

[‘HIV-Positive Lives’](#) (published under the title ‘Acercandonos’ in Spanish) presents the **diverse stories of 28 individuals in 14 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean** who are either living with HIV/AIDS or reaching out to those who do. Their personal stories reveal the deeply rooted stigma and prejudices surrounding HIV/AIDS, and their foundations in myths that perpetuate ignorance, indifference and fear. Yet these stories are for the most part positive - transitioning from times of profound crisis and loss into phases of recovery, hope and newly found purpose.

The book begins with a Preface from the Executive Director of UNAIDS, and an overview of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the LAC region. These are followed by 14 chapters, each focussed on a particular myth about HIV/AIDS and its relationship to the lives of the people who have been interviewed and photographed for this book. Finally, an Epilogue presents World Vision's strategy in responding to HIV/AIDS, with a call to action.

The 128-page publication is a joint initiative of LACRO Communications and HIV/AIDS programme staff in all 14 National Offices of the LAC region, is linked to the Lesson for Life, and has four key objectives:

- Raise public awareness about the myths, realities and responses surrounding HIV/AIDS;
- Promote discussions on HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination
- Give a voice and communicate hope to those who are infected, affected and marginalised by HIV/AIDS;
- Raise funds for care and prevention.