



HIV/AIDS Twinning Center

Field Notes

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Key Numbers:

- 16 new partnerships or initiatives have been launched so far with more to come early in 2007.
- In the past year, Brits HIV/AIDS Clinic placed 1,036 patients on ART and provided palliative care to 1,609 clients.

New Partnership Supports Tanzanian Orphans

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center recently launched a new partnership designed to train Tanzanian social workers in disease fundamentals of HIV/AIDS, case management, leadership, and other skills necessary to ensure that a broad range of health and social support services are available to children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Partners from Tanzania's Institute of Social Welfare in Dar es Salaam, the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center, and the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago attended a three-day orientation at Twinning Center headquarters in Washington, DC, October 23-25 before traveling to Chicago to commence their first professional exchange.

The partners are working together to bridge the exist-

ing lack of support for orphans and vulnerable children by developing a targeted curriculum and mentoring strategy for social work students and expanding clinical fieldwork opportunities. Other key objectives include creating a program for training and certifying para-professionals to provide direct care and services to children and families at the community level, designing continuing education courses to upgrade the skills of practicing social work professionals, and providing the Institute's faculty with opportunities to expand their own knowledge and skills through professional exchanges and



Partners—including ISW Principal Hossea Rwegoshora (back row, second from left) and JACSW Dean Creasie Finney Hairston (front row, right)—attended an orientation at Twinning Center headquarters prior to commencing their first exchange.

site visits.

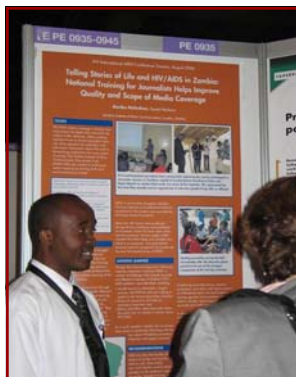
Faculty from Jane Addams College of Social work will travel to Dar es Salaam January 6-13, 2007 to collaborate on curriculum development, among other things.

Prevention with Positives Partnership Gets Under Way in Mozambique

Two community-based voluntary counseling and testing sites in Mozambique's Maputo Province are partnering with the School of Nursing at the University of California-San Francisco to develop two different HIV prevention programs geared toward people who have already tested positive for HIV.

Recent research from Kenya, Uganda, and the United States indicates that prevention activities targeting PLWHA—commonly called "prevention with positives"—are effective at stemming the spread of HIV, particularly in an era when ART is helping HIV-positive individuals live longer and better.

With funding from PEPFAR, this new Twinning Center partnership will help train staff at demonstration sites in Maputo Province—one offering provider-based services and another offering peer counseling. Partners expect to eventually expand these programs to Sofala and Zambezia provinces.



Mwiika Malindima of ZAMCOM discusses his poster on the Zambia HIV/AIDS media training initiative during the IAS conference.

Twinning Center Partners and Staff Present at AIDS 2006 Conference

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center's programs were well represented at the International AIDS Society's bi-annual conference last summer with a total of six posters presented by partners and staff over the course of the event, which was held August 13-18 in Toronto, Canada.

Mwiika Malindima of the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication Educational Trust (ZAMCOM) presented a poster highlighting the success of a national training program that helped Zambian

journalists improve the quality and scope of media coverage of the country's HIV epidemic. He also presented a poster he co-authored with ZNBC broadcaster Inutu Himanje, one of the participants in the training program and winner of the 2005 US Embassy's award for best HIV reporting in Zambia.

Three posters were presented by Gary Harper, Alexandra Murphy, and Leah Neubauer, all members of a partnership linking the Kenya Episcopal Conference-Catholic Secre-

tariat (KEC-CS) and Chicago's DePaul University. Each poster dealt with a particular aspect of the partnership's school- and community-based HIV prevention model, which focuses on abstinence and behavior change.

Twinning Center Director Donna Anderson also presented a poster overview of the Center's model for using partnerships as an effective method of information and technology transfer to build human and institutional capacity to combat HIV/AIDS.



Faith Mwangi-Powell, interpreter, Lidia Monjane, and Donna Anderson (seated left to right above) talk about the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center's model and how it is being applied by the APCA/ANEMO partners.

