

LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



HIV/AIDS IN THE FISHERIES COMMUNITIES OF LAKE VICTORIA: A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2006

DRAFT

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FORWARD

A major challenge facing the fishing communities of Lake Victoria, and therefore the management of the fisheries resources, is HIV/AIDS. The Partner States know well the extent and cost of HIV/AIDS, in lives as well as to the national economies. The fishing communities are particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS because of high mobility, daily cash income, cultural practices, the lower status of women in many cultures and attitudes to risk.

In March 2006, LVFO convened a multi-stakeholder workshop in Mukono, Uganda, bringing together representatives of the national AIDS coordinating agencies in the three Partner States, District Medical and Fisheries Officers, representatives from the Fisheries Departments and Research Institutes, NGOs and CBOs working with fishing communities on HIV/AIDS and the LVFO Secretariat staff. The workshop started the process of developing a strategy for LVFO to work with partners in tackling this major challenge facing the fishing communities.

LVFO then convened a meeting of a Regional Taskforce on HIV/AIDS to further develop the strategy. We are pleased to present the fruits of their work in this document. LVFO will work with all its partners, and will make new partnerships, to make sure this challenge is tackled as effectively as possible.

LVFO encourages all stakeholders to acknowledge the scale and level of impacts of HIV/AIDS on the fishing communities and to lobby for greater attention and support to the sector in tackling this challenge. Fishing communities must be helped in facing this challenge, in preventing new infections and assisting those already impacted by this scourge.

Thomas W. Maembe
Executive Secretary, LVFO

SUMMARY

HIV/AIDS remains a serious challenge within East Africa, none more so than for the fishing communities of Lake Victoria. Despite HIV/AIDS being first confirmed in the region within the fishing communities of Lake Victoria, there has been no lake-wide coordinated effort to tackle HIV/AIDS in these communities. In fact, efforts specifically targeting fishing communities are very few and have reached only a small number of communities. The challenge is, therefore, considerable, with prevalence rates within fishing communities estimated at between 10 to 40%. Diverse and long-term impacts result from this high rate, both for the people affected and for the sustainability of the fisheries resources.

This strategy and action plan (SAP) sets out the actions that are needed to reduce the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS within the fishing communities of Lake Victoria. The development of the SAP was led by the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) working with partners within fisheries and within the HIV/AIDS sector. The development and implementation of the strategy is forging new linkages between organisations, bringing new hope to the fishing communities of Lake Victoria.

The vision of the strategy is to see '*Fishing communities free from HIV/AIDS*', while the purpose is '*HIV prevalence reduced and impacts mitigated in fishing communities*'.

There are eight outcomes that must be achieved to meet this purpose. These are:

1. Fishing communities recognised as a vulnerable group at all levels.
2. Appropriate resources mobilized, disbursed and utilized.
3. Effective co-ordination and networking for lesson learning and joint action.
4. HIV/AIDS, gender and rights based approach mainstreamed into fisheries management.
5. High levels of HIV/AIDS awareness in the fishing communities of Lake Victoria.
6. Reduction in risk-taking behaviour.
7. Increased access to, and provision of, services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in fishing communities.
8. Targeted interventions provided for young men and for women in fishing communities.
9. Strengthen livelihoods, coping mechanisms and capacity to address HIV/AIDS within fishing communities.

Actions are identified in this Strategy and Action Plan to lead to all of the above outcomes. Implementation of this Strategy and Action Plan is complex, drawing on numerous sources of funds and requiring action by many stakeholders. Already, many activities are going on within the fishing communities. A key goal of this strategy is to bring organizations together, to coordinate activities, share lessons, build partnerships and scale up interventions.

LVFO will play a key role in coordination and facilitating a network of agencies working on HIV/AIDS in the region and willing to work with the fishing communities. Building up this network of agencies is one of the first steps towards implementation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORWARD	ii
SUMMARY	iii
ACRONYMS	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi

1. Introduction to the Strategy	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background	1
1.3 Why a strategy for fishing communities?	2
1.4 Vision and Goals of the HIV/AIDS Strategy	3
1.4 Institutional Framework for Fisheries Management of Lake Victoria	4
1.5 Key Stakeholders	4

2. Strategic Action Plan	12
2.1 Introduction.....	12
2.2 Key overarching challenges.....	12
2.3 Implementation of the strategy and action plan	12
2.4 Monitoring and evaluation.....	13

Table 1 Logical Framework for the Regional Strategy to Address HIV/AIDS in the Fishing Communities of Lake Victoria.....	6
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Table 2 Regional Action Plan for HIV/AIDS in fishing communities	14
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ACRONYMS

ABC	Abstinence, Being faithful and Condom use
ACU	AIDS Coordinating Unit
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
ART	Anti-retroviral Therapy
ARV	Anti-retrovirals
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BMU	Beach Management Unit
BSS	Behaviour Surveillance Survey
CACC	Constituency AIDS Control Committee (Kenya)
CBO	Community-based Organization
DED	District Executive Director (Tanzania)
DFO	District Fisheries Officer
DFR	Department of Fisheries Resources (Uganda)
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
EAC	East African Community
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FFTI	Focal Fisheries Training Institute
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFMP	Implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan
KNASP	Kenya National AIDS Strategic Plan
LC	Local Council (Uganda)
LGA	Local Government Authority
LVBI	Lake Victoria Basin Initiative
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MoH	Ministry of Health
MOV	Means of Verification
NACC	National AIDS Control Council (Kenya)
NASCOP	National AIDS and STD Control Programme (Kenya)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicator
PHE	Peer Health Educators
PLWHA	People living with HIV/AIDS
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
RBA	Rights Based Approach
SAP	Strategy and Action Plan
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TACAIDS	Tanzania Commission for AIDS
TANESA	Tanzania Essential Strategies for HIV/AIDS
TMAP	Tanzania Multi-sectoral AIDS Project
UAC	Uganda AIDS Commission
UACP	Uganda AIDS Control Programme
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing

