



Mission, Program Goals, Vision, and Values, Beliefs, and Principles

Mission

LifeRise AIDS Resources brings the compassion, healing, and transformation of Christ in ministry to people suffering because of HIV/AIDS in poor communities worldwide by joining with local evangelical Christian partners and mobilizing financial, technical, and spiritual resources to conduct prevention, treatment, and care for those at risk, infected, and affected.

Program Goals

Along with our partners in poor communities, we achieve the following goals through *LifeRise* projects:

- ❖ Show the compassion and bring the healing and transformation of Christ
- ❖ Prevent HIV transmission and reduce vulnerability to infection for persons at risk
- ❖ Care for and treat those suffering with AIDS
- ❖ Relieve adversities of children, families, and communities affected by this illness
- ❖ Strengthen communities, health services, and churches to meet needs
- ❖ Preach and teach the gospel in the context of HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Engage in the international HIV/AIDS arena and promote Christian values and response

Vision

Striving towards the brilliant hope set before us of a world victorious in the HIV/AIDS struggle, *LifeRise* AIDS Resources shall empower our beneficiaries to prevail over this disease through changed lives and redeemed futures in Christ.

We envision that we will accomplish the following through our efforts:

Show the Compassion and Bring the Healing and Transformation of Christ

- ❖ Participate in the compassion and love of Christ to heal, transform, and restore those broken by HIV/AIDS, granting them dignity, hope and purpose.
- ❖ In all LifeRise programs, engage those who are HIV-positive as staff and volunteers, not only to afford them significance and purpose, but also to best serve our beneficiaries, since those who have experienced the deepest suffering are most effective in planning and implementing AIDS programs as well as sharing comfort with others.

Prevent HIV Transmission and Reduce Vulnerability to Infection for Persons at Risk

- ❖ Eradicate AIDS in children by providing counseling and testing for women of child-bearing potential and their partners; educating HIV-positive women on the risks of infecting their infants if they become pregnant; encouraging contraception for all those who are not pregnant; and providing antiretrovirals and counseling regarding breastfeeding for all those who are pregnant.
- ❖ Empower youth to choose abstinence until marriage and life partners who have opted for the same course, so they will enjoy true love and fulfillment in their relationships and the privilege of being part of a cohort saved from HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Strengthen marriages for partners to experience the greatest possible love, trust and intimacy by encouraging faithfulness, transparency regarding HIV status, and protection for uninfected spouses.
- ❖ Impart dignity, self-esteem, and fulfillment to women by helping them gain knowledge, skills, and social and economic empowerment to enable them to make choices which will benefit themselves and their families.
- ❖ Inspire men to understand that true manhood means they will strive to love their wives and be faithful to them as well as protect other women and girls within their communities.
- ❖ Make HIV counseling and testing available everywhere for all individuals who desire to know their status and through this process, positively transform their behavior, relationships, and principles of life.
- ❖ Allow program beneficiaries a free choice of options to prevent HIV/AIDS by fully and accurately informing them about all the available alternatives, including abstinence, faithfulness, and condoms.
- ❖ Serve those in special HIV risk groups such as prostitutes and injecting drug users not only through temporizing measures such as condoms and very limited needle exchange (as part of educational outreach), but more importantly by helping those who desire to break free from these lifestyles to begin new lives.

Care for and Treat those Suffering with AIDS

- ❖ Hold premature death at bay and grant the gift of quality, productive life by providing access to antiretroviral treatment for all those with AIDS at the stage when they need these medicines, by preventing and treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and AIDS-related illnesses such as tuberculosis, and by employing other interventions proven to extend life such as good nutrition and improved hygiene and sanitation.
- ❖ Treat all children with AIDS with antiretroviral drugs so they remain healthy and vibrant through adulthood and live the purpose for which they were intended.
- ❖ Accord death with dignity for all those with AIDS who are not candidates for or who do not respond to antiretrovirals by granting them compassionate end-of-life care to assure their physical comfort and meet their emotional and spiritual needs.

Relieve Adversities of Children, Families, and Communities Affected

- ❖ Provide nurturing families for all orphans and vulnerable children, or strengthen their own families, so that they will apprehend love, feel secure, be healthy, and achieve their full life potential.
- ❖ Preserve the family unit by conducting LifeRise interventions whenever possible within the context of whole families to enable members to pull together and resist the divisive forces of HIV/AIDS that would tear them apart.
- ❖ Fight HIV/AIDS on all fronts by providing holistic care for those infected and affected in all areas of need, including physical health, emotional and spiritual support, food and nutrition, income generation, education, legal assistance, material aid, and advocacy and social services.
- ❖ Empower children, families and communities socially and economically so they will rise above the hardships they have suffered from HIV/AIDS and enter the future with hope.

