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PRESS RELEASE

Twinning Center Partners Train Pemba Island Primary Care Providers on Recovery Oriented System of Care

PEPFAR-supported Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Partnership Conducts Two Workshops to Raise Awareness of Addiction Treatment among Healthcare Providers

WASHINGTON, DC, and DAR es SALAAM, TANZANIA, August 19, 2010 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) announced today that its partners at the Ministry of Health and Social Development Department of Substance Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation (DSAPR) in Zanzibar and the Great Lakes Addiction Technologies Transfer Center (GLATTC) launched the first of two three-day workshops to raise awareness of substance abuse diagnosis and treatment options — in particular the recovery oriented system of care (ROSC) — that can be effectively integrated into primary level healthcare services in Unguja, Pemba Island.

A total of 30 primary healthcare providers will participate in the trainings, which will run from August 19-21 and August 23-25. Currently, Unguja has only one worker trained in ROSC, although such services are in high demand.

“It is more cost effective for us to conduct these trainings onsite in Unguja than to transport all the participants to Pemba, where we have already initiated peer meetings for addicts,” says Alois Mahmoud Ibrahim Mussa, Coordinator of the Ministry of Health and Social Development’s Department of Substance Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation in Zanzibar.

With support from the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through CDC/Tanzania, Twinning Center partners at the DSAPR and GLATTC have been highly successful at introducing the ROSC model in Zanzibar, conducting their first training for peers in recovery in January 2009. Their programming focuses on the “12 Steps Recovery Model” and the “Islamic Milati” — both of which reflect their commitment to ongoing inter-faith dialogue as a path to better understanding and addressing substance abuse and HIV/AIDS within the local community. They presented their work in October 2009 at a best practices conference, “Forging Active Partnerships towards a Drug Free Society” held in South Africa.

These two trainings mark the expansion of these successful programs to other areas where they are needed.

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