



Uganda: Examples from the Labor Movement's Response to the AIDS Epidemic Among Long- Distance Transportation Workers

Romano Ojiambo-Ochieng

atgwu@utlonline.co.ug

mail@atgwu.or.ug

Tel: +256 414 232508

Mob: +256 772 521062



Why Concern by Labor Unions

- HIV/AIDS is a threat to:
 - Workers' well being, job security and rights
 - Stability of employing organizations
 - Existence of trade unions



What Labor Unions Have Done

- Strived to understand the epidemic
- Acknowledged their role in managing the epidemic
- Prevented new HIV infections through information and education
- Advocated and negotiated for rights and dignity of the infected and affected

ATGWU



- One of oldest labor unions in Uganda; formed in 1938 as an association of motor drivers
- Membership in road and air transportation and other industries like oil and property services
- Growing membership of over 4,500

ATGWU



- Membership levels severely affected by liberalized economy
- Involved in HIV/AIDS interventions through various collaborations

ATGWU HIV/AIDS Activities



- 1999-2000: 18-month FNV funded ITF pilot project in Uganda; research among truck drivers
- 2001-2003: UNAIDS funded project in Uganda, targeting transport workers at workplaces and affiliated communities at truck stops

ATGWU HIV/AIDS Activities



- 2001-2004: Expanded ITF/FNV HIV/AIDS Project covered Great Lakes sub region, targeting transport workers
- 2004-2007: Expanded ITF/FNV HIV/AIDS Education Project covered rest of Africa region, targeting transport workers



ATGWU HIV/AIDS Activities

- 2006-2011: USAID REDSO Eastern Africa ROADS project targeting truck drivers and communities in 9 counties; Solidarity Center partnership
- 2007-2011: World Bank funded GLIA project; targeting transit and mobile populations in 6 Eastern Africa countries

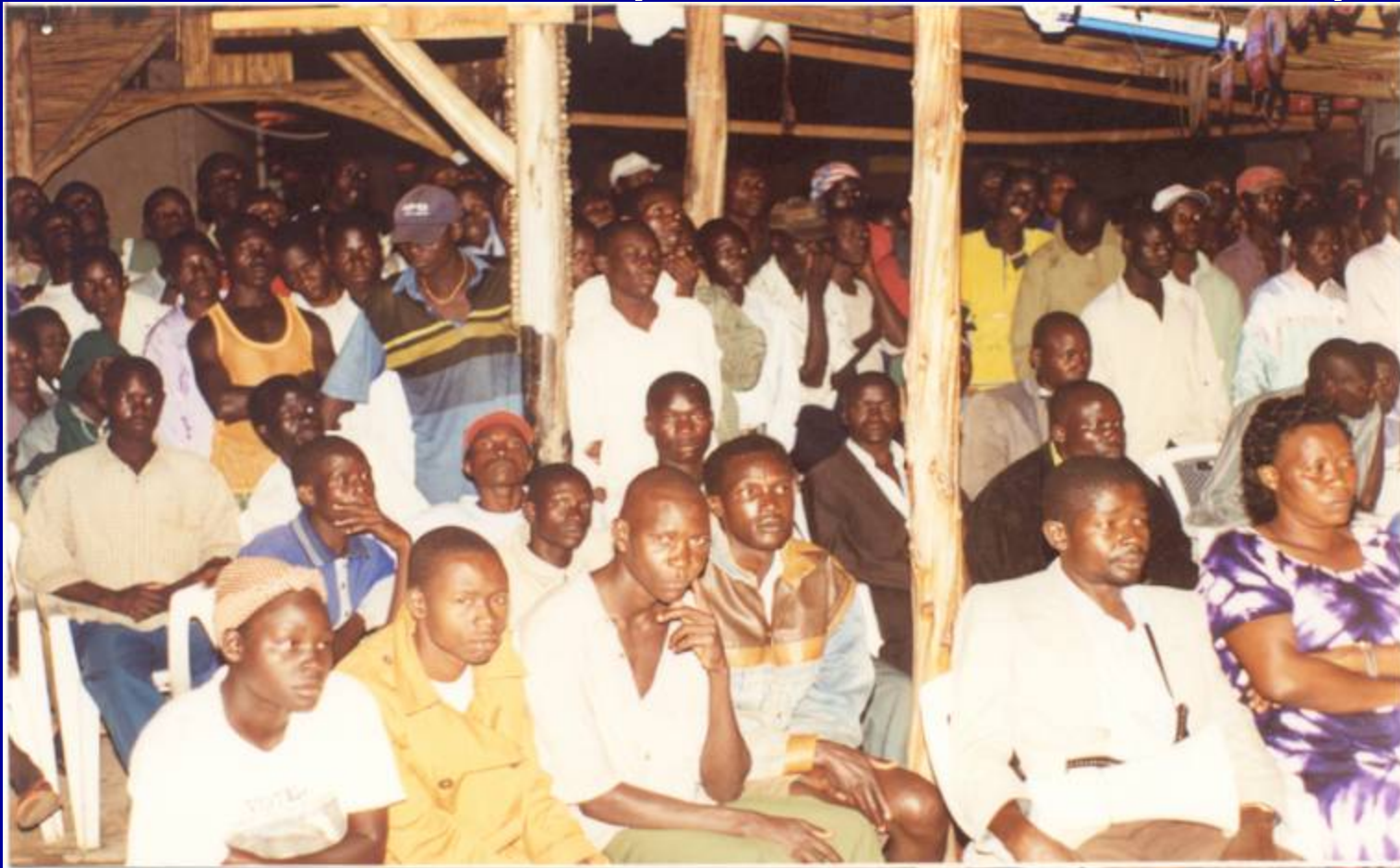
Achievements

- 8 HIV/AIDS counselors trained



Achievements

- HIV/AIDS and STI awareness campaigns carried out at workplaces and truck stops



Achievements

- Labor leaders trained in HIV/AIDS policy and program formulation and negotiation



Achievements

- HIV/AIDS policies and programs negotiated in over 25 workplaces





Achievements

- Resource centers set up at 3 border truck stop towns



Achievements

- Over 150 drivers trained in the 'Men As Partners' reproductive health program



Achievements

- 4 truck stop community-based groups established and capacity built





Achievements

- ATGWU's capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS in workplaces improved
- ATGWU's membership strength increased
- Collaborations with other AIDS service organizations enhanced



Major Challenges

- Slow response to behavior change messages by workers
- Very poor response to the epidemic by employers
- Inadequate human and financial resources for effective response to the epidemic by the union



Global Unions
respond to
HIV/AIDS



Thank you



Email: atgwu@utlonline.co.ug
mail@atgwu.or.ug

Tel: +256 414 232508
Mob: +256 772 521062