



Community health action plan



By Elynafsi

TFM, Government's Health Partner

Man first, production after! This slogan of the creed "zero and beyond" adopted by Tenke Fungurume Mining Company places the person in the center of everything. Man's health, the health of his or her family and the health of the community is topmost priority. After the construction of medical facilities (clinics, Mother and Child Health Center, pharmacy, dentistry service, laboratory...) dedicated to promoting healthcare for its employees and their dependents, TFM is planning as part of its sustainable development program to stand as the Government and communities' main partner in the development of viable health programs in the region.

Memorandum of Understanding on health

In conjunction with the provincial Ministry of Health, TFM co-signed an agreement to support the health zone and carry out its community health action plan focusing on major public health issues, namely public health services capacity building and gradual development

towards activities sustainability. To begin with, the following realizations have been met for the benefit of the local community, namely the rehabilitation of the Dipeta health center, the construction of two health posts in new Mulumbu village and Amoni-Kiboko. TFM is committed to providing equipment and a 3-month startup supply of pharmaceutical supplies. The DRC Government, for its part, will cover staff salaries and assure the maintenance of all these health facilities.

Referral health center and mobile clinic

Construction has begun and will be completed in 2010 of a 23-bed Reference Health Center in Fungurume and, later on, in Tenke. Meantime, a Mobile Clinic will focus on vaccination and the promotion of mother and child health and health education to communities that have been identified with 'poor existing coverage' by Dr. Jean Linus Kalubya, Fungurume health zone chief medical officer. According to Dr. Kalubya these benefits are in the categories of curative, preventive and promotional activities, which have not been adequately addressed.

According to Dr. Kalubya, the first beneficiaries of the mobile clinic services should be the communities of Fungurume health zone who live

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more than 5 kilometers, or an hour walk, away from a health facility. The health zone's head doctor reaffirmed that the prime responsibility of the Fungurume health zone is supplying qualified staff, medicines and other inputs to the clinic.

The Fungurume health zone is already setting up a self-management strategy to reduce shortages of medicines, and a pharmaceuticals store is already operational in the health zone.

HIV/AIDS

TFM assures holistic support for HIV cases only for its employees via SOS International clinics. This includes preventive programs (employee's awareness, peer education, voluntary counseling and testing), opportunistic infections treatment and access to antiretroviral drugs. In addition, TFM has developed a policy that gives guidelines in compliance with the HIV control standards applicable in DRC.

TFM supports prevention level activities organized in the Fungurume health zone for the benefit of the community. In addition, the company closely collaborates with local NGOs involved in HIV peer education activities and plans to assist the Health Zone set up a qualified voluntary counseling and treatment center. The supply of antiretroviral and opportunistic infections drugs are ensured by the Ministry of Health.