



Linking to Improve Health and Livelihoods for Vulnerable Populations



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



LIFT II

www.theliftproject.org

OUR STORY

As the global HIV epidemic evolves and the US government shifts its response accordingly, it is increasingly important to strike a balance between the provision and maintenance of clinical interventions and establishing integrated support systems that enable people affected by the epidemic to pursue healthier, more economically secure lives. **Livelihoods and Food Security Technical Assistance II (LIFT II)** is a five-year (2013-2018) global technical assistance (TA) mechanism designed to provide support to US government agencies and their implementing partners to improve the economic resilience, food security and health of households made vulnerable by HIV. LIFT II works at a systems level to help realize UNAIDS' and PEPFAR's 90-90-90 global target.¹ Our referral approach adapts to local needs and priorities, integrates cross-sectoral challenges and goals, and works with inclusive groups of stakeholders from individuals and households to policy level actors.



WHY INVEST?

Our flexible, responsive operating model is designed to cost-effectively magnify existing activities to improve the health and well-being of those infected with and affected by HIV. In communities where health systems are already **delivering on the promise of an AIDS-free generation**, LIFT II expands the circle of stakeholders to include non-health services—particularly economic strengthening, livelihoods and food security services—in order to amplify and sustain the success of existing health interventions and help connect more people with the services they need. Investments into LIFT II facilitate linkages that **enhance access** to high-impact services, **expand the continuum of care**, and **improve results** along the HIV treatment cascade.

¹ “By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.” UNAIDS. (2014). 90–90–90 - An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic. <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2014/90-90-90>.

MENU OF LIFT II SERVICE AREAS

Referral Systems and Linkages

For many existing bilateral projects, referrals for people living with HIV are often not included as a core element, or they are added as an afterthought as their value is realized. **LIFT II works with stakeholders to fill the gap between clinic- and community-based services**, including both a systemic network approach to match clients to the most context appropriate services available, as well as accelerated linkage models to rapidly connect clients to clinical services (such as HTC, PMTCT and ART) and key community support services (such as community-led savings and loan associations and food aid).

EXAMPLES

- **Tailored Referral Tools and Training:** LIFT II works with stakeholders to develop a suite of customized referral tools and provides training to establish systems that link clients to services, document these linkages, track clients over time, and collect data for decision making to improve referral activities. Additionally, LIFT II can provide customized assessments and analysis which inform and improve these linkages.
- **Capacity Strengthening and Mentoring:** A single training workshop, regardless of how practical and effective it is, does not necessarily translate into smooth implementation. LIFT II has successfully utilized a host of ongoing capacity strengthening and mentoring approaches that help ensure effective implementation of referrals and promote institutionalization and sustainability of the network.

Scaling Interventions

LIFT II supports partner countries and implementers to purposely move towards **scaling up sustainable interventions to control and curve the HIV and AIDS epidemic** by working with stakeholders to obtain their input and buy-in, harnessing the political will and commitment needed for scale-up. Through a data driven approach, LIFT II will work with stakeholders to build their capacity, sensitize them to PEPFAR and Mission goals, and engage them to support the development of a scale-up plan.

EXAMPLES

- **Working with Partner Governments to Develop Guidelines and Standards:** An important first step to the scale-up process includes ensuring that standards for implementation are complete. LIFT II works with stakeholders to advance quality of care by providing TA to develop, adapt and support the roll out of national guidelines and implementation of standards of care.

MENU OF LIFT II SERVICE AREAS



Economic Strengthening

The relationships between HIV, nutrition and economic security are well known. LIFT II's expertise in the **effective integration and implementation of economic strengthening (ES) interventions for vulnerable populations** can be leveraged through the provision of TA to strengthen the practice of ES by existing groups such as communities of practice, implementing partners, government ministries and community networks.

