

SECURE THE FUTURE[®]

Care and Support for Women and Children with HIV/AIDS

Capacity-Building, Public Education and Other Care and Support Programs

- BMS Foundation NGO Training Institute – This capacity-building program develops and builds organizational and individual skills in the delivery of support and care among non-governmental and community-based organizations working in HIV/AIDS. The Institute has created training modules in management, good governance and leadership. The training programs are currently in operation in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland. To date, more than 2,000 NGO leaders and managers have been trained since its pilot phase in 2003.
- Swaziland Rural Health Initiative – This collaborative capacity-building program trains community health workers to bring HIV/AIDS information and compassionate care and support to communities and thousands of infected and affected people at home. It also orients nurses and physicians on home-based care and trains traditional leaders of the country's chiefdoms in HIV/AIDS risk reduction as well as home-based care. The program – a cooperative effort of the Swaziland Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the University of Illinois in Chicago College of Nursing, the Cabrini Mission Foundation and the University of Swaziland – trained more than 3,000 community health workers and provided community education, counseling and nursing care to thousands of people.
- Beautiful Gate Intervention Program – This capacity-building program for caregivers of abandoned infants in Lesotho – including potential foster and adoptive parents – succeeded in overcoming stigma against adoption and played a pivotal role in adoptions nationwide. The program, which partnered with a wide range of stakeholders including the Department of Social Welfare, not only trained caregivers, it also developed guidelines for recruiting and supervising foster parents, promoted collaboration with the government in establishing a foster care program, and informed the revision of adoption and foster care legislation. Co-funded by the Catholic Medical Mission Board and the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, the program also raised funds locally and internationally to enable its own sustainability.
- Rail-Link – This cross-border STI and HIV prevention education program is built around railroads and major stations along the lines linking Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. The program – targeting two million people who live near major rail hubs, commercial sex workers, mobile vendors, migrants and railroad employees and their families – integrates local responses to prevention, education and treatment with community involvement. It is operated in partnership with CARE, Family Health International and Population Services International.

- The Swaziland In-School Youth HIV/AIDS Prevention Program - This teacher-driven communications strategy encourages behavior change to reduce new infections among school-going youths ages 10 to 19. The program has trained hundreds of teachers as well as nurses and government officials to conduct weekly discussions with students. Materials and educational games around HIV/AIDS are part of the program, which is funded by the initiative and operated by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Schools Health and Population Education.
- Bambisanani Project for Integrated Home-Based Care – This program in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, is designed to enable poor, rural communities to respond to the needs for care and support of women, children and people living with AIDS. Through activities such as community mobilizations, workshops for community leaders, educators, traditional healers and faith based groups and training of target groups, the program introduces income-generating activities, skills development and support groups. It also provides an environment for the community to address issues of stigma and discrimination and offers support to reduce suffering and improve the quality of life of patients.
- Christian Health Association of Lesotho (CHAL) Food Security and Self-Sufficiency – Co-funded by the Catholic Medical Mission Board and the Southern African Bishops’ Conference, this program was designed to create self-sufficiency among people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS through food security and income-generating projects. In 30 villages, the program trained caregivers, enabled people to undergo voluntary counseling and testing to learn their HIV status, started agricultural programs that both generated income and provided food for, among others, orphans, and trained people in impoverished communities in such other income-generating projects as candle-making. In addition, the program developed Lesotho’s first home-based care manual.
- Public Health Masters Degree Program - This fellowship program hosted by the National School of Public Health at the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) provides intensive training in community-based program strategy and design, implementation and evaluation; health systems management and health policy development; and the biology and epidemiology of HIV/AIDS. Program participants receive Postgraduate Diplomas in Public Health. Some are awarded Masters Degrees. To date over 250 professionals have benefited from the program. The model has been expanded to four countries in West Africa and is based out of Cheick Anta Diop University, Dakar.

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