

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Projects in Côte d'Ivoire

Expanding Palliative Care Services through Organizational Capacity Development

Hope Worldwide in Abidjan is partnering with the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) in Kampala, Uganda, to increase the availability of appropriate palliative care drugs in Côte d'Ivoire.

Launched in April 2007, this south-south partnership is developing a country-specific advocacy program and strengthening networks and linkages among health and social support organizations to improve the provision of palliative care in this West African nation of 17.3 million.

Program accomplishments to date include:

- Completion of initial assessment trips and development of the year one work plan;
- Attendance of three Hope Worldwide partners at APCA's second palliative care conference in Nairobi, Kenya; and
- Completion of a comprehensive capacity assessment of Hope Worldwide's organizational systems and palliative care services conducted by the APCA partners.

Future twinning activities will include a sensitization workshop for all Hope Worldwide staff, a review of advocacy plans, and the organization of a workshop to build consensus on availability of pain management drugs.

Strengthening VCT Services

The technical working group PCD-CI — which is comprised of three voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) sites in Côte d'Ivoire — is partnering with the Nairobi, Kenya-based Liverpool VCT to support the scale up of comprehensive, high quality HIV counseling and testing services.

Liverpool VCT is sharing its extensive experience with implementing HIV counseling and testing services, along with related quality assurance and monitoring programs, providing technical assistance on topics including supervision, evaluation, policy and standards development, and accreditation.

Côte d'Ivoire Country Overview



Political instability in Côte d'Ivoire has made it increasingly difficult to implement, sustain, and measure the impact of HIV prevention and treatment programs throughout the country. Although these barriers exist, Côte d'Ivoire's HIV prevalence rate of 7.1 percent — the highest in West Africa — makes continuing these programs critical. Populations most at risk of HIV infection include women ages 20-24, sex workers, and military personnel.

With support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Government team in country, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center currently manages two partnerships in Côte d'Ivoire.

Specifically partners are working together to increase PCD-CI's capacity to support the delivery of quality counseling and testing training activities on a national level. They are also supporting implementation of a revised and comprehensive national policy on counseling and testing, as well as the implementation of the finger-prick testing algorithm on a national level.

Upcoming partnership activities will include distribution of a door-to-door training manual and development of a national plan for finger prick implementation.