

# ELCA World Hunger HIV and AIDS fund



[www.elca.org/aids](http://www.elca.org/aids)

AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 25 million people worldwide. More than 12 million children in sub-Saharan Africa have lost a parent to AIDS. In the countries hardest hit by HIV, life expectancy has declined by 20 years, poverty has deepened, and economic growth has been reversed.

**But amid the sobering realities of HIV and AIDS there is cause for great hope.**

Prevention efforts are working: **HIV infection rates are declining** in sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the world. Access to antiretroviral medications has increased dramatically and since 2004, the number of deaths from AIDS has been steadily decreasing. Treatment is now available in developing countries for about \$140 a year. These medicines are **keeping parents alive to care for their children and preventing transmission** of HIV from mother to child.

Through ELCA World Hunger efforts, including the Stand With Africa campaign, we have worked with partners across Africa and throughout the world for more than a decade to develop innovative and successful models for HIV and AIDS ministry. The ELCA has developed its own **comprehensive strategy on HIV and AIDS** to guide future work both with global companions and in our local communities.

In the communities where we are at work, we are seeing real progress in efforts to:

- **halt the spread of HIV** through effective prevention, treatment, and care.
- **eliminate the stigma and discrimination** experienced by those who are HIV-positive.
- **reduce the conditions of poverty** that contribute to the spread of HIV.

Through our global network of HIV and AIDS ministry partners, **we are well-positioned to scale up our investment in this work in order to save more lives.** We can point to so many success stories, and yet the need is still great.

By 2015, ELCA World Hunger seeks to raise \$10 million in additional funding to support critical HIV and AIDS ministries, more than doubling our present level of investment. Your gift to the ELCA World Hunger HIV and AIDS fund will enable many key partners to increase capacity and expand their outreach and services.

*Please turn the page to learn more about how **your gifts can help communities overcome this crisis.** Find bulletin-ready stories at [www.elca.org/hunger/stories](http://www.elca.org/hunger/stories). Project sponsorships are needed to help to sustain and expand our most critical programs. Please contact Jennifer Barger Williamson at [jennifer.barger@elca.org](mailto:jennifer.barger@elca.org) or 800-638-3522 ext. 2638 with inquiries about project sponsorship opportunities for individuals, congregations and synods.*

**ELCA World Hunger works with dozens of partners worldwide to carry out innovative, effective and compassionate HIV and AIDS ministry. Here are some examples of our work in Africa:**

### **Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa - AIDS Action Program**

Today, the crisis of AIDS has become the new center of struggle in Southern Africa. The Lutheran churches of Southern Africa—ministering to communities still struggling to overcome the legacy of poverty and injustice left by apartheid—are also working to help people find hope for freedom from the devastation of AIDS.

Lutheran AIDS programs operate in nine countries in Southern Africa, the region of the world heaviest-hit by the AIDS pandemic. The programs train pastors and church workers, mobilize congregations, and reach out to youth. They also provide HIV testing and counseling, AIDS treatment clinics, support groups for people affected by HIV and AIDS, and orphan care programs. With its deep commitment to walk with the marginalized, the church reaches people other programs leave behind. With the help of the church, people are living positively and finding hope.

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - Palliative Care Program**

The palliative care program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) is directed by Dr. Kris Hartwig, an ELCA missionary. ELCA World Hunger helped this program get its start as a small hospice ministry based out of Selian Lutheran Hospital that organized teams of health professionals to offer home-based hospice care. It was the first program of its kind in this area and it offered a compassionate ministry that helped AIDS patients die with dignity.

When antiretroviral drugs reached Tanzania, the program quickly proved to be an effective model for overcoming both social and geographic obstacles that kept people living with HIV and AIDS from accessing life-saving treatment. The program qualified for PEPFAR (AIDS funding from the U.S. government) which enabled it to expand significantly. Now it is a multi-million dollar program of the ELCT that saves lives, reaching thousands of Tanzanians with the medicine, counseling, and support they need to survive and thrive.

### **Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Orphan Care Programs**

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) has developed comprehensive programming to care for orphans in its communities hardest-hit by the AIDS pandemic. The church reaches out to child-headed households, providing hundreds of children with assistance such as housing, food, health care, school fees, vocational training and counseling. A cornerstone of the program is regular visits by church workers to the children's homes which assures vulnerable children that they are not alone.

### **Mashiah Foundation (Jos, Nigeria) - Women's Shelter, Clinic and Quilting Workshop**

Many of the women who now participate in Mashiah Foundation's quilting workshop arrived at the doors of the women's shelter believing that they would soon die from AIDS. Most had been infected with HIV by their husbands and then abandoned by their families because of the stigma that surrounds this disease. Some were so ill that they could hardly walk. Some were pregnant, and feared they would transmit HIV to their babies. But at Mashiah Foundation these women have found life, not death. They receive food, shelter, medicine and health care, and while there is no cure for HIV, many women experience health significant improvements and are able to live independently within a year or two. The women learn how to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. They receive training on how to sew quilts, which provides the women with the means to earn a living. And they are welcomed into a community where God's love abounds for all.

*As part of a comprehensive ELCA strategy on HIV and AIDS, global ministries like these are complemented by a strong commitment to public policy advocacy and health education in our local communities. Learn more at [www.elca.org/aids](http://www.elca.org/aids).*

**How to give:** ELCA World Hunger - HIV and AIDS fund  
P.O. Box 71764  
Chicago, IL 60694-1764

**Online:** [www.elca.org/aids/donate](http://www.elca.org/aids/donate)  
**By Phone:** 800-638-3522



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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.