Twinning Models from Canada, France, and the US Highlighted at Toronto Conference Satellite

Twinning Center Director Donna Anderson joined partners from Uganda and Mozambique on a panel presentation touting the benefits of twinning as a capacity-building mechanism during an IAS conference satellite session held in Toronto August 18.

The satellite was sponsored by HRSA and featured speak-

ers from Canada's Inter-agency Coalition on AIDS and Development and France's ESTHER Initiative, along with AIHA's HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Program.

Faith Mwangi-Powell, director of the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) and Lidia Monjane of the National Mozambican Nurses Association (ANEMO), discussed how their

south-south partnership is working to strengthen ANEMO's capacity as a professional association by improving organizational infrastructure, bolstering membership, and ensuring financial sustainability. Providing an overview of the Twinning Center's partnership model, Anderson reported on progress and future goals.

Twinning Center Opens Offices in Ethiopia and Tanzania

This summer marked the expansion of the Twinning Center's presence in Africa with the opening of two new country offices in Ethiopia and Tanzania. These two country offices join the Center's regional headquarters, which opened in 2005 in Pretoria, South Africa and is headed by Spindile Magwaza, MPH.

Located in Addis Ababa, the Twinning Center's Ethiopia office is led by Mamae Teklemariam, MPH, MSW. Hazel Plunkett, MHE, heads the Tanzania office in Dar es Salaam.

Regional staff play a critical role in the success of Twinning Center partnerships and initiatives, as well as the ex-

pansion of the program in their respective countries. Staff liaise with representatives of the local government, USG country teams, and other stakeholders to identify new partnerships and volunteer placements. They also provide programmatic guidance and logistical support to partners and volunteers.

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center's Regional Offices in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Tanzania provide on-the-ground support to partners and volunteers.

ZAMCOM Expands HIV/AIDS Media Training, Hosts Workshop for Journalist-Editor Teams from PEPFAR Countries

Through a Twinning Center initiative to improve the quality of media coverage of the AIDS epidemic in key focus countries, the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication Educational Trust (ZAMCOM) hosted a training workshop titled "Leadership in HIV/AIDS Reporting: Changing Hearts, Minds, and Behavior" November 27-December 2 in Lusaka, Zambia.

This is the third HIV/AIDS reporting workshop conducted by ZAMCOM with support from the US government

and the Twinning Center and technical assistance and materials from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Unlike previous courses, which focused on journalists from Zambia, this event brought together editor-reporter teams from 13 of the 15 PEPFAR target countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

According to participants in the earlier trainings, one of the main obstacles reporters face when they try to cover the AIDS epidemic is resistance from editors who feel

that HIV is not a topic of interest to their audiences. The goal of the workshop is to change this by demonstrating to newsroom decision-makers and reporters how effective coverage of HIV-related stories can make a real difference in people's lives and lead to positive change.

Past trainings resulted in the publication or broadcast of some 110 stories about HIV. Two participants were recognized by the US Embassy in Lusaka for the best HIV reporting in Zambia for 2005.



ZAMCOM's dynamic workshops feature both classroom sessions and field work in an effort to bolster the professionalism of journalists and improve media coverage of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

VHC Places Its First Volunteers in Ethiopia

This September, the Volunteer Healthcare Corps—a component of the Twinning Center that matches skilled professionals from the United States with volunteer opportunities at partner institutions or other PEPFAR-funded organizations in target countries—facilitated placement of its first volunteers in Ethiopia.

Dr. Dejene Abebe, a board-certified psychiatrist from Tallahassee, Florida, and Yohannes Getachew, an information technology specialist from Alexandria, Virginia, were recruited by Visions for Development, Inc., a Washington, DC-based nonprofit working with the Twinning Center to recruit members of the Ethiopian Diaspora.

Visions promotes the social and economic wellbeing of ethnic and linguistic minorities in the United States and implements capacity development projects in developing

countries around the globe. Abebe, who specializes in adult and child psychiatry, is serving as a mental health trainer for ARV clinics throughout Ethiopia. He is working with staff from Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, I-TECH, and the University of California-San Diego who are involved with PEPFAR-funded HIV treatment programs in the country.

Getachew is working with professionals from the Ethiopian Public Health Association to develop the organization's Web site. He also serves as a data systems advisor at ALERT Clinic, an ARV treatment facility in Addis Ababa. There, he collaborates with clinic staff and partners from Johns Hopkins University to enhance the clinic's capacity to collect and analyze patient data.