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The Secretariat would also like to thank the members of the Regional Taskforce for HIV/AIDS, set up to oversee the drafting of the strategy and to subsequently promote and disseminate the strategy for implementation. The members of the Regional Taskforce are: Kenya National AIDS Control Council, Tanzania Council for AIDS, Uganda AIDS Commission, the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), The AIDS Support Organization (TASO – Uganda), Tanzania Essential Strategies for HIV/AIDS (TANESA), Women in Fishing Industry Project (WIFIP), Merlin (Kisumu) and the Fisheries Departments of the Partner States. The RTF is supported by the Senior Economist of LVFO and by the Community Development Specialist of the Implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan of IFMP.

The Secretariat looks forward to continued cooperation with the RTF in taking the strategy forward and ensuring that its implementation makes a real difference to the lives of the fishing communities of Lake Victoria.

1. Introduction to the Strategy

1.1 Introduction

HIV/AIDS remains a serious challenge within East Africa, none more so than for the fishing communities of Lake Victoria. Despite HIV/AIDS being first confirmed in the region within the fishing communities of Lake Victoria, there has been no lake-wide coordinated effort to tackle HIV/AIDS in these communities. In fact, efforts specifically targeting fishing communities are very few and have reached only a small number of communities. The challenge is, therefore, considerable, with prevalence rates within fishing communities estimated at between 10 to 40%, and diverse and long-term impacts resulting from this high rate, both for the people affected and for the sustainable management of the fisheries resources.

Fishing communities require targeted attention, reflecting the logistical difficulties of reaching many beaches and of providing sustained, long-term support. This strategy and action plan (SAP) sets out the actions that are needed to reduce the prevalence and impact of HIV/AIDS within the fishing communities of Lake Victoria. The development of the SAP was led by the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) working with partners within fisheries and within the HIV/AIDS sector. The development and implementation of the strategy is forging new linkages between organisations, bringing new hope to the fishing communities of Lake Victoria.

1.2 Background

Average prevalence rates within the three Partner States of the LVFO – Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – are between 6 and 7%. These figures, however, mask regional variation and differences between population groups. Many groups of people have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, but fishing communities have rarely been noted as a specific vulnerable group. This omission does not imply that HIV/AIDS is not present or is not a significant challenge within fishing communities, but reflects the lack of data available and lack of recognition of the scale and complexity of the challenge within these communities.

Figures have shown that prevalence rates within fishing communities are between 4.5 and 5.8 times higher than the general population. Within Kenya, prevalence within the Nyanza Province that borders Lake Victoria is estimated at 13%, compared to the national average of 6.4%. Even within Nyanza, there is significant variation, with women within Homa Bay and Suba Districts having a prevalence rate of almost 30%.

A few qualitative studies of HIV/AIDS within fishing communities have been carried out, both within the region and beyond, and these provide essential understanding of the factors that increase the vulnerability of fishing communities. These factors include:

- Demographic structure with high rates of single men in sexually active age groups (15- 35 years)
- High rates of mobility and migration, with people less constrained by family influences and social structures

- Easy availability of cash income on a regular basis, without tangible investment or savings opportunities, with irregular working hours and fishers being away from home
- Poverty and gender inequality marginalize women in commercial transactions, making them vulnerable to sexually exploitative relations, such as fish-for-sex. This is aggravated by the lack of alternative income generating activities at the beaches.
- Poor health service infrastructure and condom availability
- Generally poor health and hygiene status in fishing villages, with limited access to sexual health services, including reproductive and maternal and child health.
- Culture of risk taking, risk denial and perception of low social status among many fishermen.
- High rates of alcohol abuse and commercial sex work at the landing beaches.

The identification and understanding of these factors should assist with the design and delivery of interventions to reduce the vulnerability of fishing communities and promote less risk-taking behaviour. A further challenge is that fishing communities are often far from where services are located. This is particularly a challenge on Lake Victoria, where in Tanzania and Uganda around 50% of the boats are on islands, implying that many thousands of people depending on fisheries live, or temporarily reside, on islands, reducing access to services and facilities. In addition, even though the remaining beaches are on the mainland, the road infrastructure is so poor that even the communities residing on the mainland beaches have to rely on boat transport to reach services and facilities.

1.3 Why a strategy for fishing communities?

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) is responsible for the management of the fisheries of Lake Victoria, and managing fisheries means managing people. Improving the sustainable production of the fisheries is an important goal of the LVFO, but will not be achieved if the communities that depend on the lake fisheries are so negatively affected by the HIV/AIDS scourge. The high prevalence and multi-faceted impacts of HIV/AIDS on the fisheries communities of Lake Victoria mean that managing the fisheries must include tackling HIV/AIDS and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into policy and management.

LVFO has led the development of this Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) to highlight the gaps in the provision of much-needed support to the fishing communities of Lake Victoria and to identify the types of activities that must be carried out to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and help communities build strategies to cope with the impacts. As Lake Victoria covers 68,800 km², with a shore line of 3,440km, and prevalence rates are known to be high, the scale and magnitude of need means that many stakeholders and partners are needed in the development and implementation of a concerted, co-ordinated response. Co-ordination, networking and lesson-learning are key components of this SAP.

The drafting of this SAP began in March 2006, when LVFO convened a multi-stakeholder workshop to review what is known about HIV/AIDS in fishing communities and what can be learnt from the national responses to HIV/AIDS. The workshop brought together stakeholders from within fisheries, NGOs working on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities and national AIDS coordinating agencies from the three Partner States.

