

# GLOBAL HEALTH Responding to HIV in emergencies

## HIV AND EMERGENCIES

Every year, millions of people around the world are affected by humanitarian crises, both natural and man-made. A significant proportion of people living with HIV (PLHIV) are also affected by conflict, disasters or displacement. HIV can spread quickly in conditions of poverty, powerlessness and social instability, conditions that are often at their most extreme during emergencies.

## WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

In emergency situations, World Vision's aim is to contribute to the well-being of children, their families and communities during conditions of turmoil and disruption. Through HIV prevention care and advocacy measures in times of crises, we aim to:

- Reduce transmission and impact of HIV on children, their families and communities within an emergency.
- Implement policies, programmes and interventions to enable an appropriate response to HIV in low and high HIV prevalence contexts in emergencies.
- Retain a Christian identity and ensure children's needs are met, their well-being enhanced, communities are empowered and resilience is improved during the emergency.
- Equip all emergency staff with a good basic understanding of HIV and with skills and tools to respond to HIV within emergencies.
- Reduce HIV vulnerability and risk amongst beneficiaries (particularly women and children).
- Mainstream HIV within all sectors of World Vision's emergency response (health and nutrition, child protection, education, WASH, shelter and food programming).
- Enable people living with HIV and their households to meet their care and support needs during an emergency.
- Assure authorities and community leaders are engaged.



As well as using international guidelines and resources World Vision has developed several tools to help implement the above objectives, including:

- *Toolkit for Faith-based Communities*: There is need for greater collaboration between local religious communities and others responding to HIV during emergencies. This toolkit is to help faith-based communities understand and be better equipped to respond effectively to HIV during an emergency.
- *The Guide to Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition in Emergencies*: The MNCH and nutrition guide outlines a package of effective MNCH and nutrition services that can be delivered by World Vision in an acute phase of a disaster. The guide also defines focus areas for direct humanitarian programming and advocacy as well as a clear rationale for expanded approaches and interventions to be implemented in more stable situations.
- *DADDs*: The Do-Assure-Don't Do manual provides specific guidance to ensure World Vision staff can provide appropriate responses in the first phase of a humanitarian emergency. The DADDs guidance covers the following sectors that form the core of emergency responses: Children in Emergencies (including Child Protection and Education), Food Programming, Health (including Nutrition and HIV), Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support, Protection, Shelter and Infrastructure, and WASH.