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**For more information, please contact:**

Sally Chalamila, Country Director  
AIHA/Tanzania  
Tel: + (255-22) 266-7032 / 266-8441  
E-mail: schalamila@aiha.com

# PRESS RELEASE

## Hubert Kairuki Memorial University Launches New MSW Program

### PEPFAR-funded partnership supports Tanzania's efforts to strengthen its social welfare workforce, celebrates launch of the country's second Master of Social Work program

**Dar es Salaam, June 16, 2014** — The Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) last week celebrated the successful launch of its new Master of Social Work (MSW) program, which welcomed its first cohort of 31 students in October 2013. HKMU is the second Tanzanian school to offer an MSW program, following the Open University of Tanzania's launch of their own program during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Today's ceremony at HKMU's campus in Dar es Salaam is being officiated by Mr. Dunford Makala, the Commissioner for Social Welfare, and will feature remarks from Dr. Theresa J. Kaijage, Chairperson of the Social Work Department at HKMU, and Ms. Sally Chalamila, Country Director for the American International Health Alliance (AIHA), which manages the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Program.

Tanzania's social welfare system is severely overburdened and faces many serious challenges in providing much-needed support services, particularly to vulnerable populations such as orphans and other children or families affected by HIV/AIDS.

"The existing pool of social workers in the field lacks adequate skills to provide leadership and supervisory outreach services, as well as to solve advanced social issues, which are ever becoming more and more complicated each day," says Dr. Kaijage. "This MSW program is expected to train highly qualified professional social workers, who in turn will serve as leading technical experts, practitioners, researchers, and training institution faculty in communities across Tanzania," she explains, noting that the current training output of the Institute of Social Work and other Tanzanian social work schools is inadequate to cater for the current needs in the country.

HKMU's MSW program is being offered in two flexible schemes to accommodate students, as well as working professionals who are looking to broaden their knowledge and skill set: a one-year program for candidates with a background in social work and an 18-month program for candidates with their first degrees in other disciplines. Both schemes are full-time evening programs.

Development of HKMU's MSW program — including curriculum development and faculty training and mentoring done by experts from the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at the University of Illinois in Chicago — was carried out through AIHA's Tanzania Social Work and OVC Support Initiative with support from the US President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Tanzania. This HIV/AIDS Twinning Center partnership has been working closely with Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other key stakeholders since 2006 to help strengthen Tanzania's social welfare workforce and elevate and expand the social work profession.

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