

FALL 2011

AIHA PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS IN TANZANIA

- Tanzania Nursing Initiative
- Tanzania Social Work and OVC Support Initiative
- Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare / Boulder Community Hospital
(Laboratory Capacity Building)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania / Empower Tanzania, Iowa
(Palliative Care)
- Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Zanzibar Department of Substance Abuse and Prevention; Non-Communicable Disease, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Department; Drug Control Commission) / Great Lakes Addiction Transfer and Technology Center
(Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention)

CONTACT US

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HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Partnerships in Tanzania

In the midst of a mature, generalized AIDS epidemic and burdened by other communicable diseases, Tanzania faces many social and economic development challenges. Some 1.4 million Tanzanians are living with HIV and AIDS, with an average adult HIV prevalence estimated at nearly 6 percent, according to UNAIDS. Strengthening health outcomes in the country is impeded by a severe shortage of trained human resources, inadequate infrastructure, and overburdened logistics systems and supply chains, among other factors. With support from PEPFAR and the United States Government team in country, AIHA has been working to build sustainable institutional capacity and human resources for health in Tanzania since 2005. AIHA currently manages five partnerships in Tanzania, as well as a Volunteer Healthcare Corps program and a Russian mentor and technical assistance initiative supported by USAID/Russia.

Partnership Strengthens Nursing Profession



Nurses are frontline caregivers, constituting the largest healthcare provider workforce in Tanzania, yet existing pre-service programs are not responsive to the educational needs of this cadre. In response, AIHA's Tanzania Nursing Initiative (TNI) is building the capacity of nursing schools to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to provide quality care to the people of Tanzania. Partners work with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other stakeholders, providing technical assistance for faculty training and curriculum development. They developed a new HIV/AIDS care curriculum and, to date, have trained 398 nurse tutors on the material, which is being implemented at 65 nursing schools in the country. Partners are also improving learning environments at targeted schools

through the installation of Skills Labs and International Council of Nursing Mobile Libraries. And, they are strengthening nursing leadership capacity within the country by providing support to the Tanzania Nurses and Midwives Council (TNMC), the Tanzania National Nurses Association (TANNA), and other relevant professional stakeholders.

Social Work Initiative Improves OVC Care

Since 2006, the Tanzania Institute of Social Work (ISW) has been partnering with Jane Addams College of Social Work (JACSW) and the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at the University of Illinois Chicago to strengthen the social work profession in Tanzania. A particular focus has been on training community caregivers in key social work, case management, and child development skills so they are better able to meet the needs of most vulnerable populations, including orphans. In collaboration with the Tanzania Human Resource Capacity Project, partners have trained some 2,500 Para-Social Workers (PSWs); 329 PSW supervisors; 103 master trainers; and 75 district social welfare officers. ISW leads all related quality control and technical assistance efforts, collaborating with all five implementers to provide trainers and facilitators. Another key component of the Initiative focuses on strengthening the social work profession in Tanzania. To this end, partners have created an "association to association" learning exchange between the Tanzania Social Work Association (TASWA) and the US-based National Association of Social Workers, with a focus on organizational development, advocacy, recruitment/retention, and establishing a regulatory framework. They also assist other schools of social work with faculty and curricula development and are working to create uniform structures and standards through the Tanzania Emerging Schools of Social Work Program.

Skilled Volunteers Support Development Goals

Health and allied professionals placed in Tanzania through AIHA's Volunteer Healthcare Corps (VHC) have collectively contributed a total of 156 months of service toward building organizational capacity at local hospitals, healthcare facilities, and NGOs.



Building Capacity of Palliative Care Providers

Palliative care is a crucial component of the holistic approach necessary to care for people living with HIV/AIDS and other life-limiting illnesses, yet both hospital and home-based palliative services are extremely limited in Tanzania. Since 2007, AIHA partners at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's Pare Diocese and an Iowa-based consortium led by Empower Tanzania have been working to change that. Partners are training both medical and non-medical workers to provide high quality care and support. They have to date trained some 300 Community Health Workers at 10 target sites in Same and Mwanga Districts; these caregivers routinely conduct home visits with patients. In addition, they have trained 10 Sustaining Trainers/Clinical Supervisors, who provide complementary services, as well as oversight for the Community Health Workers affiliated with their respective sites. Partners also established a Patient Support and Care Center, which assists in centralizing information and resources, as well as provides continuous, sustainable training opportunities for Community Health Workers.

Partnering to Build Lab Capacity, Improve Diagnostics

Medical labs in Tanzania are faced with a severe shortage of qualified staff capable of supporting care and treatment services. Since 2006, AIHA has been working with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's Diagnostic Services Section and Boulder Community Hospital in Colorado to strengthen the capacity of Tanzanian regional labs, with a particular focus on improving the quality of services in support of HIV/AIDS diagnosis and treatment monitoring. A key component of this partnership is providing ongoing mentorship to ensure proper implementation of standard operational procedures. Partners are also working to improve horizontal and vertical networking and communication among all the laboratories, strengthen the capacity of the National Health Laboratory Practitioners Council of Tanzania, support the assessment of competence testing for lab staff, and enhance knowledge and understanding of competency assessment processes among all Quality Officers. These 23 regional laboratories continue to be monitored for quality standards. To date, more than 25 national and international Laboratory Mentors have been placed at the labs to provide technical assistance, monitoring, and quality control.



Adopting a Recovery Oriented System of Care

Substance abuse and addiction play a critical role in the transmission of HIV, as well as adherence to treatment for people already living with the virus. AIHA's Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Partners at Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's Zanzibar Department of Substance Abuse and Prevention and Mainland Non-Communicable Disease, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Department and Drug Control Commission are working with the Great Lakes Addiction Transfer and Technology Center to reduce HIV incidence and prevalence rates among substance abusers in Tanzania through a comprehensive, evidence-based approach with a strong focus on a recovery oriented system of care (ROSC). Launched in 2008 in Zanzibar, the partnership has since expanded to the Tanzania Mainland. Partners have trained a total of 35 recovery peers in Zanzibar on the ROSC model and another 35 from the Mainland. They have established 10 Sober Houses in Zanzibar, including one for women, and they conduct ongoing family therapy sessions to support people who are facing addiction-related issues. Partners actively collaborate with faith- and community-based organizations to prevent new HIV infections among substance abusers, other vulnerable populations, and the community at large.

AIHA/Tanzania

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