The workshop reached consensus about the factors contributing to the vulnerability of fishing communities and agreed that these communities have been woefully neglected in terms of provision of support and services. Recommended actions from the workshop have been included in this SAP.

A Regional Taskforce on HIV/AIDS was then brought together, comprised of representatives of the national AIDS coordinating agencies, NGOs working on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities and the fisheries departments, supported by the LVFO Secretariat and a Technical Advisor from the Implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) of LVFO. The meeting was held in September and drafted the logical framework (logframe), action plans and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans. These were then used together with reports on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities in the region and beyond, policy documents from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WorldFish Center and on national policies and strategies to produce the Strategy and Action Plan.

1.4 Vision and Goals of the HIV/AIDS Strategy

The Strategy fits within the HIV/AIDS policies and strategic frameworks of the three Partner States. The vision of the strategy is therefore to see

Fishing communities free from HIV/AIDS

The purpose of the strategy is:

HIV prevalence reduced and impacts mitigated in fishing communities

There are eight outcomes that must be achieved to meet this purpose. These are:

1. Fishing communities recognised as a vulnerable group at all levels.
2. Appropriate resources mobilized, disbursed and utilized.
3. Effective co-ordination and networking for lesson learning and joint action.
4. HIV/AIDS, gender and rights based approach mainstreamed into fisheries management.
5. High levels of HIV/AIDS awareness in the fishing communities of Lake Victoria.
6. Reduction in risk-taking behaviour.
7. Increased access to, and provision of, services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in fishing communities.
8. Targeted interventions provided for young men and for women in fishing communities.
9. Livelihoods, coping mechanisms and capacity to address HIV/AIDS strengthened within fishing communities.

The logical framework is presented in Table 1 and sets out the objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs), the means of verification (MOVs) and the risks and assumptions for each of these outcomes.

1.4 Institutional Framework for Fisheries Management of Lake Victoria

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization brings together all stakeholders involved in fisheries on Lake Victoria. It is an organization formed under the East African Community in 1994, by the Partner States of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. LVFO is composed of the three fisheries departments and the three fisheries research institutes in the Partner States. The highest organ of the LVFO is the Council of Ministers, which meets at least once every two years. At the last Council of Ministers meeting, in June 2006, the following actions were included in the Directive to be undertaken by LVFO:

- (a) Complete the development of the Strategy to control and manage HIV/AIDS among fishing communities by September 2007.
- (b) Facilitate the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS programmes for fishing communities into national programmes.
- (c) Conduct a baseline study on HIV/AIDS percentage in fisher communities.

The development and implementation of this strategy will address all of these required actions, including advocacy to promote fishing communities within national policies, programmes and plans. The inclusion of HIV/AIDS in the Council of Ministers' Directive indicates recognition of the significance and magnitude of the challenge of HIV/AIDS within fisheries.

Key to effective implementation of the strategy on HIV/AIDS is the adoption of fisheries co-management on Lake Victoria. Co-management is a partnership arrangement in which the community of resources users, government and other stakeholders share the responsibility and authority for the management of the fishery. Co-management in the three Partner States is founded on the formation of community-based Beach Management Units (BMUs). The formation, structure and functions of BMUs are based on the regionally agreed 'Harmonised BMU Guidelines', with associated national guidelines in each Partner State.

The BMUs present an entry point to working with fishing communities by bringing together all beach-based fisheries stakeholders and by having and implementing their own plans. The BMUs are, therefore, a key partner in the implementation of the strategy. There are 1,063 BMUs around the lake and these will soon be coming together at higher levels with government and other stakeholders to form co-management structures at sub-county/ward/location, district and national levels. Once these networks are in place, the BMUs will be able to effectively engage in policy and strategy development and review at all levels of government.

1.5 Key Stakeholders

There are many stakeholders who should participate in, and benefit from, the implementation of this strategy. They include

- (a) National government, including fisheries departments and their parent ministries, fisheries research institutes, Ministries of Health and Education.
- (b) Local government, including fisheries, planning, community development, health and education departments. District, and other level, HIV/AIDS Committees should be targeted to include fishing communities in their plans. This category includes

lakeside Constituency AIDS Councils (Kenya), Village HIV/AIDS Committees (Tanzania) and LC1 HIV/AIDS Committees (Uganda).

- (c) National AIDS coordinating agencies.
- (d) Beach Management Units and their associations at higher levels
- (e) Private sector processing plants and their associations
- (f) NGOs working on HIV/AIDS within fishing communities and those with capacity to assist fishing communities in the future.
- (g) NGOs working in fishing communities on issues other than HIV/AIDS, such as savings schemes and economic empowerment.

Fisheries Departments and their parent ministries have focal people, or units, for HIV/AIDS and are key players in the promotion and implementation of this strategy. The LVFO has a Secretariat based in Jinja, which is responsible for supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this strategy.

Table 1 Logical Framework for the Regional Strategy to Address HIV/AIDS in the Fishing Communities of Lake Victoria