Currently, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center has other

opportunities in Ethiopia and Tanzania through the Volunteer Healthcare Corps. Please visit www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org to learn how you can get involved in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.



Dejene Abebe is in the middle of a six-month volunteer assignment as a mental health trainer working with staff at ARV clinics throughout Ethiopia.



Yohannes Getachew's six-month assignment is helping the Ethiopian Public Health Association develop a Web site and serving as a data systems advisor at ALERT clinic in Addis Ababa.

Kenya HIV Prevention Partnership Focuses on Abstinence, Behavior Change



Catholic school students from Nairobi openly discuss HIV/AIDS and share information about how to protect themselves from infection as part of the abstinence and behavior change programs initiated by the KEC-CS/DePaul partnership.

The Kenya Episcopal Conference-Catholic Secretariat (KEC-CS) and Chicago's DePaul University are working together to address the growing rate of HIV/AIDS among Kenyan youth.

With support from PEPFAR and the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, the two faith-based groups have revamped the abstinence and behavior change HIV prevention curricula used in Catholic-sponsored schools throughout Kenya and developed a set of new teaching tools. These materials have already been

used to train 736 teachers and the new program has been implemented in 250 schools, reaching nearly 21,000 students.

In an effort to expand their prevention message even further, the partners have also launched a radio-based social marketing campaign. Working with Radio Waumini, a service that transmits throughout Nairobi and its environs, the partners developed new messages and public service announcements, as well as trained broadcasters in effective delivery methods.

The radio campaign is expected to reach 500,000 Kenyan youth by the end of 2006.

In the coming year, partners plan to evaluate the effectiveness of their work to date and update the programs as needed. Additionally, they are looking to expand their communication and outreach strategy to include broader use of mass media in an effort to reach young people who are not involved in any of the school-based programs.

HIV/AIDS "Warmline" Means Clinical Advice and Support Is Just a Phone Call Away



A new Twinning Center partnership linking the Addis Ababa AIDS Resource Center (ARC) in Ethiopia with the AIDS Treatment Information Center (ATIC) in Uganda is helping physicians prescribe the most appropriate ARV medications to their patients.

A program of the Infectious Diseases Institute at the University of Makerere in Kam-

pala, ATIC provides rapid, accurate responses to a broad range of HIV/AIDS-related treatment and care questions posed by healthcare providers.

The "warmline" created by ATIC is a telephone consultation service that allows physicians from Uganda to record a question, which is then researched by ATIC pharma-

cists and responded to via telephone within 24 hours.

Partners are working together to help ARC staff to implement a similar call center that would provide physicians and other clinicians throughout Ethiopia with accurate, timely information on HIV/AIDS care, pharmaceuticals, and laboratory diagnostic services.

New Partnership Will Build HIV/AIDS Diagnostic Capacity in Tanzania's Zonal Laboratories

This new partnership will help train and mentor laboratory technicians and faculty as a way to improve HIV/AIDS diagnostic and monitoring procedures in Tanzania.

Colorado's Boulder Community Hospital is partnering with five clinical sites in Tanzania and their affiliated laboratories. These sites—Muhimbili Hospital in Dar es Salaam, which serves as the national reference lab; and four zonal labs in Bugando Hospital in Mwanza; Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi; Ikonda Mission Hos-

pital in Iringa; and Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar—also serve as a laboratory sciences training centers.

With funding from PEPFAR and programmatic support from the Twinning Center, partners are building laboratory capacity through peer-to-peer collaboration and mentoring thereby playing a key role in strengthening

Tanzania's ability to provide much-needed care and treatment to PLWHA.

Key partnership objectives include improving the quality and scope of training on the use of automated laboratory equipment and rapid HIV testing procedures and facilitating implementation of sound laboratory policies, guidelines, and standards.

Catholic University of Mozambique Joins Forces with University of Pittsburgh to Scale Up HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Services

With an estimated HIV prevalence rate of 16 percent, Mozambique is currently home to 1.3 million PLWHA with a projected 500 more joining those ranks each day.

Like many resource constrained countries, Mozambique also faces a severe shortage of trained caregivers necessary to scale up ART services at pace with the country's needs.