Strengthen Communities, Health Services, and Churches to Meet Needs

- ❖ Help communities and churches come together to analyze their own needs, design and implement interventions, monitor and evaluate progress, and share solutions with other communities to multiply effect, so that HIV/AIDS is counteracted in an ever-expanding way through community development.
- ❖ Assist communities and churches to repair the tears in the fabric of their societies rendered by HIV and weave a new tapestry of unity and strength by caring for those most vulnerable in their midst, such as women, children, orphans, widows, those ill at the end stages of AIDS, grandparents who have lost sons and daughters to AIDS who are caring for grandchildren, and the poor.
- ❖ Affirm the worth of each HIV-positive person as an intentional part of community response and counter affronts to dignity, so that the pain of stigma and shame will cease to be.

- ❖ Usher in justice in regard to HIV/AIDS by advocating policy reform and legal protections and assistance to prevent wrongs such as deception in revealing HIV status to partners, abuse and violence towards HIV-positive women, property-grabbing from orphans, and unfair workplace discrimination.
- ❖ Train medical professionals and community health workers to provide care with excellence, and assist health centers to better their services by engaging in a process of continuous quality improvement, so that health programs supported by *LifeRise* will be models of the highest standards of care in their countries.
- ❖ Equip health and social programs with viable means of income generation and appropriate technology so they may become increasingly self-sustainable.
- ❖ Develop the kind of church and community leaders who look ahead, perceive the magnitude and implications of the AIDS epidemic, understand God's heart towards those threatened and affected, help others analyze and define problems and formulate and implement solutions, proactively develop healthy church AIDS policies, and model hands-on servant leadership.
- ❖ Encourage pastors to proclaim the truth about HIV/AIDS to prevent infection, while at the same time to make their churches refuges where those already infected may be welcomed out of the shadows of stigma into the light of spiritual, emotional, and material support.

Preach and Teach the Gospel in the Context of HIV/AIDS

- ❖ Open the understanding of Christians through preaching and teaching in churches how all the central tenets of the gospel come to the fore in the HIV/AIDS crisis, including God's grace, love, compassion, forgiveness, healing and restoration, and abundant life in Christ.
- ❖ Inspire Christians to go beyond knowledge of how the gospel relates to HIV/AIDS to taking action as part of a local and worldwide evangelical response to turn the tide of this struggle.

Engage in the International HIV/AIDS Arena and Promote Christian Values and Response

- ❖ Build the capacity of evangelical Christian organizations to scale up and qualify their projects at national and international levels so that they may gain credibility and demonstrate the effectiveness of Christian values and ministry.
- ❖ Call churches to join together in a unified movement across denominations, putting aside minor doctrinal differences, and engage in the international HIV/AIDS arena in order to have the greatest impact against HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Give powerful voice to the Christian perspective in the struggle against HIV/AIDS, positively transforming societies through this dialogue.

Values, Beliefs, and Principles

As Christians, we hold many values, beliefs, and principles. Some of these salient to the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS are implicit in our vision statement. The following are additional and expanded tenets which will guide us as we serve our beneficiaries, collaborate with our partners, and operate as an organization.

Transforming Power of the Gospel

We believe that there is no more effective way to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS than to transform the minds and hearts of individuals with the gospel of Christ. This evolution affords a person meaning and purpose in life and inner motivation and power to do good. Such individuals will advance their families to a higher plane of love, unity, and strength. Along with others in their churches who have chosen the same path, they will influence their communities away from oppression towards justice and righteousness. To encourage this process of change is why *LifeRise* partners with evangelical Christians who will share their faith and hope with others.

Partnership and Participation at a Local Level

We believe that programs are best designed, implemented, and monitored and evaluated by those whose lives are directly affected by them. This means both our partners who will conduct projects as well as recipients of services, including persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA), children, and youth. Our approach of partnership with local Christians and the indigenous agencies they represent, as well as with other international agencies also serving grassroots organizations, is to ensure that the projects we support will meet perceived needs, be field and recipient rather than donor driven, have local ownership, be culturally relevant, and achieve long-term self-sustainability.

We will be active and not passive participants in this process, seeking enriching and lasting relationships with our partners, serving alongside them, learning together, engaging in dialogue, building their capacity, and helping to shape a compassionate AIDS response. Our desire is to empower our partners with resources they need to impact HIV/AIDS, including advocacy, information, tools, technical assistance, training, materials, ministry skills, and finances.