Vision *Fishing communities on Lake Victoria free from HIV/AIDS*

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
<p>Purpose HIV prevalence reduced and impacts mitigated in fishing communities</p>	<p>P1. Reduction in numbers of new infections</p> <p>P2. Number of prevention, care, support and impact mitigation programmes at regional, national, local government and BMU levels established</p> <p>P3. Number of people accessing care, support and impact mitigation services</p> <p>P4. Average income of fisheries stakeholder groups increased</p>	<p>Sentinel surveys</p> <p>Inventory of service providers</p> <p>Reports from VCT and Health Units</p> <p>Surveys on income levels and sources.</p>	<p><i>Risks</i> Difficulty in following up hard to reach clients High cost of conducting surveys Inconsistencies in provision of HIV/AIDS related services</p> <p><i>Assumptions</i> Higher levels of awareness and behavioural change Political good will and commitment Intergovernmental cooperation Inter-sectoral collaboration Availability of HIV/AIDS support services and resources</p>
<p>Outcome 1 Fishing communities recognised as a vulnerable group and resources allocated at all levels</p>	<p>1.1 Fishing communities listed as a vulnerable group in regional and national policies and plans</p> <p>1.2 Resources allocated in national plans and budgets, and disbursed to address HIV/AIDS in fishing communities</p> <p>1.3 Fishing communities included in national HIV/AIDS data collection</p>	<p>Regional and national policies and plans</p> <p>National budgets and plans; disbursement reports</p> <p>Data from national information collection systems</p>	<p><i>Risks</i> Fishing communities not recognised as a vulnerable group</p> <p><i>Assumptions</i> Adequate funds allocated and disbursed for HIV/AIDS in fishing communities</p>

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<p>systems</p> <p>1.4 Health and HIV/AIDS services provided in fishing communities by local level institutions</p>	<p>MoH records on health and HIV/AIDS services</p>	
<p>Outcome 2 Appropriate resources mobilised, disbursed and utilised</p>	<p>2.1 Number of agencies and development partners commit funds</p> <p>2.2 Amount of funds received and utilised for HIV/AIDS</p> <p>2.3 Skilled personnel available to provide HIV/AIDS services to and within fishing communities</p>	<p>Meeting reports; funds committed in plans and budgets</p> <p>Reports from DFOs, Fisheries Depts, LVFO and relevant stakeholders (partners)</p> <p>Health unit and NGO reports</p>	<p>Availability of resources (financial, personnel and infrastructure)</p> <p>Development partners willing to contribute</p> <p>Governments willing to commit funds</p>
<p>Outcome 3 Effective co-ordination and networking for lesson-learning and joint action</p>	<p>3.1 Number of agencies sharing information and networking on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities</p> <p>3.2 LVFO Secretariat hosts a network of agencies working on HIV/AIDS with the fishing communities in Lake Victoria basin</p> <p>3.3 Number of collaborative interventions</p> <p>3.4 Sectors coordinate at all levels in working on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities</p> <p>3.5 Strong collaboration with national coordinating agencies established</p>	<p>Meeting reports</p> <p>Website linkages</p> <p>Meeting reports</p> <p>Project/programme documents</p> <p>Fisheries department reports</p> <p>Meeting and LVFO reports</p>	<p><i>Assumptions</i> Effective communication to all stakeholders Willing stakeholders.</p> <p>Partners willing to share information and collaborate</p>

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
<p>Outcome 4 HIV/AIDS, gender and rights based approach mainstreamed into fisheries management</p>	<p>4.1 HIV/AIDS, gender and rights based approach mainstreamed into regional, national and district fisheries policies and plans</p> <p>4.2 Number of fisheries programmes and training courses that include HIV/AIDS activities</p> <p>4.3 Focal persons in fisheries departments, parent ministries and districts established and strengthened</p> <p>4.4 HIV/AIDS workplace policies adapted by fisheries institutions and understood by all employees</p> <p>4.5 Number of BMUs with health/HIV/AIDS sub-committees</p>	<p>Regional, national and district fisheries policies and plans</p> <p>Workplans of fisheries programmes Training programmes</p> <p>Ministry and district reports</p> <p>Workplace policies; copies in all institutions; surveys of employees</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p>	<p><i>Risks</i> Bureaucracy</p> <p><i>Assumptions</i> Fisheries departments accept mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS, gender and RBA into policies and plans A clear understanding of the concept of mainstreaming Technical support from HIV/AIDS agencies Parent ministries prioritise HIV/AIDS activities in fishing communities</p>
<p>Outcome 5 High levels of HIV/AIDS awareness in the fishing communities of Lake Victoria</p>	<p>5.1 % of people with correct knowledge about main transmission and prevention methods</p> <p>5.2 Number of BMUs receiving and using IEC materials</p> <p>5.3 Greater openness to HIV/AIDS issues in fishing communities</p> <p>5.4 Number of people from fishing communities accessing VCT</p> <p>5.5 Change in retrogressive cultural</p>	<p>Behaviour Surveillance Surveys</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p> <p>Focus Group Discussion reports</p> <p>Reports from VCT centres and health units</p> <p>Behaviour Surveillance</p>	<p><i>Risks</i> Cultural norms and taboos Misconceptions amongst fishing communities</p> <p><i>Assumptions</i> Political goodwill and commitment</p> <p>Availability of people willing to volunteer to become peer educators and counsellors</p>

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	practices in fishing communities observed	Survey and studies	Availability of condoms and relevant services
<p>Outcome 6 Reduction in risk-taking behaviour</p>	<p>6.1 Number of young people (18 and below) reporting delayed first sexual experience</p> <p>6.2 Increased use of condoms amongst the sexually active</p> <p>6.3 Number of people (by gender) reporting safe sexual relations with a non-regular/non-spousal partners in the past 12 months</p> <p>6.4 Number of behaviour change interventions in fishing communities</p>	<p>Behaviour Surveillance Surveys Demographic Health Surveys</p> <p>BSS and DHS</p> <p>BSS and DHS</p> <p>Service inventories</p>	<p><i>Risk</i> Cultural norms, beliefs and taboos Intentional spread of HIV/AIDS to non-infected persons</p> <p><i>Assumption</i> Willingness of individuals to change behaviour Availability of condoms</p>
<p>Outcome 7 Increased access to, and provision of, HIV/AIDS services for PLWHA in fishing communities</p>	<p>7.1 Number of services within one hour's walking distance of fishing communities</p> <p>7.2 Number of services accessible to hard to reach fishing communities</p> <p>7.3 Turn around time at service providers reduced and services affordable</p> <p>7.4 Number of tailor made VCT, ART provision and PMTCT facilities for fishing communities</p> <p>7.5 Number of home based care providers in the fishing communities</p>	<p>Service inventories</p> <p>Reports from Health Units and survey reports</p> <p>Service inventories</p> <p>Service inventories</p> <p>Service inventories</p>	<p><i>Risk</i> PLWHA lack access to good nutrition</p> <p><i>Assumptions</i> Fisheries departments and others assist with the provision of safe water transport for HIV/AIDS service providers</p> <p>Availability of resources</p> <p>Proper sensitisation and counselling to encourage people to access services</p> <p>Stigma reduced</p>

