

# Clinical Mentoring Prepares Healthcare Systems in Developing Countries to Meet Demand for HIV/AIDS Care

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## Issue:

Developing country health systems too constrained to rapidly deliver AIDS treatment

- Lack of adequate local healthcare systems
- Lack of trained human resources
- Vastly increasing patient load

## Description:

ICEHA's Innovative Clinical Mentoring Program:

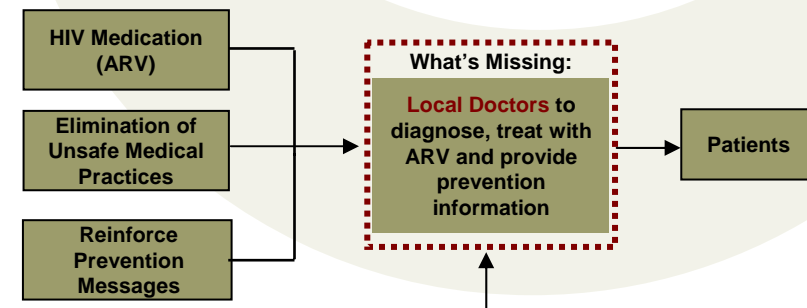
- Rapid scale-up of clinical HIV/AIDS skills of local care givers
- Method used: hands-on coaching in the local clinic setting, within locally available resources and nationally sanctioned guidelines
- Clinical mentors are volunteer HIV/AIDS healthcare workers educated in developed countries but screened and prepared by ICEHA
- Volunteer clinical mentors donate a minimum of 6 – 12 weeks



ICEHA is a unique non profit organization engaging Western educated HIV experts to transfer their expertise in HIV care to their colleagues in developing countries, thereby enabling them to take care of their own patients.

## Lessons Learned:

- Clinical mentoring is a highly effective and sustainable way to **rapidly** translate theoretical medical knowledge into practical expertise and care
- Optimization achieved by:
  - Coordinating with national ARV availability
  - Providing mentoring within existing national HIV curriculum and treatment guidelines
  - Involvement of committed western volunteers
- Within 4-6 months of clinical mentoring, a clinic increases its patient flow **from 0 to 1200 patients**, at which point no further clinical mentoring is needed



**ICEHA Fills the Gap:**  
ICEHA Volunteer Clinical Mentors transfer their practical skills to local healthcare providers thereby rapidly enabling them to take care of their own HIV-infected patients