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# PRESS RELEASE

## Tanzania Pilots New Tablet Project to Improve Nursing Education

**PEPFAR-supported Tanzania Nursing Initiative delivers low-cost tablet devices to help optimize learning through real-time access to evidence-based tools and resources**

**Dar es Salaam, March 11, 2014** — Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is set to pilot the use of low-cost tablet devices to advance nursing education. This innovative new approach will be launched at nursing schools in Mirembe and Same in early March, setting the stage for a nationwide roll out for Nursing Education National Technical Award Levels 4-6.

The tablets will provide tutors and students with up-to-date curriculum materials and references, enriching the learning experience with multimedia content and myriad possibilities to tap into other evidence-based electronic resources, while at the same time allowing for timely curriculum revisions and electronic updates. The devices will also support more responsive nursing and midwifery education, laying the foundation for Tanzania to use this and other innovative technologies in health professions education.

The Ministry is implementing this project in collaboration with the Tanzania Nursing Initiative (TNI), a national interagency nursing capacity building program supported by the US President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Tanzania. Managed by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) with technical support provided by a community-based consortium led by World Services of La Crosse, Wisconsin, TNI focuses on strengthening the nursing profession through targeted technical assistance, faculty and leadership development, advocacy and governance, improved education, and expanded opportunities for acquiring clinical skills.

TNI also supported the Ministry's efforts to transition nursing school curricula at the certificate and diploma levels from knowledge-based to competency-based in 2008 and 2009 by helping to develop training modules and materials, such as facilitator and learner guides. A crucial challenge, however, has been for tutors and students to access and use these newer materials given the high costs of printing and photocopying lengthy paper versions.

The tablets will help overcome this obstacle. They have the potential to improve the quality of nursing care, as well as health outcomes, throughout the nation by elevating the level of instruction and providing access to more learning resources through the use of appropriate, low-cost, dynamic information and communication technology.

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