



PRESS RELEASE

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Social Work Training Program Is Helping Ethiopia Provide Improved Quality of Care for Orphans, Vulnerable Families

PEPFAR-supported Partnership Launches Program to Train Community-based Psycho-Social Caregivers who Assist Children, Families Affected by HIV/AIDS

WASHINGTON, DC, and ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, August 10, 2009 — Some 25 community-based caregivers who work with orphans and other vulnerable populations in and around the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa are gaining much-needed case management, counseling, and psycho-social support skills at a workshop being conducted at Damu Hotel August 10-22.

This pilot training — titled “Introduction to Applying Social Work Skills to Psycho-social Needs of People Infected and Affected by HIV” — is being conducted by HIV/AIDS Twinning Center partners at Addis Ababa University School of Social Work and their US counterparts from Jane Addams College of Social Work and the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

With funding from the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through CDC/Ethiopia, partners are providing in-service training for community-based caregivers who work with vulnerable children and families at the grassroots level.

Topics to be covered during the 12-day skills-building workshop include HIV disease and current trends in Ethiopia, how to identify HIV-affected groups within the community, psycho-social support needs of people living with the virus and their families, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, stigma and discrimination, providing support to improve adherence to treatment, effective education and outreach techniques, case management, and how to link clients to existing services and support programs.

Feedback from participants, trainers, and partners will be reviewed carefully and will help direct changes and additions to course content to ensure training is in keeping with the needs of caregivers who work with vulnerable populations within their communities on a daily basis.

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