

Preceptors Program Deploys Four Volunteers to Assist PEPFAR-funded Projects in Tanzania



Robinah Kimbugwe

The Twinning Center recently deployed four new volunteers to Tanzania, where they are helping build local capacity to provide HIV and AIDS care and treatment at PEPFAR-supported sites throughout the country.

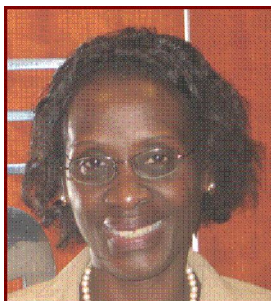
Embry M. Howell and Robinah N. Kimbugwe are both working with Pact's Jali Watoto team based in Dar es Salaam. Jali Watoto is a PEPFAR-funded project designed to support Tanzania's national Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) Program in 19 target districts of the country.



Embry M. Howell

Howell—who is the principal research associate at the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center in Washington, DC—is working with Pact to help evaluate how effectively the MVC Program is meeting the needs of Tanzanian children living with HIV. She will spend three months primarily in Dar es Salaam with travel to other regions including Mbeya and Mtwara as needed.

"I am a maternal and child health specialist ... that is where my heart is, so I am thrilled by this chance to help [Pact and the Jali Watoto team]," Howell says.



Hilda Sinkonde

A teacher by trade, Kimbugwe is a native of Uganda with more than eight years of experience implementing HIV/AIDS programs for children and young adults. She is spending the next year working with Pact to mitigate the stigma and discrimination faced by youth living with HIV or AIDS.

Kimbugwe will be based in Dar es Salaam and travel as needed to Kagera, Mara, Mbeya, Mtwara, and Tabora.



Kenneth R. Down

Kenneth R. Down, a UK native who also has a background in education, is stationed in Dar es Salaam. Down is spending two months at the Tanzania Ministry of Education and Vocational Training's Institute of Education where he is helping incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention messages into life planning skills materials for primary school students.

His main objectives are to assist with the development of an age-appropriate life skills curriculum and a complementary teacher's guide. He will also design an instructor training course to familiarize

teachers with the new material, as well as collaborate with CDC and other US government staff to identify appropriate monitoring and evaluation plans for these activities.

Hilda K. Sinkonde is working with the Dodoma Zonal Training Center, one of eight such centers established by Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and supported by the International Training and Education Center on HIV (I-TECH).

Sinkonde is a native of Tanzania and has extensive experience as a technical trainer and adult educator, as well as nearly 15 years of working with HIV/AIDS volunteer groups and service organizations.

"At this stage of my life, I feel I have something to give back to the community, particularly to my homeland of Tanzania," Sinkonde explains. "I know building this type of capacity is a long process and I am so happy to be involved in the beginning stages."

The Tanzania Preceptors Program facilitates placement of skilled volunteers at partner institutions and PEPFAR-supported sites to help build capacity to combat the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic.