



PROGRAM UPDATE: HEALTH CARE

Your Impact: Connecting All People to Health Care

In low-income communities, getting adequate health care is not a simple matter. Lack of transport, high costs, and education are all factors that make accessibility even harder. The result is that hundreds of thousands of people die from preventable diseases, childbirth complications, or waterborne illnesses each year.

Through holistic projects facilitated by local Nazarene churches and supported by Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, people receive care in both the short and long-term. Because many of these health care projects are integrative, they connect people to existing medical care and empower new behaviors to create lasting change.

One example is spread across five countries in Africa, where a new integrated project is connecting community health volunteers to those who cannot access medical care easily. Volunteers strengthen communication with medical facilities in addition to providing better options for clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.



Volunteers in Kenya gather to share health care resources with the community.



In **Liberia**, clean water and skills training fight illness holistically.



A center in **Lebanon** is providing both physical and mental health care.



Volunteers in **Zambia** are de-stigmatizing HIV and AIDS through dignity-affirming service.



In **Central America**, mobile medical brigades bring aid to those who need it most.

Health Care in Kenya

Two years ago, Evelyn was operating a business weaving baskets and selling vegetables when two health crises in a row struck her family. Evelyn, who lives in rural Kenya, discovered she had breast cancer at the same time that her husband, Philip, suffered a motorbike accident that left him unable to walk without assistance.

Medical and transportation bills quickly piled up. The couple stopped visiting the doctor, and despite her best efforts, Evelyn's cancer-induced injuries became infected. Evelyn and Philip are also HIV positive, but the costs prevented them from receiving medication. Unable to work and dependent on her children for daily household tasks, Evelyn saw little hope for change. "We had lost hope of living again because there was no one to help us," she says.

Community health volunteers, part of the new integrated health project, came to Evelyn's home after hearing her story. They quickly realized the urgency and provided transportation to the hospital for ongoing HIV treatment. The volunteers also helped Evelyn dress her wounds, delivered the medication, and offered health and spiritual counseling. Now, Evelyn is hopeful about restarting her business soon. "Sometimes the church visits us with their health workers, and that makes me feel loved," Evelyn explains.

Learn more at ncm.org/healthcare