Excellence in Our Programs

We desire to be excellent in our work in order to reflect well on God whom we serve. We will pursue excellence in our professional staff and program administration, encourage continual learning from the entire international AIDS community, and promote internationally accepted standards of “best practice” in our projects. We will document our effectiveness and results through program and financial monitoring and research and evaluation to assess our performance and lessons learned. By employing and teaching continuous quality improvement, we will better our agency, our partner’s organizations, and our programs and services. To attain excellence, we will also strive to initiate innovative methods which, in their success, will augment the reservoir of “best practice.”

Integrity

We are ultimately responsible to God for our intentions and actions, as well as for our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. This means that we commit to the highest standards of integrity. In regard to our actions, we will strive to do that which is morally right in every circumstance, be truthful and straightforward, honor our word, and exercise fairness in our relationships with others.

In regard to our finances, we will foster transparency, employ funds only for intended purposes, and adhere to strict policies and procedures of accountability. We will not in any way manipulate or deceive donors in regard to our intentions, activities, or use of funds.

LifeRise will demand these same assurances from our partners and hold them to the highest standards as well.

Balance of Immediate Aid (Relief) and Long-term Self-sustainability (Development)

HIV/AIDS is both an emergent crisis and a long-term development issue. We feel a sense of urgency to make an immediate, compassionate response to relieve suffering; we also value a long-term, sustainable response to address the root causes of this suffering.

We desire to respond to relief needs not only because they are most compelling. We also recognize that HIV/AIDS is a disease epidemic. The course of an epidemic is to peak and then decline if enough resources are mobilized to stop the spread of the disease. Therefore, the fight against HIV/AIDS is inherently sustainable; as the disease declines, efforts may be allowed to wane. If HIV/AIDS is arrested now, the future will be free of its devastating effects.

Although LifeRise will strive to mobilize resources to meet pressing needs, it is not our intention to render our partners or beneficiaries dependent on this assistance over the long-term. We believe that increased self-esteem and a sense of achievement proceed from attaining self-sustainability. Therefore, we will seek balance in our projects by mobilizing resources for relief needs, while at the same time building the capacity of our partners to address the long-term development effects of HIV/AIDS in their communities in a sustainable manner as well as helping beneficiaries to care for themselves.

Integration of Prevention, Treatment and Care

Jesus was “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). In HIV/AIDS programs, this translates to integration of prevention, treatment and care – imparting “truth” through God’s principles for healthy living to prevent HIV, showing “grace” through compassion for those who are already infected. The importance of integration is shown by powerful interactions between prevention, treatment, and care: caregivers for persons with AIDS are motivated to avoid risky behavior to prevent HIV for themselves; the opportunity for treatment causes people to seek out testing and prevention services; care affords many opportunities for prevention in families. To foster these interactions, LifeRise will integrate prevention, treatment and care in our programs, comprehensively meeting needs in all areas of HIV/AIDS.

Health Focus but Holistic Care

LifeRise considers HIV/AIDS first and foremost as a health issue – as an illness from which millions are suffering and dying. HIV/AIDS is a complicated disease; treatment with antiretrovirals is clinically challenging. Understanding the relevant medical and technical issues and gaining the appropriate health skills are crucial to address HIV/AIDS; *LifeRise* will require this knowledge and expertise of our program staff. However, we will go beyond viewing HIV/AIDS only through a health and medical lens because there are many other factors contributing to the epidemic such as poverty, gender inequity, illiteracy and ignorance, and cultural traditions. Therefore, we will serve our beneficiaries in a holistic manner – not only meeting physical needs, but also addressing emotional, psychological, social, economic, and spiritual needs.

Compassion

Christ's compassion is evident from his ministry, when he healed many sick people, and his painful death on the cross, which brought our ultimate healing. Because he suffered himself, he has empathy for those who are suffering. His resurrection demonstrates that there is no suffering which cannot be redeemed. *LifeRise* project personnel will follow the example of Christ, showing empathy and compassion for those with HIV/AIDS to comfort them, absorb their pain, affirm their dignity, bring them healing, raise them to life, redeem their suffering, and empower them to live well.

Willingness to Serve

Christ left his exalted place with God the Father and came to earth as a servant. *LifeRise* project staff and our partners will seek to have the same attitude as Christ, serving beneficiaries with self-sacrificing humility and love, considering the interests of others above our own, and shunning selfish aims. The emphasis in our programs is service delivery, supporting actions to meet the practical needs of HIV/AIDS beneficiaries. We will help church and community leaders develop a leadership style in which they meet needs in a "hands-on" manner, rather than simply proclaiming principles.

Concern for the Poor and Most Vulnerable

LifeRise shares God's special concern interlaced throughout the Bible for the poor, oppressed, and most vulnerable, such as orphans and widows. The destitute and downtrodden suffer a disproportionate burden from HIV/AIDS due to lack of access to health care, low socio-economic and educational status, poor nutrition, inadequate hygiene and sanitation, substandard housing, limited social services, and increased marginalization in situations of natural disaster such as famines and human tragedy like wars. We will favor programs that work among the poor and most vulnerable.

