

LIFE STORIES: THE GLOBAL FIGHT FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

Request for pitches from freelance writers and multimedia reporters based in EGPAF-supported countries.

[The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation](#) (EGPAF)—a nonprofit working to eliminate pediatric AIDS through research, advocacy, and prevention and treatment programs—is launching a new feature service. We are looking for freelance writers, photographers, videographers, and audio reporters to pitch stories about the people whose lives are influenced by the programs that EGPAF supports. The stories should highlight the urgency of the work of EGPAF while preserving the dignity of all people involved in the struggle, from health workers to clients.

Serious inquiries can be sent to lifestories@pedaids.org. While we prefer a complete pitch, reporters working in [EGPAF-supported countries](#) may contact us for clarification and direction.

Stories must come from one of the following countries: [Cameroon](#), [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [India](#), [Kenya](#), [Lesotho](#), [Malawi](#), [Mozambique](#), [Rwanda](#), [Swaziland](#), [Tanzania](#), [Uganda](#), [Zambia](#), or [Zimbabwe](#).

Stories will focus on maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, pediatric treatment, and related issues. Below are some entry points for developing stories:

- **[Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV](#)**: Expectant mothers living with HIV enroll in an antiretroviral drug treatment program to dramatically reduce the chance of them transmitting HIV to their children in utero or through breastfeeding after birth.
- **[Integrated maternal-infant health services](#)**: In a clinical setting, expectant mothers have access to a range of health services, including treatment for HIV, tuberculosis, and other diseases; nutrition assistance; and family planning.
- **Treatment of infants born with HIV**: Without treatment, 80 percent of children born with HIV will die before age 5. But families and communities who overcome barriers to treatment can give children the possibility of longer and healthier lives.
- **[Health systems strengthening](#)**: EGPAF staff works to improve local health systems by helping to build facilities, training staff, or working with local governments to develop better infrastructure so that local health initiatives can stand on their own
- **Health programs administered by affiliates and partners**: EGPAF works with affiliates in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Côte D'Ivoire (in addition to its own programs in those countries). Stories about the work of [our affiliate organizations](#) are welcome. In India, [EGPAF programs are administered through SAATHI](#); stories from SAATHI clinics are welcome.

- **Prevention of transmission between sexually active adults:** EGPAF supports male circumcision, condom use, and education about reducing HIV transmission.
- **Ramifications of HIV status and stigmatization:** EGPAF works to eliminate stigma and sexual and gender-based violence and helps provide psychosocial support and counseling services.

The stories themselves should focus on individuals and their relationships to services supported by EGPAF. Stories may focus on triumphs in improving health or preventing the transmission of infectious disease. But they may also relate difficulties—for example, stigma, transportation hardships, or lack of supplies. Below are three potential stories:

- An expectant mother living with HIV in Kenya learns of her status and enrolls in treatment at a local clinic; her child is born HIV-free.
- A health clinic worker in Zambia rises early and provides critical service to dozens of women and children during the course of a day. In the evening, she takes a breath and reflects upon the value of her work.
- A radio host educates the public about HIV and uses his mouthpiece to demystify the virus.

While issues of maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, or pediatric treatment are at the center of these stories, the lives of people should be in the foreground. Journalistic standards apply to both the style and the content of the final product. Rate of pay will be determined by the components described in the story pitch.

EGPAF will retain full rights to the stories. Writers, photographers, videographers, and other producers will be credited for their work.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Articles should be written as news features, 800-1,500 words, built largely upon description (showing rather than telling). These stories must reflect the facts of the situation and hold up to the scrutiny of fact-checking, as would an article in a reputable newspaper or news site. While profiles should focus on a single individual or family, multiple sourcing creates a stronger article. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story.

Subjects featured must be fully informed of the purpose of the project and give their written consent. Three or more names and contact information should be submitted with the finished article to facilitate fact-checking.