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<p>7.6 Number of PLWHAs accessing treatment and care</p> <p>7.7 Number of community groups providing HIV/AIDS care and interventions in fishing communities</p>	<p>Reports from Health Units and survey reports</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p>	<p>Support from family and friends</p>
<p>Outcome 8 Targeted interventions provided for young men and for women in fishing communities</p>	<p>8.1 Number of targeted interventions for youth and women in fishing communities</p> <p>8.2 Number of fish landing sites with recreational facilities used for awareness raising for young men and women</p> <p>8.3 Increased participation of young men and women in BMU activities</p> <p>8.4 Number of interventions targeted at improving women's status in fishing communities</p> <p>8.5 Measures, such as by-laws, taken to improve access to fish for women</p> <p>8.6 At least one BMU member and women represented on Village/Constituency HIV/AIDS committees</p>	<p>Service inventories</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring; fisheries dept and NGO reports</p> <p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p> <p>Village government/LC1/ Constituency Council committee meeting minutes</p>	<p><i>Risks</i> Cultural norms and taboos</p> <p><i>Assumptions</i> Willingness of young men and women to participate in interventions and in BMUs and local government</p>
<p>Outcome 9 Livelihoods, coping mechanisms and capacity to</p>	<p>9.1 Number of peer educators and counsellors in the fishing communities trained</p>	<p>NASCOP, UACP, TMAP data on numbers of counsellors trained</p>	<p><i>Risks</i> Poor saving culture</p>

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
address HIV/AIDS strengthened within fishing communities	<p>9.2 Number of BMUs with access to savings and credit facilities</p> <p>9.3 Number of BMUs with members trained in enterprise development</p> <p>9.4 Establishment of community-based safety nets, including groups</p> <p>9.5 Number of alternative functional livelihood activities in fishing communities</p> <p>9.6 Improved infrastructure at the landing sites</p> <p>9.7 Reduction in use of illegal fishing gears</p>	<p>Annual BMU performance monitoring</p> <p>Training reports; Annual BMU performance monitoring</p> <p>BMU mentoring reports</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Frame Surveys</p> <p>Frame Surveys</p>	<p><i>Assumptions</i></p> <p>Alternative livelihoods identified and technical support for fishing communities available</p> <p>Financial resources available to assist in developing new enterprises</p>

2. Strategic Action Plan

2.1 Introduction

The section sets out the actions that should be undertaken by LVFO and partners in tackling the high prevalence and impacts of HIV/AIDS in the fishing communities of Lake Victoria. The action plan includes direct and indirect activities, to advocate for more support to fishing communities, reduce vulnerability and risk, promote better access to prevention, care and treatment and advocate for the inclusion of fishing communities in monitoring studies and research into HIV/AIDS.

2.2 Key overarching challenges

Key overarching challenges facing efforts to tackle HIV/AIDS in fishing communities must be recognised in the design and implementation of interventions. The challenges were identified from a review of studies, from the workshop presentations and from a review of policies and measures being undertaken in the Partner States. These are:

- (a) The coordination and delivery of multi-sectoral responses is challenging, requiring good communication and resources.
- (b) Gender dimensions must be taken into account in addressing attitude and behaviour.
- (c) Cultural dimensions must be taken into account, as there are cultural beliefs and practices that increase the vulnerability of the communities to HIV/AIDS, particularly for women.
- (d) Transport is a key issue in assisting fishing communities, including both the poor state of roads to many landing sites and the lack of safe boat transport to island communities. The expense of boat transport and concerns about safety on the lake are also constraints in reaching the island fishing communities. In addition, once on an island it may become unsafe to return to the mainland, requiring accommodation for service providers, which may not be available or suitable.
- (e) Access to services for the communities is constrained by inadequate transport and roads, movement between landing sites, particularly by boat crew, and irregular working hours.
- (f) Local responses to HIV and AIDS are at present weakly linked to fisheries communities.

2.3 Implementation of the strategy and action plan

The regional action plan includes outcomes, actions and responsible agencies. It does not, however, include a timeframe or a budget. This is because of the complexity of implementing this strategy. There is no one ready source of funding to support the lakewide implementation of the SAP. Whilst additional funding will be sought – and mobilising funds is an action to be undertaken – numerous sources of funding are likely to be mobilised to implement the SAP. Already, many activities are going on within the fishing communities. These are not, however, being coordinated, lessons are not being adequately shared and learnt, and opportunities for lesson learning, building partnerships and scaling up are being missed. This is the key role of LVFO and this strategy – to bring people and initiatives together.

Many organisations have, or will seek, funding to support fishing communities in addressing HIV/AIDS and these initiatives are an important part of this strategy. Although the development of the strategy was led by LVFO, and LVFO will play a key role in implementation, many organizations are needed to deliver this strategy over such a big and challenging area. Any organization carrying out activities that fall within the action plan within the fishing communities are contributing to the implementation of this strategy.

