

# TA-NPI

## Year I: Core Strengthening to Bring Health Care to Communities

John Snow, Inc and Initiatives, Inc have been contracted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide technical assistance to organizations receiving

### PEPFAR New Partners Initiative Round 2: ST BONIFACE HAITI FOUNDATION



funding through the PEPFAR New Partners Initiative. The New Partners Initiative (NPI) was created under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to work with new partners, including community- and faith-based organizations, that implement HIV and AIDS prevention and care activities in the 15 PEPFAR focus countries. The initiative seeks to enhance partners' technical and organizational capacities to provide prevention and care to people in need and to ensure the quality and sustainability of HIV programs by building community ownership.

If you live in the catchment area of Fond des Blancs in southern Haiti, you might have to walk 14 hours over difficult terrain to access St. Boniface Hospital, the nearest health clinic. Once a two-room clinic staffed by one nurse, St. Boniface Hospital is and was the sole healthcare site for 50,000 Haitians—5% of whom are thought to have HIV. The hospital has grown significantly since it was established in 2002, but with the current level of demand for HIV services, it comes as no surprise that St. Boniface is trying to expand, both in size and in reach. Doubling the number of inpatient beds and increasing the number of doctors, nurses, and specialists on staff by 50 are just a start; St. Boniface wants to bring basic health care services to those who cannot make the trek to the hospital. The ultimate goal: a thriving health care network, with a fully-functioning hospital at the core and satellite clinics in the communities, to provide accessible care, support, education, and prevention services.

When the New Partners Initiative was announced on World AIDS Day 2005, PEPFAR was seeking HIV/AIDS organizations—such as St. Boniface—that aim to provide quality, sustainable health services at the community level. St. Boniface's goals for growth made it a fitting candidate for a Round 2 grant, especially as the funding was packaged with technical assistance from JSI that might aid the development process. The goal of the St. Boniface-NPI partnership was to scale up HIV prevention, care, and treatment activities to cover a greater number of Haitians who currently have limited access to the hospital.

Strengthening the core of St. Boniface's health care network was one of the first steps. In the past year, staff members have attended sessions on activity planning, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management, in addition to completing organizational and capacity assessments under the guidance of their

technical assistance team at TA-NPI. Dr. Inobert Pierre, who works closely with the technical advisory team at the hospital, noted, "TA-NPI has been a great help to the hospital in terms of reinforcing our administration, and I think that they helped us organize our staff much better. Through regular evaluation, having goals, and trying to achieve them, I think it's a great job. I have been here seven years, and I think the hospital is much stronger."

The TA-NPI sessions on activity planning paid off for St. Boniface during the first year of funding, when Dr. Miliane Claremont, a physician and former nurse at St. Boniface, gave a presentation to young adult women about prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). The women in Dr. Claremont's audience were so impressed with the messages they learned that they asked her if she could repeat the presentation that same day and adapt it for the youth in the community. "They had 80 young people come to a meeting just to hear about HIV because they didn't used to have a presentation like that," Dr. Claremont said, proudly.

Another important milestone was the opening of the first satellite clinic in Villa. Opening satellite clinics in the communities brings health care to more people because many only make the full-day hike to St. Boniface in dire situations. Furthermore, these clinics will relieve some of the demand on the hospital because community staff will be able to provide basic services, education, and counseling and testing, and will refer patients to the hospital as necessary. The clinic in Villa is noteworthy for several reasons: First, to find the funds to build the clinic, St. Boniface secured a new partnership with Mennonite Missionaries. The NPI grant helped to cover the operations, which included one doctor, two nurses, and visiting specialists. Second, the clinic also doubled as a community health outreach center for

hosting education and prevention programs and nutritional support for malnourished children. By training and involving community members in running the prevention and nutrition programs, the clinic is inherently more sustainable.

The TA-NPI team is based in Kampala, Uganda and comprises specialists in organizational development, finance, HIV programming, NGO management and monitoring and evaluation. The work of TA-NPI is to strengthen the organizational, administrative and technical capacity of NPI partners in delivering HIV prevention and care. The awards by HHS/CDC and HHS/HRSA are to organizations working in seven African states and Haiti. The broad range of support for grantees includes:

- Strengthening the capacity of NPI award partners as prime partners to administer PEPFAR agreements within US Government regulations
- Technical assistance to improve the quality of interventions provided in the areas of prevention, behaviour change, PMTCT, counselling and testing, care for OVC and care and support at the home and in a facility - which includes monitoring and evaluation
- Facilitation of networking to help integrate partners into national programs including referral mechanisms, collaboration with in-country US Government teams and liaising with other partners in HIV and related services.

Support is provided to 12 implementing partners through 7 NPI Round 2 and 4 NPI Round 3 awards.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ST. BONIFACE BY TANPI

- Organizational Capacity Assessment (September '08)
- Site visit to Haiti for Monitoring and Evaluation training (May '09)
- Attendance at State of the Art meeting to share best practices (July '09)
- On-site financial management training (August '09)
- Technical Capacity Assessment of HIV programming (August '09)

At the close of the first year of NPI funding, St. Boniface has much to be proud of. With JSI's technical support, it has made significant strides in improving healthcare access to the community and in strengthening the hospital itself. Having achieved several goals in their first year, St. Boniface staff were happy to lay out a new set of goals and activities for year two. These will include formalizing a strategy plan and more trainings in monitoring and evaluation, financial systems, human resources, and program-quality monitoring, the last of which still poses a challenge for the program staff. "We hope after Year 3, we can have community places for people living with HIV, to train even more people in the communities, so they don't have to walk all that way for care. Yet, there are still patients coming to our hospital, and the number is growing, so we think it is an acknowledgement that we are doing something right," Dr. Pierre projected.



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