

## HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Projects in Côte d'Ivoire

### Expanding Palliative Care Services through Organizational Capacity Development

Hope Worldwide in Abidjan is partnering with the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) in Kampala, Uganda, to increase the availability of appropriate palliative care drugs in Côte d'Ivoire. Launched in April 2007, this south-south partnership is developing a country-specific advocacy program and strengthening networks and linkages among health and social support organizations to improve the provision of palliative care in this West African nation of 20.6 million.

Program accomplishments to date include:

- Completion of a comprehensive capacity assessment of Hope Worldwide's organizational systems and palliative care services conducted by the APCA partners;
- A one-day fundraising training for Hope Worldwide to help them expand donor support;
- Development and implementation of a holistic, home-based palliative care package and care kit for community caregivers; and
- Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders, National Standards and Guidelines for Palliative Care.

Partners are currently collaborating with the National AIDS Task Force to develop an advocacy implementation plan for Côte d'Ivoire; mapping community-based palliative care organizations and the types of services they provide; and conducting a quality assessment of home-based palliative care services.

### Strengthening VCT Services

The technical working group PCD-CI — comprised of three voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) sites in Côte d'Ivoire — is partnering with Kenya-based Liverpool VCT to support the scale up of comprehensive, high quality HIV counseling and testing services.

Liverpool VCT is sharing its extensive experience with implementing HIV counseling and testing services and related quality assurance and monitoring programs, providing technical assistance on topics including

### Côte d'Ivoire Country Overview



Political instability in Côte d'Ivoire has made it increasingly difficult to implement, sustain, and measure the impact of HIV prevention and treatment programs throughout the country. Although these barriers exist, Côte d'Ivoire's HIV prevalence rate of 3.9 percent among people aged 15-49 makes continuing these programs critical. Populations most at risk of HIV infection include women ages 20-24, sex workers, and military personnel.

With support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Government team in country, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center currently manages two partnerships in Côte d'Ivoire.

supervision, evaluation, policy and standards development, and accreditation. Specifically partners are working together to increase PCD-CI's capacity to support the delivery of quality counseling and testing training activities on a national level. They are also supporting implementation of a revised, comprehensive national policy on counseling and testing; as well as a national level counselor supervision program and finger-prick testing algorithm.

This partnership is slated for graduation from the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center's technical assistance program in June 2010.