

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Projects in Zambia

Advocating for Improved Palliative Care Services and Standards

The Palliative Care Association of Zambia (PCAZ) is partnering the African Palliative Care Association (APCA), based in Kampala, Uganda, to position PCAZ as a leading advocate for promoting national palliative care standards and policies in Zambia.

By working with APCA, whose member associations have substantial expertise in palliative care delivery, policy, and advocacy, PCAZ is developing its capacity to serve as a voice for comprehensive palliative care.

The overall goal of the partnership is to establish PCAZ as a lead organization in the implementation of palliative care and as the custodian of standards of palliative care and related training in Zambia.

To accomplish this, partners are working to:

- Develop PCAZ's human and institutional capacity;
- Promote best practice in palliative care by developing research and training standards; and
- Create awareness by promoting advocacy and information dissemination.

Improving Media Coverage of HIV/AIDS to Increase Public Awareness of the Epidemic

Twinning Center partners at Zambia Institute of Mass Communication Educational Trust (ZAMCOM) in Lusaka are collaborating with the University of Kentucky School of Journalism to improve media coverage of Zambia's HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Partners are working to ensure timely, accurate news coverage of HIV-related topics as a means to increase public awareness about HIV/AIDS, how the virus can be prevented, and what treatment and support options are available to people living with or affected by HIV.

With the objective of improving the quality and scope of HIV/AIDS reporting in Zambia, the partnership is designed to build organizational, human resource, and training capacity at ZAMCOM. The Kentucky partners are sharing their wealth of practical experience on a

Zambia Country Overview



As of 2008, Zambia's adult HIV prevalence rate was estimated to be 15.2 percent among the population aged 15-49. Sexual contact is the prime mode of transmission and is often exacerbated by the presence of untreated STIs during unprotected sex. HIV prevalence rates vary considerably within the country, with infection rates highest in cities and towns along major transportation routes and lower in rural areas with low population density. According to WHO reports, young women between the ages of 25 -34 are at much higher risk of being infected by HIV than young men in the same age group; their prevalence rates are 12.7 and 3.8 percent, respectively. Other at-risk populations include military personnel, commercial sex workers, truck drivers, and people who work in fisheries.

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 four partnerships in Zambia.

wide range of journalism and health topics, including professional education and training techniques, print and broadcast production, and reliable sources, as well as promotion and distribution. In addition, partners are working to bolster and consolidate different training programs based on ZAMCOM's strategic goals, which include offering media trainings for corporate personnel.



Members of the Zambia HIV/AIDS Media partnership conduct an information session during a recent exchange to ZAMCOM's Lusaka campus.



Maina Soko LRC coordinator Tommy Sajisa (left) worked with the CDC and Microsoft on the implementation of SmartCare, an electronic patient record system.

Since 2005, ZAMCOM has trained nearly 60 print and broadcast reporters and 34 journalist-editor teams from 13 countries on accurate, timely coverage of HIV/AIDS with support from PEPFAR and the Twinning Center.

Improving HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care for Military Personnel

Building on an existing collaboration between Zambia's National Defense Force and the US Department of Defense's Naval Medical Center in San Diego, the Twinning Center is supporting a partnership designed to improve HIV-related care for military personnel and their families.

US partners provide technical assistance and help create replicable, integrated models of HIV treatment, care, and support that include enhanced access to evidence-based practices, improving the management of patients on ART, and developing an electronic record system to track and monitor patients and improve treatment adherence.

With CDC support, partners have established two Learning Resource Centers at Maina Soko Military Hospital and the Nursing School Military Hospital to increase military medical personnel's access to evidenced-based research and guidelines. These centers serve as learning hubs, providing training on basic computer schools, advanced data retrieval, and evidence-based practices in HIV/AIDS service delivery.

Partners have also established a referral network to improve access to HIV care and treatment services in

provincial military bases throughout Zambia.

Strengthening Pharmaceutical Services at Pediatric ART Centers of Excellence

Establishing effective systems to improve the delivery of ART is particularly challenging with pediatric cases. The CDC and Columbia University are working together to establish pediatric HIV care and treatment centers of excellence at the University Teaching Hospitals in Lusaka and Livingstone and a Twinning Center partnership that links the Milwaukee-based Center for International Health (CIH) with both hospitals is supporting these efforts.

The CIH partners are providing much-needed technical expertise, training, and mentoring to develop the knowledge and skills of Zambian pharmacists. They are also assisting with the development of effective management systems at the teaching hospitals.

With the overall goal of improving the quality of care provided by pharmacists working with the pediatric ART programs, partners have jointly developed and are implementing a series of in-country training programs. These trainings focus on arming pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with the skills they need to better organize and manage pharmacy services at the Lusaka and Livingstone centers thereby helping to ensure the delivery of quality HIV/AIDS care to mothers, infants, and children.

Partners are also working to integrate clinical pharmacists into the multidisciplinary ART care teams



The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center is a project of the American International Health Alliance funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

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practicing at the Lusaka and Livingstone ART Centers.

US partners have already conducted an intensive short-term training on pharmacy organization and management in Milwaukee for their Zambian colleagues and commenced efforts to expand the role pharmacists play in the provision of ART and other care and support services for mothers, infants, and children in Zambia.



Four Zambian pharmacists from Livingstone and Lusaka traveled to Milwaukee in September 2007 to take part in an intensive training course.



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