

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center
RWCA All Grantees Meeting
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Presentation Overview



- Overview of the American International Health Alliance's HIV/AIDS Twinning Center Program
- Review of Twinning Partnership Methodology
- Highlight current successful partnerships in pre-service education

About AIHA

AIHA is a US nonprofit working to advance global health by helping communities and nations with limited resources build sustainable institutional and human resource capacity.

AIHA programs are based on peer-to-peer relationships among health providers, health professions schools, and communities that are designed to address system strengthening and human resource development issues.

AIHA was founded in 1992 by a broad coalition of healthcare delivery and associations related to health professions education working with the US Government to create health sector “twinning partnerships” to strengthen human and organizational capacity.

Between 1992-2010, AIHA established and managed 118 partnerships in 23 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, and 36 partnerships in 10 African countries

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center

Launched in 2004 through a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support the US government international HIV/AIDS program; this cooperative agreement was re-awarded in 2009.

Twinning Center partnerships strengthen institutional and human resource capacity by establishing and managing:

- North-South and South-South Institutional Twinning Partnerships
- Volunteer Healthcare Corps (VHC).

Twinning Center partnerships utilize a peer-to-peer, institution-to-institution based “twinning” methodology refined over 18 years of practical implementation in 33 countries.

What is Twinning?



Twinning is Flexible.

It encompasses as many modes of learning and ideas to be shared as there are organizations with skills to learn and solutions to share.

Twinning is Collaborative.

It builds human and institutional capacity through a process of joint action rather than a one-way transfer of information and resources.

Twinning Gets Results.

It multiplies opportunities for problem solving by helping organizations disseminate best practices and replicate successes.

Key Elements of Twinning



- **Institution-to-institution pairing**
- **Peer-to-peer professional relationships**
- **Emphasis on exchanges and mentoring**
- **Volunteer driven**
- **Leverages private-sector institutional resources**
- **Non-prescriptive but rigorous approach to collaborative process, workplans and outcomes**
- **Demand driven, with significant recipient investment and ownership**

Key Elements of Twinning



- Care and Treatment (capacity building and service expansion for hospitals and clinics)
- HIV Counseling and Testing
- Information Technology
- Laboratory Strengthening and Quality Control
- OVC Community Services
- Palliative Care
- Pharmacy Services
- Prevention – ABY
- Prevention – PWP
- Prevention through Media
- IDU and Substance Abuse
- HIV Co-infection (TB-HIV, Hepatitis-HIV)

Key Elements of Twinning



Pre/In-Service Health Professions Education

- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Emergency Medicine
- Laboratory
- Medical Technology
- Social Work and Para-Social Work
- Mass Media
- Clinical Associates and Other Physician Extenders
- Case Managers

Key Elements of Twinning

North-South

US - Africa

South-South

Africa - Africa

Africa - third party countries
(discussing Brazil)

Multi-lateral

More than two partners
(from any country)



Twining Center Snapshot

Established 30 North-South and 9 South-South institutional twinning partnerships between 2004-2010

Twining in 10 African countries and Russian Federation:

Botswana * Cote d'Ivoire * Ethiopia * Kenya * Mozambique *
Namibia * Nigeria * Russia * South Africa * Tanzania * Zambia

Currently managing 37 “North-South” and “South-South” partnerships in 10 African countries and Russia

Currently managing long-term volunteer programs in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and South Africa, with volunteers also placed at selected partnership sites in other countries

Twining Center in 2010

Twining methodology proving especially useful for strengthening pre-service and in-service education and training

Partnerships between schools of the health professions are now addressing:

- * Pharmacy * Medicine * Emergency Medicine * Nursing *
- * Communications * Laboratory * Social Work and Para-Social Work *
- * Medical Technology

Multiple partnerships in Social Work and Para-Social Work leading to regional approaches and synergy

New twinning being established for:

- Bio-medical engineers and technicians, pediatric emergencies (Ethiopia)
- Clinical associates/physician assistants (South Africa)
- Orphans and vulnerable children (Botswana)

Institutional Development and Sustainability

Working closely with HIV service providers to identify how their underlying institutional structure can be strengthened to support these services, the Twinning Center collaborates with other stakeholders to ensure quality and sustainability of services.

Working directly with the administrative structures of national HIV/AIDS organizations, the Twinning Center assists in developing the programmatic, financial, and administrative infrastructure that will sustain quality service provision.

Lessons Learned: Partnership Sustainability

Partnerships are an excellent way to increase organizational capacity across all departments

Partnerships require time and effort to establish and maintain balanced decision-making power, effective group dynamics, and effective communication

Partnerships need ongoing operational management and guidance while developing sustainable communication mechanisms

Management of direct sub-grants to south partners can help them develop systems to seek and manage other sources of funding

Mutual benefit for all partners involved creates natural incentives for sustaining partnership efforts beyond the funding period

Strengthening Health Professions Education Through Twinning

Faculty Development

Working as peers, faculty learn interactive teaching techniques and approaches

Curriculum Development

Using evidence-based resources, curricula are developed by the partners

Practicum

Working with local institutions, partners identify placement sites for practical application of information learned, and provide mentoring during these assignments

Institutional Approach

Partners engage all facets of their teaching institutions to foster a multi-disciplinary approach

Examples

Pre-service Social Worker Training

Tanzania Institute of Social Work/Jane Addams School of Social Work;
Federal School of Social Work, Enugu, University of Nigeria-Nsukka School of
Social Work/Hunter College School of Social Work- NYC; Addis Ababa School
of Social Work, Ethiopia/Jane Addams College of Social Work

- Increase social worker skills to serve orphans and vulnerable children and develop a para-social worker certificate program

HIV/AIDS Nursing Development

Muhimbili University School of Nursing, Tanzania/University of California-San
Francisco School of Nursing

- Provide standardized HIV/AIDS training to pre-service nurses and assist MOHSW to expand nursing curriculum throughout country

Emergency Medical Services

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, School of Medicine/University of Wisconsin

- Strengthen emergency medical services and educational training opportunities

Examples

Bolstering Medical Technology

Polytechnic of Namibia/University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

- Assist Polytechnic to develop and implement a 4 year Medical Technology degree program

Human Resources for Health

Walter Sisulu University South Africa /University of Colorado Denver
University of Witswatersrand South Africa/Emory University School of Medicine

- Strengthen Clinical Associates Programs in South Africa

Building an HIV/AIDS Training Center

Catholic University of Mozambique/University of Pittsburgh

- Develop an HIV/AIDS clinical training center for practicing mid- and lower-level clinicians and pre-service allied health students

Twinning Center partners at Catholic University of Mozambique worked with their counterparts at the University of Pittsburgh to establish and St. Luke's Clinic in Beira. The clinic not only provides HIV-related and primary care services to the local population, it also serves as a clinical training facility.

