most productive segment of the workforce, reduced gains, significantly increases business spending in all sectors of activity because it reduces production, increases labor costs, induces a loss of skills and experience (5,6).

It also represents a threat to fundamental labor rights, including discrimination and stigmatization of workers and people living with HIV / AIDS or are affected. The epidemic and its impact strike hardest at vulnerable groups such as women and children, thereby increasing existing gender inequalities and exacerbating the problem of child labor (6, 7, 8).

One can prevent infection with HIV. Prevention of all forms of transmission can be achieved through a variety of strategies tailored to national circumstances and cultural specificity. Prevention can be furthered through changes in behavior, by improving knowledge, at the time of treatment, and the creation of a non-discriminatory environment (9).

The social partners are in a position to promote prevention efforts particularly in relation to changing attitudes and behavior, training, education and action on the socio-economic (7,9).

Some employers may be able to help workers get antiretroviral drugs. When health services are in place on the workplace, they should provide, in cooperation with governments and other partners, the range of services as fully as possible to prevent and manage HIV / AIDS and assist workers living with HIV / AIDS (10).

These services may include the provision of antiretroviral drugs, treatment to relieve symptoms related to HIV, advice on nutrition and dietary supplements, stress reduction and treatment of opportunistic infections such as the most common STIs and TB .

The work environment should be healthy and safe in preventing HIV transmission / AIDS, to the extent possible, all parties concerned in accordance with Convention (No. 155) Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (6).

A healthy work environment is conducive to optimal physical and mental health and helps to adapt the work to the capabilities and the state of physical and mental health workers, and thus, the economic and social development.

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