

## LRC Improves Access to Evidence-based Research, Communication Technologies for Zambian Defense Force Medical Services



As information coordinator at Maina Soko Military Hospital's Learning Resource Center, Tommy Sajisa assists as many as 315 people each month with their requests for information and other info-tech needs.

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) at Maina Soko Military Hospital has gone a long way toward improving the quality of care available to members of the Zambian Defense Force (ZDF) living with HIV/AIDS, according to Warrant Officer First Class Tommy Sajisa.

Services available at the LRC have "made a big difference by enabling us to practice evidence-based medicine and consult with our partners in the United States" says Sajisa, the center's information coordinator.

The LRC was established last year by a PEPFAR-supported Twinning Center

partnership linking ZDF with the US Naval Hospital in San Diego. LRCs have long been a core part of AIHA's partnerships in Eurasia, and the facility at Maina Soko is one of two pilot centers opened in 2006 by Twinning Center partners in Africa to improve access to evidence-based medical resources and facilitate professional networking and communication.

With eight people on staff, the Maina Soko LRC trains hospital personnel in Internet research, practice standard reviews, and basic computer skills. It also plays a key role in on-going research on topics such as HIV-TB co-infection and initiation of HAART, which in turn leads to improvements in patient care.

LRC staff also developed a patient tracking system that has led to Maina Soko's involvement in two projects of the Zambian Ministry of Health.