

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Projects in Tanzania

Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children

The Tanzania Institute of Social Work (ISW) is partnering with Jane Addams College of Social Work (JACSW) and the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago to strengthen ISW's pre-and in-service social work training programs.

Partners are working to address Tanzania's immediate and long-term needs for trained social workers who can provide care and support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). Specific objectives include strengthening the role of social workers as case managers and increasing the capacity of community volunteers to access resources for improving care for OVCs.

To this end, the partnership is building ISW's capacity to deliver high quality pre- and in-service social work education, particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS and OVC care through curriculum development; joint teaching curriculum; enhanced student fieldwork placement and supervision; exchange of educational materials and training resources; faculty development for teaching and targeted evaluation; and the development and institutionalization of an in-service certificate program for para-professional case managers to serve the needs of OVC.

As of July 2008, partners have trained 516 para-social workers and 40 district social workers from Dar es Salaam and high burden areas of Iringa, Mbeya, and Morogoro. These community workers provide care and support to orphans and vulnerable children and families by linking them to much-needed assistance. Partners also trained 25 master trainers in the para-social work curriculum, thus bolstering sustainable local capacity.

Pre-Service HIV/AIDS Training for Nurses

Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences and the University of California at San Francisco School of Nursing are collaborating to strengthen the capacity of Tanzania's 56 nursing schools to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to provide quality HIV/AIDS services, as well the life skills they need to safeguard their own health and wellbeing by practicing safer sexual behaviors.

Tanzania Country Overview



The largest country in East Africa, Tanzania has an estimated HIV prevalence rate of 6.5 percent among adults aged 15-49. Among the 1.4 million people living with HIV on Tanzania's mainland, 70.5 percent are 25-49 years old and 15 percent are 15-24 years; 60 percent of all new infections occur among youth aged 15-24. Although 140,000 deaths were attributed to HIV/AIDS in 2005, it is estimated that only a small portion of actual deaths are reported, grossly understating the extent of the epidemic.

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 five partnerships and a Volunteer Healthcare Corps initiative in Tanzania.

In 2006, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center opened an office in Dar es Salaam to provide programmatic and logistical support to partners and volunteers. Staff also work closely with local government agencies and the US Government team to identify and facilitate needs-driven partnerships and volunteer placements.

Partners developed and are implementing the Tanzania HIV/AIDS Nursing Education (THANE) Project, a comprehensive training package with a training-of-trainers component that integrates HIV/AIDS care and life skills



Nursing school tutors learn about needle safety during a THANE Project training-of-trainers workshop conducted by partners in 2007.

content into the pre-service curricula at nursing schools in Tanzania. The THANE Project is helping ensure that graduating nurses are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to provide high quality healthcare services to people living with HIV or AIDS.

Partners conducted four zonal training-of-trainers workshops, resulting in 186 nurse tutors being trained in the THANE curriculum. On average, their HIV/AIDS test scores increased from 57 percent to 74 percent based on pre- and post-tests. Participants also reported a significant increase in their confidence to teach new HIV/AIDS content in post-workshop assessments. In addition, seven master trainers provided facilitation of the THANE modules in the zonal training workshops and acquired increased familiarity with the content and confidence in teaching HIV/AIDS-related subject matter.

Partners also supported the Nursing Unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in their development of new curricula for certificate and diploma programs by conducting a five-week curricula development workshop in late 2007 for some 18 nursing tutors and experts. Extensive partner participation in the workshop ensured relevant HIV/AIDS content was incorporated into the new curricula.

Building HIV/AIDS Laboratory Capacity

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Tanzania is partnering with Boulder (Colorado) Community Hospital to build much-needed human resource capacity at the country's regional laboratories.

Medical labs in Tanzania are faced with a severe shortage of qualified staff capable of supporting care and

treatment services. Partners are conducting targeted training and technical assistance activities at zonal training centers associated with referral hospitals as a means of strengthening the capacity of laboratories throughout the country to provide high quality HIV diagnostic and disease management laboratory services.

Specifically, partners are training laboratory staff to use new equipment for diagnosing and managing HIV and implementing training and mentoring on standards of care, as well as quality control procedures, at regional laboratories. Partners are also providing professional development opportunities for laboratory staff and managers through national, regional, and international training.

The partnership has already completed assessments of 10 regional laboratories and the first laboratory volunteer placed through the Twinning Center's Volunteer Healthcare Corps started in February, 2008.

In the future, volunteer placement will continue with new volunteers serving as laboratory mentors at regional labs fast tracked for technical assistance and support.



Lynn Maedel of the Colorado Association of Continuing Medical Laboratory Education reviews new med-tech resources with the Tanzanian partners during a professional exchange.

Strengthening HIV/AIDS Palliative Care

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania is working with Iowa Sister States and Iowa Health to strengthen palliative care capacity in Tanzania's Pare Diocese.

Partners are training both medical and non-medical workers, including community volunteers, to provide high quality care and support to people living with HIV with the



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goal of improving clinic- and home-based palliative care.

In close collaboration, partners have developed a palliative care curriculum based on best practices of the African Palliative Care Association (APCA). To date, they have trained 200 community and church leaders on the curriculum, as well as on a referral system through which health facilities notify community volunteers about patients in need of HIV-related palliative care services.

Future activities include two planned workshops on palliative care for 160 healthcare workers along with training for selected individuals to improve computer and internet skills.

Preventing HIV and Substance Abuse Among Youth in Zanzibar

Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Department of Substance Abuse and Prevention in Zanzibar, is partnering with the Great Lakes Addiction Transfer and Technology Center (GLATTC) in Chicago, Illinois, to strengthen ministry and NGO support of substance abuse and HIV prevention programs that target young people between the ages of 10-24.

This age group accounts for 30 percent of Zanzibar's population and is traditionally at increased risk for HIV infection.

Partners recently completed their initial assessment trip, during which they developed partnership goals and objectives and began to identify activities that will help them achieve their goal of bolstering HIV and substance abuse prevention programs for youth at risk.

Tanzania Preceptors Initiative: Supporting ARV Treatment Sites with Skilled Volunteers

Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has set ambitious goals for national expansion of HIV/AIDS treatment and seeks to expand ART services to 200 sites supporting a total of 100,000 patients on ARV treatment within the next several years.

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center is supporting this rapid expansion through its Volunteer Healthcare Corps. With the goal of increasing the institutional and human resource capacity of HIV care and treatment centers, the Tanzania Preceptors Initiative places highly skilled professionals at PEPFAR-supported sites, where they serve as onsite technical experts.



VHC volunteer Deborah Roseman with a group of young girls she met on a site visit to Kiwohede Youth Center during her three-month placement at the PEPFAR-supported Mbeya Referral Hospital.

Preceptors are placed at sites for a period ranging from three months to two years with the dual goals of increasing institutional capacity to deliver and expand quality HIV/AIDS treatment and care services and increasing staff competencies in HIV-related treatment and care.

They mentor staff; assist with the provision of services as needed; and help with program expansion, quality control, and other support tasks beneficial to the host institution.

To date, the VHC has placed 11 volunteers in Tanzania. Current placements include HIV/AIDS trainer, HIV/AIDS stigma specialist, pediatric clinical preceptor, PMTCT specialist, clinical preceptor, and laboratory mentor.

