

Twinning Center, APCA Launch New Palliative Care Partnerships in Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire

The African Palliative Care Association (APCA) is now providing technical assistance to Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire through two new south-south partnerships established in support of PEPFAR by the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center.

Headquartered in Kampala, Uganda, APCA is working with the University of Botswana School of Nursing to establish a "training of trainers" program that will help the country scale-up and expand palliative care education and services, as well as better integrate palliative care into existing HIV/AIDS programs.

APCA is one of the Twinning Center's first partners in Africa and is also helping build capacity through PEPFAR-funded partnerships in Mozambique and Zambia.

In Côte d'Ivoire, APCA is collaborating with Hope Worldwide, an international NGO that began working in the West African nation in 1989. Together, the two organizations are working to ensure improved patient access to a broad spectrum of palliative care services and bolster related training.

Another critical function of both partnerships is advocating for the availability of appropriate palliative care drugs and expanded pre- and in-service training for healthcare workers and allied caregivers.

"APCA's mission is to facilitate the scale up of palliative care services across Africa by providing technical support and assistance targeted to meet the unique needs of individual countries and communities," explains Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell, the organization's executive director. "To accomplish this, we ensure all stakeholders—particularly people living with HIV/AIDS—are involved in the development process."