

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Projects in Mozambique

Scaling Up HIV Care and Treatment Services

Currently, Mozambique faces a human resource shortage that is hindering its ability to rapidly scale up efforts to provide ART to people living with HIV or AIDS. Adding to the complexity of the situation is the fact that approximately 17 percent of the public healthcare workforce is infected with HIV and in need of care themselves.

Mozambique's Ministry of Health recognizes the need to train additional healthcare workers to combat HIV/AIDS and is now targeting in-service training for mid- and lower-level healthcare workers as a key component of its national HIV/AIDS strategic plan.

In an effort to support this Ministry initiative, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center has linked the Universidade Católica de Moçambique (UCM) with the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. The overall goal of this partnership is to increase the availability of quality HIV services in Mozambique's Sofala Province.

Specific objectives and key activities include:

- Increasing the numbers of qualified healthcare workers in trained in HIV/AIDS; and
- Creating a model clinic that provides quality HIV/AIDS care and treatment services and serves as a clinical training facility for healthcare professionals.

Since commencing collaboration in 2006, partners have completed renovations of the UCM clinic and are in the process of transitioning into a clinical training site for UCM students. Partners also developed and organized the agenda, curricula, and syllabi for UCM faculty training and have leveraged an additional \$80,000 worth of equipment and supplies for the training center.

Future activities include continued efforts to strengthen organizational capacity at UCM's HIV/AIDS training center through ongoing faculty development.

Strengthening Nursing Response to HIV/AIDS

The Associação Nacional dos Enfermeiros de Moçambique (ANEMO) — the National Mozambique Nurses Association — is collaborating with St. Luke's

Mozambique Country Overview



Prevalence of HIV infection in the East Africa nation of Mozambique is estimated to be 12.5 percent among people aged 15-49 and varies across different provinces. More than 1.5 million Mozambicans were living with HIV at the end of 2007.

Poverty, limited health infrastructure, and increased mobility are the primary drivers of Mozambique's high HIV prevalence rate. A civil war

restricted movement within and outside the country for many years, but after the 1992 Peace Accord, refugees returned from neighboring countries with far higher HIV prevalence than Mozambique. Currently, regional economic developments and employment opportunities are expanding, resulting in more migration, more disposable income, a disintegrating family structure, and an increase in the commercial sex industry, thus compounding infection rates.

With support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US government team in country, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center currently manages three partnerships in Mozambique.

In 2008, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center established a country office to provide programmatic and logistical support to partners. Staff also work closely with local government agencies and the US Government team to identify and facilitate needs-driven partnerships.

Hospital School of Nursing at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to strengthen ANEMO as a professional association by increasing membership programs that mitigate the spread of HIV and improve



Partners from Catholic University of Mozambique and the University of Pittsburgh are working to build much-needed human resource capacity by training healthcare workers and opening a clinic that will also serve as a hands-on training site for care providers.



Members of a community-based education and outreach organization in Chinde, Zambezia Province, display a map that illustrates local sites they support.

Twinning Center partners in Mozambique are scaling up their successful “prevention with positives” programs in the country’s Sofala and Zambezia provinces.

the ability of nurses in Mozambique to provide quality patient care.

US partners have conducted a week-long assessment of the nursing situation in Mozambique to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing their Mozambican counterparts. In March 2009, the ANEMO partners traveled to St. Luke’s Hospital where they learned about effective nursing care and training programs and collaborated on a 12-month workplan that will guide their future activities.

Preventing the Spread of HIV

As ARV medicines become more widely available in Mozambique, people living with HIV are living longer and feeling healthier. This necessitates the expansion of prevention messages beyond the traditional target of uninfected individuals.

Namaacha Health Center and Esperanza-Beluluane Voluntary Counseling and Testing Center are partnering with the University of California - San Francisco School of Nursing to implement clinic- and community-based prevention messages that target people living with HIV. The objective of these “prevention with positives” programs is to prevent re-infection and co-infection of HIV among those already living with the virus, as well as among sero-discordant couples.

To date, key partnership activities have included:

- Training healthcare workers to conduct short risk-reduction interventions with HIV-positive patients;
- Developing a provider-based prevention with positives intervention;
- Developing a client-led prevention with positives

intervention; and

- Expanding interventions to Mozambique’s Sofala and Zambezia provinces.

Partners have developed a training curriculum and conducted a series of professional exchanges, as well as secured approval of a set of monitoring and evaluation instruments from the Mozambique Bioethics Committee.

Future activities will include continued support to group facilitators at Esperanza-Beluluane VCT Center along with continued visits to proposed sites in Sofala and Zambezia to initiate the collection of baseline data, which will help direct prevention efforts in both provinces.



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