

LATEST HED/USAID PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORY FALL 2006

In Four Years, From No Professionally Trained Social Workers to a Doctorate Degree for Social Workers—Ethiopia’s Success Story!!

Ethiopia now has its first doctorate program to train professional social workers. In this country where HIV/AIDS is a growing threat along with increased national interest to reduce poverty and improve child welfare, well-trained local social workers are essential members of these development teams.

In 2002, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Addis Ababa University (AAU) received a \$100,000 grant from the Higher Education for Development (HED)/USAID partnership program to establish a new school of social work to offer Ethiopia’s first master’s degree in social work. The HED grant stimulated an additional \$150,000 in cost share funds from the participating universities. The partnership named itself the Social Work Education in Ethiopia Partnership or **Project SWEEP**.

For two years, faculty from UIC traveled to Ethiopia and faculty from AAU traveled to the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the UIC campus to plan the curricula, design courses, identify field placement sites, access library and Internet resources, and collaborate with NGO and PVO leaders to set up a community advisory committee for the new school of social work.



Master’s in Social Work classes began in 2004 for 39 students, and in August 2006, 39 new Ethiopian MSW students graduated from the program. A second cohort of MSW students were admitted for fall 2005, continuing the cycle of success.

August 2006 not only marked the graduation of the first class of Ethiopian MSW students, but it also celebrated a second “first-ever”—the announcement of a new doctorate program in social work at AAU! Faculty from AAU and UIC collaborated on a grant proposal to the Ministry of Education (Development Innovation Funds from the World Bank) to start the PhD program by leveraging successes from the MSW.

Four years later, it is clear that professional social work as a field of study is SWEEPing



Ethiopia. The new PhD program will continue to build the capacity of Ethiopian social work faculty and sustain the master’s program as well as support future bachelor’s level social work education at other Ethiopian universities. The social work degree program in Ethiopia is particularly

welcoming to women in a country where few women have attained higher education degrees.

For more information click on the SWEEP web page: <http://www.aboutsweep.org>