

LIFT II: Livelihoods & Food Security Technical Assistance II Project

LIFT II strengthens the continuum of care for people living with HIV and other vulnerable households through technical assistance to systematically link health sector clients with context appropriate, market-led economic strengthening, livelihoods and food security (ES/L/FS) opportunities.

LIFT II is a five-year (2013-2018) flexible, broad and responsive Associate Award designed to provide technical assistance to U.S. government agencies and their implementing partners to improve the economic resilience and food security of vulnerable households, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS. LIFT II works with US government agencies to develop tailored programs to meet their objectives. LIFT II currently has programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia.

Funded by the USAID Global Health Bureau's Office of HIV and AIDS (OHA), LIFT II is led by **FHI 360** with partners **CARE** and **World Vision**.



Families around the world face continual challenges in meeting their survival needs. Pandemics, natural disasters and man-made emergencies compromise families' ability to meet their basic subsistence needs, let alone suitable health and nutrition levels. High levels of poverty and food insecurity present additional obstacles to the health and well-being of families attempting to cope with adverse circumstances. One of the challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS is striking an optimal balance between the provision and maintenance of highly necessary clinical interventions and establishing longer-term investments to develop support systems that enable people who are infected and affected by the epidemic to pursue healthier, more economically secure livelihoods.

In 2013, with funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded LIFT II as a follow on to the LIFT project, which was successfully implemented by FHI 360 from 2009-2013. LIFT activities strengthened the capacity of USAID missions, implementing organizations and host country

governments to design, implement and improve access to high-quality ES/L/FS interventions for vulnerable households. LIFT II builds upon this foundation, working to end the downward spiral of poverty and illness in Africa and Haiti. An essential component of the LIFT II approach is supporting community referral networks that systematically and appropriately link Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support (NACS) clients with community-based ES/L/FS support.

LIFT II Program Areas:

The primary goal of LIFT II is to support evidence-based, gender-sensitive programming to improve household ES/L/FS support as a component of a continuum of nutrition and health care and support for vulnerable individuals and families. To achieve this, LIFT II provides technical assistance to meet four key objectives:

Improved access to ES/L/FS services for clinical health and NACS clients and families, through referrals and community support services. LIFT II creates linkages between health sector facilities, local government agencies and



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community-based ES/L/FS support organizations to facilitate the referral of target beneficiaries to appropriate services that enhance the continuum of care. LIFT II assists and supports government, NGO, private sector and other partners to design, implement, scale-up and sustain the linkages to quality ES/L/FS programs. LIFT II incubates new business models and programs and facilitates pathways and coordination among existing ones to create synergies that improve providers' responses to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Strengthened community services that provide ES/L/FS support as a component of a continuum of care for families. LIFT II strengthens the capacity of service providers to integrate and support program design and implementation of ES/L/FS activities in order to upgrade services and improve food security among HIV-affected households.

Expanded evidence base for ES/L/FS programming impacts on health and nutrition, particularly with regard to retention in care, replicability, implementation at scale, cost-effectiveness and sustainability. As a centralized technical support mechanism, LIFT II develops and sets standards, advances knowledge and information sharing, and offers training and capacity building services to promote best practices around ES/L/FS services. Through the identification and acceleration of best practices and evidence-based programming, LIFT II supports the effective targeting of interventions and support to people affected by HIV and AIDS to overcome and reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and strengthen sustainable livelihoods.

Provision of global technical leadership and strategic support to improve the quality of ES/L/FS programs and activities that support PEPFAR, GHI and FtF investments. LIFT II aims to build the linkages needed so that ES/L/FS, nutrition and health providers can complement and leverage each other's efforts to assist NACS clients and other vulnerable populations. LIFT II's technical support includes: assessments and portfolio reviews of country ES/L/FS activities; development of ES/L/FS country strategies and implementation plans, including technical guidance for PEPFAR Country Operation Plans; design and support of monitoring and evaluation to assess impact, cost effectiveness, and potential for replicability, scale-up and sustainability; support of policy development and strong enabling environments; training and quality improvement activities; and support for scope of work development for ES/L/FS assistance.

LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

LIFT II will utilize the LIFT Livelihoods and Food Security Conceptual Framework as a frame of reference for clarifying and communicating important concepts related to food security and livelihoods, and their relationship with each other. By linking risk reduction strategies with growth oriented strategies, the LIFT framework sets forth a livelihood pathway towards increased income and resiliency and reduced vulnerability.



For more information about LIFT II, please visit our website: www.theliftproject.org

LIFT II is an Associate Award under the FIELD-Support LWA, a cooperative agreement between USAID's Microenterprise and Private Enterprise Promotion Office and FHI 360 and its consortium of 23 development partners. Learn more about FIELD at: www.microlinks.org/field-support.

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