Key to the implementation of the Strategy will therefore be effective coordination and networking. LVFO will play a leading role in this, which will involve

1. Facilitating a network of agencies working with fishing communities on HIV/AIDS.
2. Supporting drafting and submission of funding proposals, including joint proposals.
3. Participating in implementation of activities through the fisheries departments and research institutes.

The purpose of the network would be to:

- (a) Generate information on existing interventions.
- (b) Share information, ideas and resources.
- (c) Advocate for greater support to the fishing communities.
- (d) Form partnerships for lesson learning and implementation of activities.
- (e) Enable coordination of activities to reduce duplication of effort and bring in other stakeholders where necessary.
- (f) Facilitate integration of HIV/AIDS interventions into fisheries management and development policies, plans and activities.
- (g) Identify new opportunities for funding, lesson learning and partnerships.
- (h) Identify gaps, where communities are not being reached and identify how best those gaps can be filled.
- (i) Monitor and evaluate impacts of interventions and identify best practice.

Forming such a network of agencies working on HIV/AIDS within the fishing communities of Lake Victoria, and bringing in other agencies that are willing to assist the fishing communities, is therefore an essential component of implementation. The formation of the network started with the March 2006 workshop and the formation of a Regional Taskforce on HIV/AIDS.

2.4 Monitoring and evaluation

The logical framework set out in Table 1 includes a set of monitoring indicators. Where possible, these reflect the types of indicators in the national monitoring and evaluation plans of the Partner States. This facilitates the incorporation of the fishing communities into national monitoring and evaluation on Lake Victoria. A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed to map out how the data for each indicator will be collected, how frequently and who is responsible. Much data produced at national level is not, however, sufficiently disaggregated, so getting data specifically for fishing communities may be a challenge. Monitoring the implementation of the plan is, though, essential for assessing progress, learning lessons and planning the way forward.

Table 2 Regional Action Plan for HIV/AIDS in fishing communities

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
Outcome 1 Fishing communities recognised as a vulnerable group at all levels	1.1 Fishing communities listed as a vulnerable group in regional and national policies and plans	(a) Collate data on the magnitude of the problem from existing sources (b) Collect data and undertake studies to fill gaps in data and knowledge (c) Produce briefing sheets on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities, and on co-management and BMUs (d) Raise awareness of national and regional/provincial government through meetings and provision of materials (e) Use the mass media to lobby for the fishing communities (f) Contribute to regional and national policy reviews and planning	LVFO, Fisheries Departments, National AIDS coordinating agencies, NGOs
	1.2 Resources allocated in national plans and budgets, and disbursed to address HIV/AIDS in fishing communities	(a) Lobby Ministries responsible for fisheries, health and planning to allocate resources to address HIV/AIDS in fishing communities (b) Monitor resource allocation and disbursement	LVFO, Fisheries Departments, NGOs
	1.3 Fishing communities included in national HIV/AIDS data collection systems	(a) Lobby for fishing communities to be included in demographic health and other surveys (b) Generate data through other HIV/AIDS and/or fisheries related monitoring activities	LVFO, Fisheries Departments, National AIDS coordinating agencies
	1.4 Health and HIV/AIDS services provided in fishing communities by local level institutions	(a) Raise awareness of local government officers and politicians about HIV/AIDS in fishing communities (b) Lobby for more resource allocation towards improved health facilities and HIV/AIDS services in fishing communities at local level	Fisheries Departments and Ministries of Health, NGOs
Outcome 2 Appropriate	2.1 Number of agencies and development partners	(a) Develop a regional inventory of potential funding sources	LVFO, EAC and National AIDS

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
resources mobilised, disbursed and utilised	commit funds	(b) Support development and submission of funding proposals	coordinating agencies
	2.2 Amount of funds received and utilised for HIV/AIDS	(a) Develop database of organizations receiving and utilizing HIV/AIDS funding (b) Develop M&E tools for tracking activities of funded groups	LVFO, EAC and National AIDS coordinating agencies
	2.3 Skilled personnel available to provide HIV/AIDS services to and within fishing communities	(a) Lobby for greater provision of trained personnel to provide HIV/AIDS services to and within the fishing communities (b) Train community-based peer health educators and care-givers	Ministries of Health, Local government, fisheries departments, NGOs
Outcome 3 Effective co-ordination and networking for lesson-learning and joint action	3.1 Number of agencies sharing information and networking on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities	(a) Develop an inventory of HIV/AIDS organisations within the Lake Victoria basin (b) Request details of organizations, activities and resources and put into database (c) Facilitate information sharing.	LVBC/AMREF, LVFO, fisheries departments and national AIDS coordinating agencies
	3.2 LVFO Secretariat hosts a network of agencies working on HIV/AIDS with fishing communities in Lake Victoria basin	(a) Secure resources to support and host network. (b) Facilitate regular meetings by HIV/AIDS networks. (c) Facilitate meetings with relevant stakeholders, including private sector fish processing companies.	LVBC/AMREF, LVFO, fisheries departments and national AIDS coordinating agencies
	3.3 Number of collaborative interventions	(a) Exchange information on funding sources, opportunities, approaches and materials (b) Support partnerships and development of collaborative interventions (c) Support joint funding proposals	LVFO, fisheries departments, LVBC/AMREF and national AIDS coordinating agencies
	3.4 Sectors coordinate at all levels in working on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities	(a) Widely disseminate information to facilitate inter-sectoral coordination at all levels. (b) Encourage inter-sectoral cooperation through sharing of information and design of joint activities.	LVFO, fisheries departments, NGOs, national AIDS coordinating agencies

