

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Projects in Nigeria

Strengthening the Capacity of Schools of Social Work to Improve Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

The Twinning Center launched in September 2008 a new partnership designed to train social workers and para-professionals to provide much-needed care and support to Nigerian children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in the West African nation of 149 million.

This partnership is the Twinning Center's first in Nigeria, and was established with support from PEPFAR through CDC/Nigeria and in close cooperation with Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development.

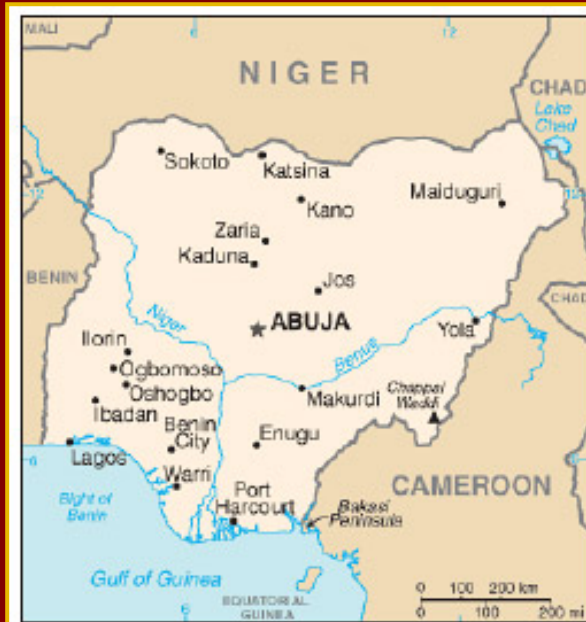
Hunter College School of Social Work in New York City leads a consortium of organizations, including Howard University School of Social Work, the Nigerian Social Workers Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Black Social Workers, and a varied network of New York service delivery and professional organizations.

Together, the US partners are collaborating with the Federal School of Social Work in the city of Enugu and the Department of Social Work at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka to strengthen the capacity of both Nigerian institutions to provide in-service and pre-service training in social work, case management, leadership, and other skills necessary to ensure comprehensive services are available to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Enugu State.

Partners conducted an assessment trip to Nigeria in September 2008 and second professional exchange in New York and Washington, DC, in January 2009 to develop their year-one workplan.

They have conducted a situational analysis of OVC needs; existing strengths and weaknesses in capacity, service, and training; available resources; and existing infrastructure. The results of this analysis are informing the development of an OVC social work training

Nigeria Country Overview



With an HIV prevalence rate of 3.1 percent among adults between the ages of 15-49, Nigeria is home to 2.6 million people living with HIV — the third largest national epidemic in the world. Nigeria's AIDS epidemic is complex and varies widely by region. Youth and young adults in Nigeria are particularly vulnerable to HIV, with young women at higher risk than their male counterparts. There are many risk factors that contribute to the spread of HIV, including prostitution, high-risk practices among itinerant workers, high prevalence of STIs, clandestine high-risk heterosexual and homosexual practices, international trafficking of women, and irregular blood screening.

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 one partnership in Nigeria.

curriculum, which is slated to be piloted at Nigerian partner institutions in August 2009.