



[Press](#)

[Resources](#)

[Contact](#)



[Donate Now](#)

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Programs](#)

[Program Updates](#)

[Media Gallery](#)

[Partners](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Take Action](#)

POL POSTS: BLOGS, REPORTS & UPDATES // March 12, 2013

## What Makes Our Pediatric HIV Care Program Unique?

While developing our pediatric HIV care program in 2004, one thing we repeatedly asked ourselves was how we could make an impact beyond simple handouts. We wanted our program to do more than provide food and medicine to HIV positive children, services provided by countless charities. We came to the conclusion that in order to most effectively combat HIV, we had to relocate the responsibility of healthcare to the caregivers at home.



After realizing that we needed to provide the community with the right tools to take care of their own, we made it our goal to strengthen the women who are often overseeing multiple orphans. With the help of the Harvard School of Public Health, we developed a curriculum especially designed to train women caregivers in Zambia how to take care of their sick children and family members at home.

When a child is enrolled in our pediatric HIVcare program, their parent/guardian undergoes a week-long training session focused on caring for an HIV+ child. This unique approach has led to a survival rate of 95% for the infected children in our program, a demographic whose life expectancy is only 5 years. Of the 368 children enrolled in the program since 2004, we have lost 11.

The goal of this training is to equip parents/guardians with basic nursing skills and counseling so that their child can be under the care of a trained caregiver 24/7. After being trained, caregivers are able to identify and treat a variety of opportunistic infections that take advantage of HIV+ children's suppressed immune systems. They are also able to identify situations where the child requires a higher level of care. To date more than 450 caregivers have been trained.

## The Training Program

The following topics are covered in a typical training session:

- Child health - the importance of visits to the clinic for young children, nutrition and sanitation, hygiene, medication, communication and confidentiality
- Basic facts about HIV and AIDS, voluntary testing and counseling, antiretroviral therapy, the importance of adhering to medication
- Opportunistic infections and how to treat them at home - diarrhea, vomiting, fever, cough, headaches, abdominal pains, tuberculosis, and mouth, ear, nose, and skin problems
- How to recognize signs of danger and when to take the child to the clinic/hospital
- Psychosocial care and support

- How to identify the signs and symptoms of breast and cervical cancer
- Legal help and where to get it
- Discussion about environmental issues and hazards

# Measurable Outcomes of the Training

As a result of this training, the caregiver is able to:

- Provide better care to the child in all aspects
- Share adequate information on HIV and AIDS with the child
- Identify why they themselves should be tested for HIV
- Better counsel the child and ensure their mental wellbeing
- Identify danger signs and refer the child to the next level of care
- Adhere to treatments and care, thereby reducing the number of visits to the clinic

Topic: [Pediatric HIV Care](#)

Category of this Blog Post [Women & Children's Health](#)

Post Type [Program Updates](#)

SHARE 

## Add new comment

Your name

Comment \*

- No HTML tags allowed. [More information about text formats](#)
- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

Save

## Updates from the Field

July 2018 - Meet the Google Lady

June 2018 - Our Zambian Family is Growing

May 2018 - Your Support is Keeping Orphans and Vulnerable Children Safe from Disease

April 2018 - New Malaria vaccine to be tested this year

## Read Stories from the Field

### Join Us

Email \*

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Signup

## Read Newsletter Archives

[Donate Now](#)

---



[Terms of Use](#)   [Updates from the Field](#)   [Program Updates](#)   [Reports: Donors](#)   [Reports: Funders](#)  
[Stories from the Field](#)  
[Power of Love](#)