

First Ladies Laura Bush and Mama Salma Kikwete Launch Tanzania's National Action Plan for MVC

US First Lady Laura Bush and Tanzania's First Lady Mama Salma Kikwete together launched the East African country's National Action Plan for Most Vulnerable Children Feb. 17 in Dar es Salaam.

"The American people are proud to stand with the people of Tanzania as you confront HIV/AIDS," Bush told the crowd of supporters who attended the ceremony.

"Tanzania is one of the first countries to develop a National Plan of Action for orphans and vulnerable children," Bush said, stressing that the United States is committed to supporting the plan. "Through this partnership between the United States and Tanzania, we can restore hope to orphans and their families," she noted.



Laura Bush applauds as Mama Salma Kikwete presents Tanzania's National Action Plan for Most Vulnerable Children.



Laura Bush and Mama Kikwete visit with staff and children at the Institute of Social Work's display on community-based care and support.

Following the launch, the First Ladies toured booths that highlighted a wide array of programs that currently provide care and support to Tanzania's orphans and vulnerable children. Exhibits covered service categories such as Health and Education, Psychosocial Support and Stigma, Household Care, and Community Care.

Twinning Center partners from Tanzania's Institute of Social Work in Dar es Salaam were on hand to share information about the para-social worker training program they are implementing with their partners from

Jane Addams College of Social Work and the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center.

With support from PEPFAR and USAID, the partnership has already provided social work training to 410 community workers who provide care to vulnerable children.