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
	3.5 Strong collaboration with national coordinating agencies established	(a) Contribute to national HIV/AIDS policy review and planning. (b) Send relevant information, work plans and reports to the agencies.	LVFO, Fisheries Departments, national AIDS coordinating agencies
Outcome 4 HIV/AIDS, gender and rights based approach mainstreamed into fisheries management	4.1 HIV/AIDS, gender and rights based approach mainstreamed into regional, national and district fisheries policies and plans	(a) Obtain copy of LVBI guidelines on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, gender and the rights based approach (b) Lobby for regional, national and district fisheries policies and plans to incorporate HIV/AIDS and provide appropriate guidance (c) HIV/AIDS sector contributes to review of policies and plans within fisheries, including the revision of the Fisheries Management Plan for Lake Victoria.	AMREF, LVFO, Fisheries Departments, national AIDS coordinating agencies, NGOs, local governments
	4.2 Number of fisheries programmes and training courses that include HIV/AIDS activities	(a) Lobby for fisheries projects/programmes to incorporate HIV/AIDS activities and provide guidance, using network of agencies where appropriate. (b) Work with Focal Fisheries Training Institutes to improve mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in training courses.	Fisheries departments, FFTIs
	4.3 Focal persons in fisheries departments, parent ministries and districts identified and supported	(a) Establish inventory of existing focal persons and assist with appropriate dissemination of contact details and information about remit. (b) Provide support to existing focal persons. (c) Lobby for deployment of more focal point persons.	Fisheries departments, national AIDS coordination agencies, Ministries of Health
	4.4 HIV/AIDS workplace policies adapted by fisheries institutions and understood by all employees	(a) Support dissemination of information about HIV/AIDS work place policies at fisheries institutions and implementation. (b) Lobby for training of peer educators within fisheries institutions.	Fisheries departments and research institutes, Public Service departments, LVFO, Ministries of Health
	4.4 Number of BMUs with health/HIV/AIDS sub-committees	(a) Facilitate formation of HIV/AIDS sub-committees in BMUs, providing guidance on operation and activities (b) Support the BMU HIV/AIDS/health sub-committees	LVFO, Fisheries Departments, BMUs, Village/LC AIDS

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
		through BMU mentoring, provision of materials and training	Committees, CACCs, NGOs
Outcome 5 High levels of HIV/AIDS awareness in the fishing communities of Lake Victoria	5.1 % of people with correct knowledge about main transmission and prevention methods	(a) Production, translation and distribution of IEC materials in fishing communities and along fish marketing chains (b) Conduct sensitization activities, including BMU mentoring, radio, drama, songs, barazas, posters and fact sheets, for fisheries staff and communities (c) Train and support community based peer educators.	LVFO, Fisheries departments, Ministries of Health, NGOs
	5.2 Number of BMUs receiving and using IEC materials	(a) Production, translation and distribution of IEC materials in fishing communities (b) Mentor BMUs to ensure receipt and use of IEC materials.	LVFO, Ministries of Health, fisheries departments, NGOs, local government/ CACCs
	5.3 Greater openness to HIV/AIDS issues in fishing communities observed	(a) Production, translation and distribution of IEC materials in fishing communities (b) Conduct sensitization activities, including BMU mentoring radio, drama, songs, barazas, posters and fact sheets (c) Train and support community based peer educators.	BMUs, Fisheries departments
	5.4 Number of people from fishing communities accessing VCT	(a) Lobby for greater provision of VCT close to fishing communities, through integration of VCT into existing health facilities and through mobile services. (b) Train health service providers and peer educators to support uptake of VCT. (c) Support formation of post-testing groups.	Ministry of Health, BMUs and other partners
	5.5 Change in retrogressive cultural practices in fishing communities observed	(a) Hold meetings with church, opinion and traditional leaders to identify retrogressive cultural practices and changes that could take place to reduce contribution to high incidence of HIV/AIDS. (b) Create awareness through appropriate media and through leaders.	National AIDS coordinating agencies, cultural leaders, Fisheries Departments

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
Outcome 6 Reduction in risk-taking behaviour	6.1 Number of young people (18 and below) reporting delayed first sexual experience	(a) Integrate key messages into awareness raising activities, including activities aimed at boat crew and young women.	LVFO, local government, CACCs, NGOs/CBOs BMUs
	6.2 Increased use of condoms amongst the sexually active	(a) Promote distribution of condoms in strategic places within fishing communities. (b) Facilitate education on proper condom use (male and female), including provision of accurate information on condom use and disposal.	Fisheries department, BMUs, Ministries of Health and other partners.
	6.3 Number of people (by gender) reporting safe sexual relations with a non-regular/non-spousal partners in the past 12 months	(a) Integrate key messages into awareness raising activities, planned under Outcome 2. (b) Provide training for peer educators on safer sex.	Ministries of Health, LVFO, fisheries departments, NGOs/CBOs, BMUs
	6.4 Number of behaviour change interventions in fishing communities	(a) Integrate key messages into awareness raising activities, planned under Outcome 2. (b) Identify interventions that could address key vulnerabilities of fishing communities and advocate for their implementation.	Fisheries departments and research institutes, LVFO, Ministries of Health
Outcome 7 Increase access to, and provision of, services for PLWHA in fishing communities	7.1 Number of services within one hour's walking distance of fishing communities	(a) Establish an inventory of existing services. (b) Lobby for greater provision of services closer to the fishing communities, including community-based and mobile services, and open at times relevant to different members of the communities. (c) Provide safe boat transport or floating clinics. (d) Lobby for integration of VCT, ART, PMTCT into existing health facilities close to the fishing communities.	LVBC/AMREF, LVFO, fisheries departments, Ministry of Health and national AIDS coordinating agencies
	7.2 Number of services accessible to hard to reach fishing communities	(a) Establish an inventory of existing services. (b) Generate better understanding of movement of fisherfolk to improve access to services.	Ministries of Health, NGOs, fisheries departments and

