

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Winners of third annual Leadership & Management Award in Global Health announced.**

**April 8, 2009 (CAMBRIDGE, MA) – Management Sciences for Health (MSH) has announced the winner of the 2009 Leadership & Management Award: Ahadi Kenya Trust.** The Hanoi School of Public Health Vietnam HIV/AIDS Management Training Program placed second and the Kgatleng District Council Department of Primary Health Care in Bostwana placed third. The Leadership and Management Award is an annual award supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). It was created to recognize teams of health care professionals that have used exemplary leadership and management skills to overcome challenges and achieve measurable results in the areas of HIV/AIDS, infectious disease, and maternal/child health. 13 teams from around the world, including countries like Peru, Burkina Faso and Afghanistan, competed for this award, which was chosen by an esteemed panel of judges. The first place winner will receive a US \$1,500 grant; the second place team will receive a US \$1,000 and the third place team will receive a \$500 grant to further their work. This award recognizes teams that use leadership and management to achieve results because by doing so they are making sustainable improvements in the care they are providing by effectively using the resources- human and financial- they have available to them. These skills are often not taught in medical or nursing schools, but are so very needed in the health sector at all levels to ensure the international and government funds are reaching those who need them the most and that they are having their intended impact.

To view the award announcement on MSH's LeaderNet website, go to:  
<http://erc.msh.org/leadernet>.

Ahadi Kenya Trust works to eradicate jiggers in Kenya through advocacy and care for those impacted by jiggers. The jigger infection—which is caused when fleas embed themselves around the nailbed—can range from minor infections to debilitating infestations. Ahadi Kenya Trust was founded in 2007 and has expanded from a rural Kenyan village to addressing jiggers at the national level. The team partnered with local and international media to highlight the prevalence of jiggers in Kenyan communities. Members of Ahadi Kenya Trust also went house-to-house in different communities, treating those with jiggers, fumigating homes, and bringing food to victims that were unable to walk. Stanley Kamau, Executive Director, “What we are doing is bringing up a program where everybody feels like they are part of the campaign. She feels that. ‘I’m part of this campaign and these people are not coming in to help my life, they are coming to show me how I can lift up my own life.’” Joseph Maina Mathai, Program Director, “Our campaign had to be founded on pillars like building capacities in communities and increasing synergies with stakeholders for example community based organizations, faith based organizations and even government. Then community participation because you realize we do not have staff to support staff all over the field where we have our big teams, so we had to depend on youth groups and churches to be able to take over our projects, even when we are not physically located on site.” Together, the team created an action plan to involve key stakeholders and work towards the vision of a jiggers-free Kenya in the next five years.

The winning teams are available for interviews and can be reached through Kristen Stelljes, whose contact information is provided in this press release.

The second place team from Hanoi School of Public Health established the Vietnam Health Management Training Program with the goal of displaying inspirational dedication to the improvement of quality health care in Vietnam through leadership and management practices. Since the start of the program, the VHMTP team ensured that trainees apply leadership and management skills in their jobs and retain the knowledge they gained during their training. Overall, 401 HIV personnel from 60 provinces have participated in the program and implemented 142 applied management projects since 2005. The third place team, Kgatleng District Council Department of Primary Health Care in Botswana, improved access to essential drugs in from 48% to 80% in five clinics in the district. The team accomplished these results by training health professionals in drug management, developing an orientation package for new healthcare staff, developing a chronic illness register, and advocating for essential drug supply, the team has seen positive improvements in their staff's capacity to lead and organize on a community level to serve the needs of the Kgatleng district.

In today's global health sector, professionals have to balance a multitude of tasks- including providing patient care, managing staff and resources, and appropriately allocating financial resources for their organization. Skilled management and inspiring leadership are critical to improving health services, yet the majority of people working in management roles in health services have had little or no preparation to take on these kinds of responsibilities. The Leadership and Management Award acknowledges those teams that have used the resources and training to them available to make lasting improvements in the health of the communities they serve.

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