



International Center for Equal Healthcare Access
The global leader in clinical skills rapid transfer to emerging nations

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CLINICAL MENTORING PROVIDES CLINICAL EXPERTISE FOR RAPID SCALE-UP OF HIV/AIDS SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Lack of clinical expertise has been identified as a major barrier to scale-up of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services in developing countries. The International Center for Equal Healthcare Access (ICEHA) offers clinical mentoring programs that rapidly create practical expertise among local health professionals in developing countries by direct transfer of skills from HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases medical experts.

ICEHA clinical mentoring programs work with existing national treatment guidelines and complement local didactic HIV training. Programs are supported by both local and central program management. Coordinating program launch and duration with respect to ARV availability optimizes the impact. Close partnerships with local organizations ensures local logistics and strong quality control. ICEHA relies on experienced health professionals to volunteer 6 - 12 weeks of their time to coach their counterparts in a structured local clinical setting. ICEHA trains, prepares and supports volunteers before, during and following their field assignment. ICEHA clinical mentors include physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and health educators. Clinical mentors generally deploy in teams. Each setting receives a series of teams to reinforce lasting behavior changes in health systems.

Analysis of the series of clinical mentors at a pilot setting shows that within 6 months an HIV outpatient clinic can increase its patient flow from 0 to 1200 patients. After a series of approximately 4 Clinical Mentoring teams the clinic becomes “mentored out” with the staff demonstrating the skills to provide the best care possible given the resources available. ICEHA clinical mentoring has been replicated in 5 countries (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Lesotho, Vietnam) each starting with a pilot which rapidly scaled. To date, ICEHA has trained and deployed clinical mentors who have provided more than 3000 days of clinical mentoring in 5 countries, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Lesotho, and Vietnam. Additional country programs continue to be added in Africa, Asia, Oceania and South America.

ICEHA clinical mentoring is an effective method to rapidly develop local expertise to provide the best HIV and infectious diseases care and AIDS prevention within developing countries' available resources.