

# World Learning



World Learning HIV/AIDS interventions provide support to reduce vulnerability, counter social stigma, and offer alternatives to risky behaviors.



Photo by Blanka Homolova

## HIV/AIDS Programs

Empowering individuals and strengthening communities through prevention and impact mitigation

The impact of the AIDS epidemic extends beyond health and collides with almost every sector of society, increasing the vulnerability of children, undermining the socioeconomic stability of families, and diminishing the capacity of communities to protect their members.

World Learning recognizes that preventing new HIV infections is of vital importance in curbing the spread of the epidemic. Our programs support prevention efforts that range from information, education, and communication activities to more complex behavior change interventions. World Learning simultaneously invests its expertise and resources into structural prevention activities that are necessary to reduce vulnerability, address diverse needs of most-at-risk populations, and create an environment that supports change.

### Scope of the Problem

Estimates of the number of people currently living with HIV far exceed 30 million, with an additional 7,000 becoming infected every day. In countries most severely affected by HIV/AIDS, life expectancy has decreased by 20 years. More than 20 million persons have died, while an additional 2 million lose their lives to AIDS-related illness each year. Nearly 12 million children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents due to AIDS and an estimated six million additional households are likely to become severely impoverished in the next five years as a result of HIV/AIDS.

Contributing factors include:

- Gender inequality and rigid social norms
- Human rights violations
- Lack of access to health care including sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls
- Lack of basic education

- Lack of economic opportunities
- Inferior socioeconomic status
- Ignorance, stigma, and discrimination
- Lack of access to complete and accurate prevention information
- Unfavorable policies

### The World Learning Approach

Effective programs to deal with the impact of HIV/AIDS require multi-sectoral interventions. World Learning supports a developmental approach rooted in a commitment to human rights and a belief in building the capacity of local leadership to contribute to policy decisions and create lasting social change. Programs foster meaningful engagement among diverse groups through advocacy efforts that include leading task forces and working groups, and building strategic partnerships to enhance the impact of policies and programs that assist individuals, communities, and countries.

[www.worldlearning.org/hivaids](http://www.worldlearning.org/hivaids)

## Key Interventions

### World Learning behavioral prevention activities

encourage individuals to adopt and maintain behaviors that help avoid risk of contracting HIV. Strategic communication provides target audiences, including the most-at-risk populations, with accurate prevention information that addresses issues such as abstinence, delayed sexual debut, condom use, multiple sexual partner reduction, and HIV counseling and testing.

### World Learning structural prevention activities

engage governments and mobilize civil society to create a social, economic, and political environment that enables effective HIV prevention. World Learning works with a variety of institutional partners to strengthen organizational and management capacity, build technical expertise to design and implement HIV prevention, support people living with HIV/AIDS, endorse workplace policies, address gender inequality, and protect human rights.

### World Learning Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

draws on World Learning's extensive experience in the education sector to strengthen the role of schools in providing practical support for psychosocial and other needs specific to HIV-affected children. Programs mobilize teachers, parent-teacher associations, and communities to provide safe and supportive environments, and provide teacher training and support and prevention education. They also work to improve care coordination and strengthen referral systems to assist OVC and those in need of quality care and treatment.

## Development Partners

World Learning recognized the damaging impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic early. Since the mid-1980s—when it helped establish the first USAID-funded NGO capacity-building HIV program in Uganda—it has been collaborating with leading donor agencies to design and implement targeted prevention and impact-mitigation activities.

**Key Donors** include United States Agency for International Development (USAID); The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



*Photo by Geoff Ward*

**Key Partners** include the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund); Network of Networks of HIV Positives in Ethiopia (NEP+); John Snow Inc. (JSI); Save the Children US, and numerous local NGOs from countries in which World Learning works.

## World Learning

1015 Fifteenth Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 **Tel** +202 408-5420 **Fax** +202 408-5397

**Email** [hiv aids@worldlearning.org](mailto:hiv aids@worldlearning.org)

World Learning, a nonprofit education, training, and exchange provider, works globally to enhance the capacity and commitment of individuals, institutions, and communities to create a more peaceful and just world. Founded in 1932, World Learning runs international development programs, study abroad, and graduate education in more than 70 countries, with participants from more than 140 countries. Development priorities include civil society and governance, education, HIV/AIDS, international exchange, and capacity development and training. US-based in Washington, DC, and Vermont, the organization has annual operating revenues exceeding \$100 million.

[www.worldlearning.org/hiv aids](http://www.worldlearning.org/hiv aids)

It is the policy of World Learning to provide equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, physical or learning ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, protected veteran's status, or any other legally protected condition.

World Learning and its circle design, School for International Training, SIT, and The Experiment in International Living and its infinity design are registered trademarks of World Learning Inc. The U.S. Experiment in International Living is a trademark of World Learning Inc.