



PRESS RELEASE

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Para-Social Worker Training Program Kicks Off in Nigeria, Will Help Improve Care for Orphans, Vulnerable Children

PEPFAR-supported Partnership Launches Program to Train Community Caregivers Who Assist Children and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS

WASHINGTON, DC, and ENUGU, NIGERIA, August 10, 2009 — Some 50 community caregivers who work with orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria's Enugu State are gaining much-needed skills at a week-long workshop at Crystal Springs Hotel in Enugu August 10-14.

This pilot training — titled “Developing Skills to Assist Vulnerable Children and Their Households” — is being conducted by HIV/AIDS Twinning Center partners at the Federal School of Social Work in Enugu and the Department of Social Work at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka and their US counterparts from Hunter College School of Social Work, Howard University School of Social Work, the Nigerian Social Workers Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the National Association of Black Social Workers.

With funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), partners are providing in-service training for PEPFAR implementing partners, local Kids Club workers, child welfare officers, social work educators, and other caregivers who work with vulnerable children and families at the grassroots level.

The trainings are designed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of individuals providing care and support to children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and their families or caregivers. Trainees will learn key skills that will help them identify these children, assess their needs and strengths, improve and expand delivery of key psycho-social services, and better engage communities to provide a network of care, support, and protection.

A similar training course will be conducted at Grace Point Resort Hotel in Abuja August 17-21.

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