# 100+ PROJECTS SELECTED TO RECEIVE VIIV HEALTHCARE GLOBAL HIV AND COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDING



£1.5m Research Emergency Response Fund - aiding critical research into the impact of COVID-19 on people living with HIV



£1.5m Community Emergency Response Fund - supporting HIV communities negatively affected by the pandemic

### **IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON THE HIV COMMUNITY**

The pandemic threatens to undo more than a decade's progress in reducing AIDS-related deaths.<sup>1</sup>

Lockdowns, restricted movement and business closures pose universal challenges, but HIV communities are also facing:



Reduced access to antiretroviral medicines<sup>2</sup>



Heightened stigma against marginalised LGBTQ+ people<sup>2</sup>



Increased abuse of women<sup>3</sup>



Discrimination against sex workers who are being left out from Government Social Grant schemes<sup>4</sup>



Uncertainty amongst people living with HIV and their physicians about the unknown risks associated with COVID-19



#### RESEARCH FUND

Research Emergency Response Fund priority areas:



Disease trends in specific populations



Healthcare management initiatives in COVID-19 environments



Biological indicators of whether an individual is likely to develop disease, and to what extent

- 7 projects, covering 26 countries will explore COVID-19 progression and severity in people living with HIV
- Close attention will be paid to the impact of the pandemic on levels of HIV diagnosis, treatment, transmission and successful suppression in key groups, including children and young people

#### COMMUNITY FUND

Community Emergency Response Fund priority areas:



Protecting access to HIV prevention, care and treatment



Provision of virtual support networks



Financial support for critical community staff



Community monitoring and feedback to record the impact of COVID-19 on HIV services



#### **Supporting projects across 20 countries**

Grants will support projects providing social and mental health-related care for key populations including women, children, older people, marginalised communities and LGBTQ+ people living with HIV

The Community Emergency Response Fund is not intended for the purchase of pharmaceutical products

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- 1. World Health Organization. The cost of inaction. May 2020. Available at: https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/11-05-2020-the-cost-of-inaction-covid-19-related-service-disruptions-could-cause-hundreds-of-thousands-of-extra-deaths-from-hiv#:~:text=A%20modelling%20group%20con-vened%20by,000%20extra%20deaths%20from%20AIDS%2D Last accessed: June 2020. 2. Reuters. No Medicine, No Food. May 2020. Available at: https://uk.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-lgbt-aids/feature-no-medicine-no-food-coronavirus-restrictions-amplify-health-risks-to-lg-bt-people-with-hiv-idUKL4N2CT2ZN. Last accessed: June 2020. 3. World Health Organization. COVID-19 and violence against women. March 2020. Available at: https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/emergencies/COVID-19-VAW-full-text.pdf?ua=1. Last accessed: June 2020.
- **4.** Global Network of Sex Work Projects and UNAIDS joint statement: Impact of COVID-19. June 2020. Available at: https://www.nswp.org/page/covid-19. Last accessed: June 2020.