

New Partnership Will Build Social Work Training Capacity in Nigeria, Improve OVC Care

The Twinning Center recently launched a new partnership designed to train social workers and para-professionals to provide much-needed care and support to Nigerian children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in the West African nation's Enugu State.

Hunter College School of Social Work in New York City is partnering with the Federal School of Social Work in the city of Enugu and the Department of Social Work at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka.



US and Nigerian partners, along with CDC and USAID officials, at the Federal School of Social Work in Enugu.

Together, partners are working to strengthen the capacity of both Nigerian institutions to provide in-service and pre-service training in social work, case services are available to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Enugu State.

This partnership is the Twinning Center's first in Nigeria, and was established with support from PEPFAR through CDC/Nigeria and in close cooperation with Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development.

Hunter College School of Social Work will draw on its more than 50 years of experience training social workers and para-social workers, tapping into a broad and varied network of local service delivery and professional organizations, including the New York City Administration for Children's Services, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Black Social Workers, the Nigerian Social Workers Association, and Howard University School of Social Work in Washington, DC.

Partners from Hunter College and the US-based Nigerian Social Workers Association traveled to Nigeria September 22-26, where they met with their counterparts, conducted an initial situational and needs assessment at both Nigerian institutions, visited local OVC and AIDS service organizations, and began to jointly develop a plan that will guide their capacity-building efforts.

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