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
		(c) Lobby for greater provision of services closer to the fishing communities, including community-based and mobile services, and open at times relevant to different members of the communities. (d) Lobby for integration of VCT, ART, PMTCT into existing health facilities close to the fishing communities. (e) Provide safe boat transport or floating clinics.	research institutes, LVFO
	7.3 Turn around time at service providers reduced and services affordable	(a) Lobby for improved services by HIV/AIDS service providers for fishing communities.	Fisheries Departments, NGOs, Ministries of Health, BMUs
	7.4 Number of centres for comprehensive HIV/AIDS services accessible to fishing communities	(a) Establish an inventory of existing services. (b) Lobby for provision of services close to the fishing communities, including community-based and mobile services, that address characteristics of fishing communities, including migration (c) Provide safe boat transport or floating clinics. (d) Lobby for integration of VCT, ART, PMTCT into existing health facilities close to the fishing communities.	Ministries of Health, NGOs, Fisheries Departments
	7.5 Number of home based care providers in the fishing communities	(a) Train and support community-based volunteers as home-based care givers.	NGOs, Ministries of Health, local government/CACCs
	7.6 Number of PLWHAs accessing treatment and care	(a) Integrate key messages regarding treatment and care into awareness raising, counselling and peer support activities to encourage uptake of care and treatment. (b) Support the formation of PLWHA support groups. (c) Lobby for provision of counselling, support and nutrition services.	Ministry of health and department of fisheries
	7.5 Number of community groups providing HIV/AIDS care and	(a) Establish an inventory of existing Community Based Organisations. (b) Support formation of community groups, including BMU	National AIDS coordinating agencies NGOs,

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
	interventions in fishing communities	sub-committees, in providing care and other services	local/government CACCs
Outcome 8 Targeted interventions provided for young men and for women in fishing communities	8.1 Number of targeted interventions for youth and women in fishing communities	(a) Lobby service providers to offer interventions targeting youth and women, including awareness raising through drama, films/video (b) Sensitize the targeted groups on the availability of these services and the need for their participation.	Local government/ LC/Village AIDS Committees, CACCs, Fisheries departments, BMUs AMREF, LVFO
	8.2 Number of fish landing sites with recreational facilities used for awareness raising for young men and women	(a) Lobby for the establishment of recreational facilities such as video halls, football fields and equipment. (b) Negotiate for sponsorship for recreational events. (c) Mobilise the youth for participation in events. (d) Negotiate with service providers to participate in these activities.	Community development departments, NGOs, local government, fisheries departments, BMUs
	8.3 Increased participation of young men and women in BMU activities	(a) Support boat crew and women in actively participating in BMU activities (b) Raise awareness about BMUs of boat crew and women. (c) Mobilise the women through national and regional networks to participate actively in BMU activities.	Fisheries departments, LVFO, BMUs, local governments, Ministries of Health, NGOs
	8.4 Number of interventions targeted at improving women's status in fishing communities	(a) Identify potential and existing initiatives that can improve women's status within fishing communities. (b) Lobby more service providers to target women with their services and provide targeted interventions.	BMUs and Fisheries Department
	8.5 Measures, such as by-laws, taken to improve access to fish for women	(a) Identify and pilot test measures to improve women's access to fish (b) Raise awareness about the negative aspects of 'sex for fish', and suggest alternatives to secure access to fish for women. (c) Disseminate information on measures that could be taken to fisheries staff and BMUs.	BMUs and Fisheries Departments, NGOs

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
		(d) Monitor effectiveness of measures.	
	8.6 At least one BMU member and women represented on Village/LC1/Constituency HIV/AIDS committees.	(a) Lobby for inclusion of at least one BMU representative and a woman on all lake-side Village/LC1/Constituency HIV/AIDS committees	BMUs and Fisheries Departments, local governments, Ministries of Local Government
Outcome 9 Livelihoods, coping mechanisms and capacity to address HIV/AIDS strengthened within fishing communities	9.1 Number of peer educators and counsellors in the fishing communities trained	(a) Train community based peer educators. (b) Promote awareness using appropriate media.	
	9.2 Number of BMUs with access to savings and credit facilities	(a) Make an inventory of existing savings and credit facilities. (b) Assist BMUs to access support in developing SACCOS. (c) Sensitize communities on the importance of saving. (d) Lobby savings and credit service providers to target fisher communities.	LVFO, Fisheries Departments and BMUs, NGOs
	9.3 Number of BMUs with members trained in enterprise development	(a) Clearly identify training needs. (b) Development of training materials on enterprise development, tailored for fishing communities. (c) Conduct training (d) Monitor impact of the training.	LVFO, fisheries departments, NGOs, development partners and BMUs
	9.4 Establishment of community-based safety nets, including groups	(a) Support BMUs to identify approaches to assist those in need within the fishing community. (b) Support development of safety nets and monitor effectiveness.	LVFO, development partners, fisheries departments, NGOs, BMUs
	9.5 Number of alternative functional livelihood activities in fishing communities	(a) Identify and assess existing and potential alternative income generating activities (b) Pilot support to develop or modify enterprises (c) Assess effectiveness, learn and disseminate lessons	CBS, Fisheries department, BMUs

Narrative	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Activities	Responsible agencies
	9.6 Improved infrastructure at the landing sites	(a) Development of selected landing sites. (b) Provision of social infrastructure. (c) Lobby for BMU plans to be incorporated into local development plans and funding secured.	Fisheries departments, local government, NGOs, central government
	9.7 Reduction in use of illegal fishing gears	(a) Assess linkages between HIV status/having AIDS and use of illegal gears (b) Intensify sensitization on negative impacts of various illegal gears. (c) Joint enforcement of regulations	LVFO, Fisheries departments, BMUs