Central Place of Family and Community

The family is the preferred structure in which people pursue their lives and work and in which children are raised. Overarching the family is the larger community, in which good citizens are called to support their local leaders, share in social events, serve members of their community, and build relationships with their neighbors to influence them for healthy lifestyles. Because *LifeRise* believes in the importance of the family and community, we will support only those programs that are family- and community-based, which draw upon the assets, resources, and capacities of these societal institutions to address HIV/AIDS. We will not support programs that place children in non family-like structures, for example orphanages, nor those which isolate children from their communities and their culture.

Marriage as a Sacred Covenant

God's design for marriage is as a life commitment between one adult man and one adult woman grounded in mutual love and respect. All sexual relations should be consensual and take place only within the bonds of marriage. Young people should be abstinent until marriage and husbands and wives mutually faithful. Those who follow this plan will experience the highest possible good in their relationships and lives. *LifeRise* programs will affirm this ideal and strengthen marriages to attain it.

Value of Children

As innocents in the HIV/AIDS struggle, children deserve to enter the world with a legacy of health, free of HIV infection. As gifts from God, they are also entitled to live lives in which they are loved, nurtured, protected, and valued so they will experience the richness of childhood and reach their full potential as adults.

Elevation of Women's Status

Every woman is created in God's image and loved by him as a complete individual in her own right. Jesus advanced this view by treating women with dignity and elevating their status. We will support projects which uphold the full human and legal rights of women; empower them to make decisions about their sexuality and protect themselves from HIV; protect them from discrimination, violence, and harmful cultural practices; and, facilitate education, economic empowerment, and other opportunities for them to achieve self-actualization and advancement.

Humiliation of Women through Prostitution and Sexual Trafficking

Prostitution and sexual trafficking demean and enslave women. *LifeRise* will support programs that oppose these inherently harmful practices and empower women to escape from sexual exploitation.

Freedom from Controlling Substances

Controlling substances rob an individual of personal freedom and a sound mind. Injecting drug use, especially with shared needles, poses an immediate threat of HIV transmission. Use of *any* controlling substances, including drugs and alcohol, leads to impaired judgment which often results in high-risk sexual behavior. For these reasons, *LifeRise* will support programs that prevent and treat addictions to controlling substances.

Risk Reduction

LifeRise believes in the ultimate good of risk elimination and will encourage the ceasing of behaviors such as prostitution and injecting drug use which lead to HIV infection. However, because we also value a compassionate response, we see a role for temporizing measures to reduce harm such as condoms and very limited needle exchange (as part of educational outreach). Therefore, although primary behavior change will always be our overarching goal, we will consider supporting programs that incorporate risk reduction.

Equity of Service

Service shall be founded on the principle of equity and therefore be available to all. Our programs will serve all beneficiaries regardless of their religious faith and their response to our service. Beneficiaries will not be required to participate in spiritual activities in order to receive program services.

Dignity of Life

All persons are endowed by God with dignity of life, no matter what their gender, age, racial or ethnic background, economic status, state of health, or chosen lifestyle. LifeRise will foster love and respect towards all beneficiaries and will oppose discrimination, stigmatization, and negative “bashing.”

Full Information to Allow Exercise of Free Will and Informed Choice

We believe that God has given everyone a free will. In order for individuals to exercise this will in making informed choices, they shall have full and accurate information about all the options available to them. This means that LifeRise programs shall inform participants as appropriate for age about risk reduction alternatives such as condoms, as well as about contraception, even if they do not feel it is their role to actively promote or distribute these options.

No Coercion

Although we may share spiritual concepts with beneficiaries in the hope that those who are hurting will be drawn to Christ, the principle of a God-given free will (please see above, *Full Information to Allow Exercise of Free Will and Informed Choice*) means that we condemn as unethical any attempt to coerce an individual to embrace a particular belief or take a course of action. Beneficiaries shall be free to accept or reject spiritual concepts without coercion.

Response and Engagement of the Church

LifeRise believes that the church has a mandate to apply understanding of the gospel to the HIV/AIDS crisis and take action, relieving vulnerability and suffering on an individual level, and making an impact and giving voice to God’s principles on a global level. We gain credibility locally by conducting projects that are effective and of high quality. We enlarge our sphere of influence nationally by scaling up to extend reach. And, we engage and enter into dialogue internationally in the HIV/AIDS arena to promote Christian values and response.

Collaboration

LifeRise will collaborate as broadly as possible with all who fight AIDS and its effects, though we will not enter into agreements that prohibit or interfere with our living out the values expressed above.