Joint Effort on Occupational Health in Africa

- Magnitude of the problem (old, new, against the background of huge public health problems)
- OSH is not a perceived as priority area
- Lack of coordination between WHO and ILO
- Lack of coordination between different sectors in the countries
- Many countries (Europe, US, Canada) have ongoing projects activities in Africa; hardly any coordination
Purpose and scope

- Foster partnerships and synergies
- Serve as a fundraising platform
- All countries in Africa (Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone)
- Workers in all sectors of the economy
process

- 2000: WHO meeting in Pretoria (Anglophone), with participation of partners from Europe, US, and ICOH, IOHA, IEA, and ILO; recommendation; JOINT WORK

- Meeting in Harare (HQ AFRO) with ILO; decisions on name, objectives, areas of collaboration, workplan
WHO/ILO Joint Effort on Occupational Health and Safety in Africa areas of concentration

- Information sharing
- Capacity building
- Policy and legislation
- Particularly hazardous occupations and vulnerable populations
Mechanisms

- Steering committee (regional and subregional offices WHO and ILO, and HQ).
- Regular meetings (HQ, Regional and subregional)
- Formalization
  - statement of intent
  - next step; memo from regional offices to countries (all partners)
Action highlights

- **Information**: Website (www.sheafrika.info), periodic updates of activities, coordination with African Newsletter, CIS centers, ... information strategy

- **Capacity building**: training on pesticides, dust, informal economy. Close coordination with FOGARTY and capacity building project from Sweden
Action highlights

- **Policy and legislation; joint profiles (Egypt), joint national planning (Benin), joint support to regional activities (safety week for Francophone Africa in Burkina), new collaborating centres**

- **most hazardous and vulnerable**
  - child labour (with IPEC)
  - informal economy (Capetown, with Healthy Cities project WHO)
  - HIV in health care workers
Accomplishments WHO/ILC

Partnerships
- Over 100 partners in 20+ countries; Ministries, agencies, universities, unions, employers, NGOs, Fogarty, individuals

formalization between Regional directors WHO and ILO

results
- Benin – National Joint effort (MOH, MOL)
- Egypt – National Joint Effort; joint country profile
- South Africa – Information Management strategy developed for Africa, including French and Arab speaking countries
- Informal sector model; Cape Town

similar coordination ongoing in Latin America

model for other regions; Asia....