Feature articles must be accompanied by three to five high-quality photographs with complete outline documentation and signed consent forms. People in the photographs must be

identified; locations and dates must be specified. If there is a reason to preserve anonymity, please clarify the circumstances with EGPAF. If quality photographs cannot be obtained by the writer, she or he must notify the EGPAF to help locate a photographer.

While the following stories are not about people participating in EGPAF programs, they illustrate the type of feature we are seeking:

When a Cow Is Part of the Family

<http://www.irinnews.org/report/93353/kenya-when-a-cow-is-part-of-the-family>

In Mexico, a Lebanese Medical Student Finds a Model of Excellence

<http://www.pih.org/blog/model-of-excellence-how-pihs-work-in-mexico-inspired-a-lebanese-med-student>

Helping Farmers Feed Their Families

<http://www.bread.org/what-we-do/resources/newsletter/february-2013/field-focus.html>

Aquaculture in Senegal

<http://www.bread.org/what-we-do/resources/newsletter/august-2013/field-focus-aquaculture-in.html>

MULTIMEDIA STORIES

Photography

Photographers may submit photos for slideshows of 10-30 high-quality images that tell a story. Photos must be submitted with complete outline documentation and signed consent forms. People in the photographs must be identified; locations and dates must be specified. If there is a reason to preserve anonymity, please clarify the circumstances with EGPAF. The photographs must reflect the facts of the situation and hold up to the scrutiny of fact-checking, as would photographs on a reputable news site. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story.

Three or more names and contact information should be submitted with the finished package to facilitate fact-checking. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story. High-quality audio may be a component in a photo story.

Payment will reflect the complexity of the final product.

While the following photo stories are not about people participating in EGPAF programs, they illustrate the type of feature we are seeking:

My Life With HIV: Siana Musine

(with audio) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zua5KTHGpio>

(without audio)

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/articlefull.cfm?id=5607&cat=slideshow>

Stopping HIV at Birth (with audio)

http://www.today.com/id/22029535/ns/today-today_health/t/stopping-hiv-birth/#.UjnSuX-SMUM

Video

Videographers may submit professional quality video of three to five minutes. Videos must be submitted with signed consent forms. People in the video must be identified; locations and dates must be specified. If there is a reason to preserve anonymity, please clarify the circumstances with EGPAF. An accepted video must reflect the facts of the situation and hold up to the scrutiny of fact-checking, as would video on a reputable news site. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story.

Three or more names and contact information should be submitted with the finished package to facilitate fact-checking. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story. Translation to English (or addition of subtitles) is required if speakers on the video do not speak in easily understood idiom.

While the following video stories are not specifically about people participating in EGPAF programs, they illustrate the type of video stories that we are seeking:

HIV Prevention Under the Moonlight

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K51CTAa-WdY&list=PL40755A41EC3D6DED&index=1>

Heroes of HIV: The TV Presenter

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPdqk3g6_W4

Myama Against the Odds

<http://vimeo.com/56861083#at=0>

Peruvian Mothers Fight Malnutrition With Education

<http://vimeo.com/69177368>

Audio

Reporters may also submit professional quality podcasts of five to ten minutes that tell a story. People on the recording must be identified; locations and dates must be specified. If there is a reason to preserve anonymity, please clarify the circumstances with EGPAF. The audio product must reflect the facts of the situation and hold up to the scrutiny of fact-checking, as would audio on a reputable radio channel or news site. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story.

Three to five high-quality photographs must be submitted with complete cutline documentation and signed written consent forms. People in the photographs must be identified; locations and dates must be specified. If there is a reason to preserve anonymity, please clarify the circumstances with EGPAF.

Three or more names and contact information should be submitted with the finished package to facilitate fact-checking. Some connection to EGPAF must be included in the story. Translation to English is required if speakers on the recording do not speak in easily understood idiom.

While the following audio stories are not specifically about people participating in EGPAF programs, they illustrate the type of audio stories that we are seeking:

A Doctor Returns to Somaliland

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/podcast/episode.cfm?id=5651&cat=podcast&ref=news-index>

Giving the Right Foods in a Nutrition Crisis

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/podcast/episode.cfm?id=5552&cat=podcast>