



LPICO Mission & History:

MISSION: We are working to improve survival rates of preemies and sick babies in low-income regions.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 75% of preterm babies can be saved with feasible cost-effective care. The organization lists actions such as :

- **Counselling** on healthy diet, optimal nutrition, and tobacco/substance use.
- **Fetal measurements** including use of ultrasound to help determine gestational age and detect multiple pregnancies.
- **A minimum of 8 contacts with health professionals** throughout pregnancy to identify and manage other risk factors, such as infections.
- **Better access to contraceptives** and increased empowerment could also help reduce preterm births.
- **Kangaroo mother care** skin-to-skin contact and frequent breastfeeding.
- **Antibiotics** to treat newborn infections.
- **Essential care** during childbirth and in the postnatal period.

These simple acts, in addition to others listed on the WHO website can make a huge difference in preemie survival. Our goal is to spread this message to low-income countries and provide resources so that ***all preemies have a fighting chance.***

HISTORY:

In January 2017, baby Liyah came into the world prematurely. After God's grace and a couple months in the NICU, she was home with her family. Ninety percent of preemies born in the US will go home with their families. Ninety percent of these same preemies will not, if they are born in a low-income region. Liyah's grandmother, Marie Lewis, learned this shocking statistic and decided to help change it. After all, there was a time when preemie families in the US also lacked basic knowledge on preemie issues. In March 2017, the Liyah Premature Infant Care Organization, Inc. (**LPICO**) was launched. The main objective is to ***give all preemies a fighting chance.***