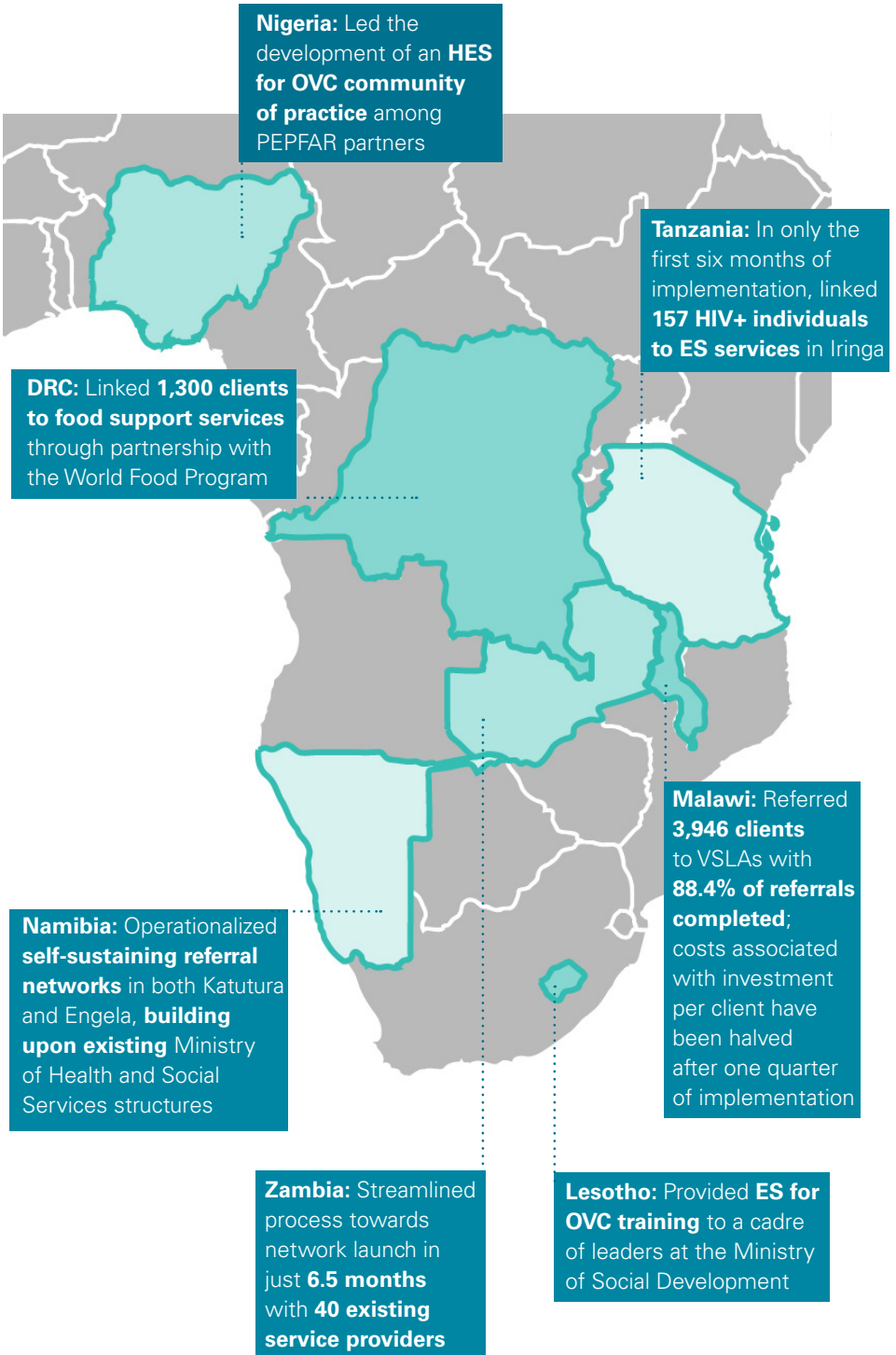
EXAMPLES

- **Developing Smart Subsidy Programs:** There is compelling evidence that cash transfers can significantly reduce high-risk sexual behaviors and are a promising means to help overcome the most common barriers to accessing HIV care: transportation costs, food insecurity and income cuts associated with seeking care. LIFT II works with host governments in the design, assessment and adaptation of nationally-funded cash transfer programs to ensure that existing investments incorporate design principles that place HIV care and prevention at the center of the intervention, reach those most in need, and are linked to specific outcomes.
- **ES Approaches to Build OVC Partner Capacity:** LIFT II has developed a comprehensive household economic strengthening (HES) training curriculum that aims to establish a broad understanding of the role of ES in supporting priority OVC and HIV/AIDS outcomes in vulnerable populations as well as foundational knowledge for implementing ES interventions.
- **ES as Prevention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women:** Working with PEPFAR's OVC and HIV prevention portfolios, LIFT II provides TA to increase awareness of the role ES can play in reducing transactional and age disparate sex, and support service providers to design and implement or link to effective ES interventions that can help prevent HIV, SGBV and unintended pregnancy.



GLOBAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LIFT II is a global mechanism capable of engaging with stakeholders and implementing partners across the international community. We currently have programs in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, **Lesotho**, **Malawi**, **Namibia**, **Tanzania** and **Zambia**. In the past, we have also worked in Ethiopia, Haiti, Nigeria and Swaziland.



WORK WITH US

In all TA areas, LIFT II offers assistance in:

- **Building the capacity** of a portfolio of implementing partners or providing support to bilateral partners
- Providing **knowledge management services** through action research or distilling lessons learned
- Developing **tools, curricula or other resources** for implementers, communities of practice or for a professional cadre (e.g., social or community health workers)

USAID Missions and other US government operating units can rapidly engage the full breadth and depth of LIFT II's expertise to design and implement tailored programs that meet their objectives. Transfers are anticipated from individual country Missions managing PEPFAR, Global Health Initiative and Feed the Future programs. The justification for Mission transfers to LIFT II is made on the basis of:

- The highly technical and specialized nature of the program and the lack of bilateral field staff with the required expertise to plan and manage economic strengthening, livelihoods and food security activities;
- An anticipated frequent need within countries to respond to urgent programmatic requirements that cannot be foreseen in terms of location, timing and magnitude; and
- The possible need for LIFT II to provide TA in non-presence countries.

STEPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Step 1 A US government client or USAID Mission can contact LIFT II directly with their technical assistance needs. LIFT II will develop a concept note for a transfer that fits within the framework and scope of our global award.

Step 2 The client reviews the concept note and submits it to the LIFT II AOR for technical concurrence.

Step 3 Transfer is issued to LIFT II.

For more information regarding engagement with LIFT II, please contact:

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