In support of a Ministry of Health initiative to train additional healthcare workers to provide quality HIV/AIDS-

related care and treatment, the Twinning Center has, with funding from PEPFAR, established a partnership between the Universidade Católica de Moçambique (UCM) and the University of Pittsburgh.

The partners are collaborating to develop a model clinic and training site to improve educational and skills-building opportunities for healthcare professionals in Sofala Province. To this end, partners are working to establish an organizational structure for UCM's HIV/AIDS training cen-

ter, defining clinical competencies, designing training curricula and monitoring and evaluation policies and procedures, and establishing formal relationships with local HIV treatment clinics, among other activities.

In accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines, partners are also focusing on faculty training and development, as well as in-service training for healthcare providers, particularly mid-level and lower-level workers.



Brits Clinic Achieves Annual Targets for Provision of ART, Palliative Care

One of the Twinning Center's first partnerships—an alliance between Brits District Hospital in South Africa's North West Province and the Pretoria-based Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) has reached two key performance indicators far ahead of schedule, initiating ART for 1,036 patients and providing palliative care to 1,609 HIV clients as of September 30.

Since inception, the partners have worked to strengthen the operational capacity of Brits HIV/AIDS Clinic and provide integrated HIV-TB prevention, care, and support services to PLWHA. Additionally, they have focused on building a strong referral system between the clinic and key community-based treatment facilities and a comprehensive strategy for human

resource training and development.

Thanks to PEPFAR support, the partnership has initiated other improvements including health education and outreach programs for clinic clients and area businesses, a newly designed computerized filing system, and new medical and information technology equipment.

Since inception, the partners have worked to strengthen the operational capacity of Brits HIV/AIDS Clinic.

Strengthening HIV/AIDS Education in Tanzania's Nursing Schools

In Tanzania, nurses provide primary care for much of the population, so they play a leading role in the nation's efforts to scale up HIV/AIDS care.

With funding from PEPFAR and programmatic support from the Twinning Center, Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences School of

Nursing in Dar es Salaam is partnering with the School of Nursing at the University of California-San Francisco to enhance teaching and learning about HIV/AIDS in Tanzania's nursing colleges.

Partners are collaborating to strengthen the capacity of Tanzania's nursing schools to provide quality education and

training in HIV/AIDS care, as well as the life skills necessary to keep the nurses themselves healthy. They are also working to develop a core group of faculty members who will serve as national trainers and leaders capable of leading their country's efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in years to come.



Nursing students at Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences School of Nursing learn about HIV/AIDS care and life skills.

Conferences, Grants, and Opportunities



HIV/AIDS and the Impact on Business in Africa
January 22-25, 2007
Sandton, South Africa
www.aidsafricaconference.com

International AIDS Conference: Strategies and Challenges for AIDS Management
February 4-6, 2007
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

HIV Vaccines: From Basic research to Clinical Trials
March 25-30, 2007
Whistler Alberta, Canada
www.keystonesymposia.org

8th International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV Therapy
April 16-18, 2007
Budapest, Hungary
www.virology-education.com
Abstracts Due March 5, 2007

4th African Conference on the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research: UNESCO/UNISOL Congress
April 29-May 4, 2007
Kisumu, Kenya
www.tichinafrica.org

HIV Management 2007: The New York Course
May 4-5, 2007
New York, NY, USA
www.newyorkcourse.com

34th International Conference on Global Health
May 29-June 1, 2007
Washington, DC, USA
www.globalhealth.org

3rd South African AIDS Conference
June 5-8, 2007
Durban, South Africa
www.sa-aidsconference.com

HIV/AIDS 2007
June 6-11, 2007
Kololi, Gambia
www.mangosee.com/hivaids2007

3rd International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Coinfection
June 7-9, 2007
Paris, France
www.virology-education.com
Abstracts Due April 30, 2007

4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Prevention
July 22-25, 2007
Sydney, Australia
www.ias2007.org
Abstracts Due March 7, 2007

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Visit us on the Web at

www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center mobilizes and coordinates the resources of US healthcare providers to effectively build capacity to reduce HIV infection rates and provide care to those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center is a project of the American International Health Alliance, a US-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping resource-constrained communities and nations make positive, sustainable changes that improve accessibility to a broad range of high-quality health-care services and preventive programs.

The contents of this newsletter are the responsibility of AIHA and the Twinning Center and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States government or other funding agencies.

