

HIV/AIDS is a workplace issue as well as a health one. Generations of workers are either dying or too ill to work, making the prospect of Africa working its way out of poverty more and more remote.

Africa is home to just over 10% of the world's population. But has nearly two-thirds of HIV/AIDS sufferers.

Sub-Saharan Africa bears the brunt of the world's AIDS epidemic. To date, 13 million men, women and children have died of AIDS and a further 26 million are living with the virus.

In the short-term, medicine is essential to meet immediate need. However, the situation in many African countries is desperate. They require long-term solutions to help families tackle the devastating impact of the HIV pandemic and employers and trade unions have an important part to play.



Learn more about Africa's problems and get a valuable qualification. Amicus have developed a study programme, in partnership with ACTSA and the University of Leeds, for Amicus members who wish to support Africa Matters Campaign. Visit www.amicustheunion.org/africamattersmodule for more information about the learning module, and play your part in changing the world.

To receive a campaign information pack, including an application form for the Africa Matters module, please contact Andrew Murray, Education Officer on: Tel 07768 931290 or email andrew.murray@amicustheunion.org

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Africa Matters

Amicus and the campaigning group Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) have joined forces to work on the Africa Matters Campaign. It aims to offer Amicus members the chance to get involved in African issues and to bring trade unionists across continents together.

The campaign, launched by Rt Hon Gordon Brown in May 2004, has brought trade unionists working in many sectors from countries like Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa over to the UK to meet with Amicus members to share information about their work and experiences.

Africa Matters offers Amicus members a chance to find out more about the pressing issues affecting Africa like debt, trade, HIV/AIDS and workers rights. This campaign will give you the opportunity to get involved and make a positive difference to the world we live in.

The campaign is also about supporting practical solutions to the people in Africa, for example, the 'Zimbabwe Sanitary Products Campaign' where Amicus members are helping ACTSA raise money to help the women of Zimbabwe obtain sanitary products. Also the Amicus 'Balls to Poverty' campaign will see eighteen South Nottinghamshire College students, aged 16- 18, deliver football coaching clinics to over 1,000 schoolchildren in South African townships.

Debt

Africa's \$300 billion debt burden is the single biggest obstacle to the continent's development. These massive debts force many African governments to spend more on debt servicing than on healthcare. The average spending on debt is \$14 per person while the average spending on health is less than \$5 per person.

The UK government has announced the cancellation of some of Africa's debt but it is not nearly enough. Amicus is continuing to put pressure on the government to go further to reduce this unacceptable debt.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region of the world that has got poorer in the last generation. It makes up 13% of the world's population and 28% of world poverty. These challenges represent a compelling call for international cooperation to support the continent's efforts to achieve lasting progress.



Aid and trade

African countries have been told by rich western governments to develop their industries and encourage their farmers to earn more money for their produce in order to reduce poverty. But the actual policies of the international community are crushing farmers and industries across Africa.

Poor countries are put under enormous pressure to open their markets and expose their producers to competition, instead of being free to follow the economic policies that best suit them. Rich countries have refused to do the same. Instead they continue to protect their farmers and companies, providing massive subsidies and protected markets.

African countries have also been bullied to lower their trade barriers, so cheap overseas products inundate their markets and undermine local producers. While debt relief is essential, real progress would be made in fairer and equal trade.

Amicus supports the Make Poverty History campaign which actively lobbies governments at national, European and international levels to create a level playing field.