

## Tanzania OVC Partners Conduct Para-social Worker Training in Mbeya Region

Twinning Center partners at the Tanzania Institute of Social Work conducted a training course for para-social workers in the Mbeya Region in January and February.

A total of 128 participants from four districts of Mbeya Region—Mbeya City, Rungwe, Kyela and Mbozi—attended the eight-day workshop. The participants included community welfare officers and representatives from a variety of Most Vulnerable Children Committees, CBOs, FBOs, CSOs, NGOs, and other organizations.

The objective of the training was to provide community-based caregivers in Mbeya a forum to share experiences and gain the skills they need to expand and improve care and support for orphans and vulnerable children.

The Institute of Social Work is partnering with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work and Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center since late 2006 to implement this project, which is supported by PEPFAR and funded by USAID. Partners are also collaborating with Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare on the effort to bolster the knowledge and skills of those providing care and support to the nearly 2.5 million orphans and vulnerable children living in the country.

Upcoming project activities include a workshop to train more than 110 para-social workers from the Ilala Municipality and Morogoro Region. Overall, the project expects to train in excess of 500 additional para-social workers across Tanzania.

**Participants in the para-social worker training program are awarded certificates from the Institute of Social Work upon completion of the training course.**

**Partners are also focusing on follow-up training, mentoring, and evaluation to ensure quality of care.**