



Livelihood & Food Security Technical Assistance (LIFT) II

About LIFT II

There are an estimated 1.5 million people living with HIV in Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with prevalence rates of nearly 11% and 1%, respectively. Through the Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II (LIFT II) Project, CARE works to expand access to economic opportunities for people living with HIV and their families, and in doing so helps to improve food security and financial status, so that they are able to obtain life-saving healthcare.

Through LIFT II, CARE connects people living with HIV in Malawi and DRC to Village Savings and Loan Associations and market-led economic strengthening and livelihood opportunities. More than 5,000 people living with HIV have been reached by LIFT II and been given economic strengthening opportunities in the first year of the project's pilot phase alone.

OBJECTIVE

LIFT II is a technical assistance project with the focus of supporting local partners and agencies to strengthen vulnerable households' healthcare access through a referral-based system and innovative approaches adapted to local needs and priorities. As women can be particularly vulnerable to stigma and ostracism, the project focuses on expanding economic opportunities a special focus on gender.

STRATEGY

The innovative approaches used by CARE through LIFT II have yielded success rates 10 times greater than other NGOs both in terms of numbers of people reached and the successfulness of referrals. The LIFT II Project is able to reach such scale through the following approaches:

BOTTOM UP APPROACH - CARE focuses on ensuring that those living with HIV in extreme poverty are able to gain membership to Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in order to have the most significant economic impact. CARE works with established VSLAs that are over ten years old and that have been operating independently for the past 5 years. CARE works through these community based VSLAs to assist project beneficiaries launch income generating activities.

Program Name:

Livelihood & Food Security
Technical Assistance (LIFT) II

Program Countries:

Malawi and the Democratic
Republic of Congo

Timeframe: Oct. 2014-Mar 2016

Budget: US \$ 1,191,912

Donor: USAID

Beneficiaries:

5,000

HIV positive patients served in less
than a year in Malawi and DRC.

50%

Percentage decrease in per client
costs of VSLA membership

1,300

Clients linked to food support
services through World Food
Program partnerships

3,946

Clients referred to VSLAs in Malawi





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"It has been easy to get VSLAs to accept vulnerable people. They think about what it was like for them to get the chance to join VSLA, and they want to give those same opportunities to other people who need them."

-LIFT II Referral Volunteer



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"I feel much healthier, and I have the energy to carry out my activities...I feel like I am alive again."

-LIFT II Referral Volunteer

COST EFFECTIVENESS AND INCLUSIVITY - CARE utilizes existing services to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable to economic and food insecurity are able to gain access to their community VSLAs. This ensures that those who might otherwise have been ostracized due to the stigma associated with their disease status are given opportunities to increase their livelihood. Furthermore, CARE uses its connections with these village referral volunteers to negotiate more cost effective membership prices of approximately \$11 per beneficiary compared to the estimated normal cost of \$25.

IMPACT

- CARE has served over **5,500** people in Malawi, and 1,900 in DRC, with a **95%** referral success rate.
- CARE has been able to work closely with village referral volunteers and counsellors in 17 health clinics in Malawi to connect HIV positive patients to VLSAs.
- Active referrals have created the development of sixty new VSLAs in Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Women comprise **76%** of the project patient enrollment in Malawi.



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