

Coke to workers with AIDS in Africa: “Drop Dead.”

Coca-Cola executives think providing only 1.5% of their workers in Africa with access to HIV/AIDS treatment and care is enough.

Coke and HIV/AIDS in Africa

- Coke pays for full medical coverage, including treatment with anti retroviral drugs, for any of the 1,500 employees or their immediate family members who are H.I.V. positive, neglecting the 100,000 men and women who bottle and distribute Coke products under exclusive licensing agreements.
- Coke is the largest private sector employer in Africa: it employs 100,000 people who bring Coke products to all but two African nations.
- Coke is profiting off workers faced with a health pandemic of unprecedented scale. In some countries, as much as 25% of the population has HIV/AIDS.

Every day 8,000 people with HIV/AIDS die because the life-sustaining antiretroviral medications that have dramatically improved the health of people with HIV in wealthy nations, are not available.

Coke--making a killing off African labor

- Last year, Coca-Cola's net revenues in Africa exceeded \$620 million, and its worldwide net revenues reached \$20 billion.
- Coke's profit margin in Africa is expected to rise 12% in the next 4 years, exceeding Coke profit margins in all other regions of the world.

Demand Coke provide health care to all of their HIV + workers in Africa

Join ACT UP & Health GAP to demand Coke:

- Provide *all* 100,000 African workers and their dependents with comprehensive healthcare – including life-sustaining antiretroviral treatments.
- Offer confidential HIV testing and counseling to all workers, in the context of a clear anti-discrimination policy.
- Distribute free condoms in the workplace, and provide safer-sex and sexual health education classes.
- Develop further HIV/AIDS prevention and education policies in collaboration with affected employees, their labor representatives, and community-based health initiatives.



**STOP COKE'S DEADLY NEGLECT: FIGHT FOR WORKERS
& FAMILIES TO HAVE ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS TREATMENT.**

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CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

In developing countries hardest hit by the AIDS crisis, workers comprise a sizeable portion of people living with HIV/AIDS, and people at greatest risk of becoming infected.

The International Labor Organisation (ILO) estimates that 20 million people living with HIV/AIDS are workers, or half the current estimated international population of HIV positive people worldwide.

Against a backdrop of intensified international attention to the pandemic, and mounting political commitment among policy makers in the developed and developing world, corporations made a flurry of announcements of new initiatives designed to combat global AIDS. Although two corporations in particular, Coca-Cola and mining giant Anglo American, grabbed headlines, both companies continue to flout the most fundamental need among HIV positive workers in the developing world: **the urgent need for access to affordable, life-extending HIV treatment and care.**

Anglo-American, the largest mining corporation in sub-Saharan Africa reaps enormous profit from a labor force of 125,000 people that, according to their own estimates, is 20% HIV positive. Still, the company refuses to fulfill an earlier commitment to provide life-extending AIDS medications to HIV positive workers and has recently halted a study on the feasibility of such treatment.

Coca-Cola announced in June 2001 it would lend logistical support for distribution of literature, condoms or testing kits; donate 30 billboards for an awareness campaign; and pay for HIV/AIDS treatment and care for its HIV infected workers in Africa.

Coke continues to ride the wave of publicity for its efforts when in reality, the full medical coverage, including treatment with antiretroviral drugs, is only for H.I.V. positive workers among 1,500 employees, neglecting Coke's larger African workforce of 100,000 people.



Coca-Cola executives claim of an employee base of only 1,500 workers stems from the complicated structure of affiliated companies throughout the continent. The remaining 100,000 are employed through a web of relationships with bottling and canning operations. Using unfair business practices, Coke is able to effectively skirt obligations to workers, including the provision of healthcare, in order to maximize profits.

For the men and women that bottle, can, and distribute Coke products throughout Africa, Coca-Cola can, at a modest cost, prevent further infections and needless deaths.

Life-sustaining HIV/AIDS medications and treatment, if available, could save lives and decrease untold suffering among Coca-Cola's vast African workforce.

In the midst of the most severe human health disaster, Coca-Cola must now, more than ever, ensure all HIV infected/affected workers, and their dependents, have access to AIDS treatment and care.

Workers and their families—struggling in the face of the most severe human health disaster—demand it.

Take Action: Tell Coke executives to provide health care to all of their HIV + workers in Africa

1) Write, Fax, and Call Coca-Cola today:

Phone: 404-676-4971

Fax: 404-515-2226

Mail: Mr. Douglas N. Daft
Chief Executive Officer
Coca-Cola Company
One Coca-Cola Plaza
Atlanta, GA 30313

2) Join the campaign for access to HIV/AIDS treatment for workers & families.



Sharonann Lynch
Health GAP

Phone: 212-674-9598

Email: info@healthgap.org

www.healthgap.org

www.treat-your-workers.org