

THE ViiV HEALTHCARE POSITIVE ACTION FUND

Call for Proposals Round 1 – 2021 Community-Based Harm Reduction Guidance Notes

Please read this document carefully: it explains the ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Fund application criteria and what you should include in your application. Please check that your application clearly reflects this guidance.

Positive Action Round 1 Call for Proposals 2021 – Community-Based Harm Reduction

The 2021 Round 1 Call for Proposals is focused on Innovator Grants and is open to applications of up to £50,000 per year over two years (up to £100,000 over the two-year period.).

There are geographical restrictions on applications. Positive Action invite proposals from the below countries where there is a significant rise in HIV incidence among PWID, established needle and syringe programmes and opioid substitution therapy services, as well as strong potential for adoption of innovative community-led service delivery.

Focus countries: **Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Vietnam.**

Positive Action invites applications to the 2021 Round 1 funding window from **15 January 2021 (23:59 GMT) to 12th February 2021 (23:59 GMT)**. Applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee at their meeting in March 2021.

Positive Action online grant management system.

Please submit your application via our Cybergrant online application system

Please do not email applications to ViiV Healthcare or Positive Action staff members or Positive Action mailboxes. We will only accept Concept Notes via the online application system. If you have any problems accessing the online system please review Appendix 2, the FAQs in this document and/or contact the Positive Action mailbox. WW.PositiveAction@viivhealthcare.com

Completing Your Application

The application form requires you to outline the intervention that your organisation is trying to implement, how you will address this issue, what it is that you are trying to understand and your capabilities to respond. It will also require completion of a detailed budget, and a selection of indicators. Please ensure you complete this form in full and ensure that it meets our application criteria.

Concept Notes that are not well aligned to our criteria will not be taken further.

Deadline: All applications must be received by **23:59 GMT** 12 February 2021 to be considered by the Technical Review Committee in March 2021.

Should your application be successful, the content will be shared with our partner the Charities Aid Foundation, who will carry out the due diligence and eventual payment. As part of their due diligence, they may require additional information. You will be contacted if this is required. As part of this you will be asked to sign up to CAF's terms and conditions.

Charities Aid Foundation undertakes due diligence on all the grants made through the ViiV Healthcare Positive Action Fund and will need to contact you regarding your application. The data collected in the Application Form will be provided to them.

How Innovator Proposals Should Be Targeted

A rising epidemic among people who inject drugs (PWID)

Approximately 10% of new adult HIV infections worldwide were among people who inject drugs.¹ Facing prevalent stigma, discrimination and widespread violence, people who inject drugs and other key populations are 22 times more likely to acquire HIV than the general population.² In many countries, harm reduction is ignored, and a public health response is underfunded or inadequately implemented.

What is harm reduction?

Harm reduction refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim to minimise negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws. Harm reduction is rooted in a commitment to addressing discrimination and ensuring that nobody is excluded from the health and social services they may need because of their drug use, their race, their gender, their gender identity, their sexual orientation, their choice of work, or their economic status.³

Leading global health bodies including the WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, the UN General Assembly, the Global Fund and PEPFAR endorse the uptake of harm reduction services for the prevention, treatment and care of HIV among PWID.⁴ A [2018 United Nations common position](#) commits to increased investment in harm reduction to "reduce new HIV infections, improve health outcomes and deliver broader social benefits by reducing pressure on health-care and criminal justice systems."⁵

¹ See [UNAIDS 2018, 'Miles to Go'](#), Page 14.

² See [UNAIDS 2020, 'Seizing the Moment'](#), Page 48.

³ See [Harm Reduction International, 2020](#).

⁴ See [WHO, 'Harm Reduction'](#)

⁵ See the [2018 United Nations common position](#), 'Summary of deliberations.' Page 13.

Harm reduction services, including needle–syringe programmes, opioid substitution therapy, safe injecting sites, along with HIV testing and treatment — are proven methods to combat the spread of HIV effectively and cost-efficiently.⁶

Why community-based harm reduction services?

Community-based HIV and harm reduction services are situated within the community. Services may be delivered by health workers and/or members of the community.⁷

It is a well-established fact that community-based harm reduction services are effective providers and links to critical HIV care, especially in places where gaps in broader health infrastructure leave people who use drugs behind.⁸ Positive Action supports people and communities of people who inject drugs to reimagine and innovate service delivery models that enable person-centred, stigma-free and community-based harm reduction and HIV care.

Topic Areas

Your application should explain in-detail how your community-based approach to harm reduction services addresses specific gaps and unmet needs in the HIV response, within the context you are working in. Interventions that focus on addressing structural barriers are encouraged.

This Innovator Round focuses on the following topic areas:

1. **Collaboration between PWID, broader community, healthcare providers and/or government stakeholders to drive referral, uptake and retention to community-based HIV and harm reduction services.**

For examples, see:

- a. In China, Yunnan Institute of Drug Abuse, AIDS Care China, and Frontline AIDS work with law enforcement and health facilities on a community-based HIV and harm reduction treatment model. The police and health providers share data on a drug user's treatment records and risk of relapse, in order to refer them to the right community treatment services, rather than arresting or sending them to a compulsory detoxification centre.⁹
- b. In Kenya, a study on community-based HIV and harm reduction services found that community outreach programmes are crucial to supporting PWID to overcome barriers to facility-based care. It also

⁶ See Reddon, Marshall and Milloy, 2018. [Elimination of HIV transmission through novel and established prevention strategies among people who inject drugs](#). *The Lancet HIV*. 6(2), pages E128-E136.

⁷ For more information on community-based HIV services, see [WHO 'Operations Manual for Delivery of HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment at Primary Health Centres in High-Prevalence, Resource-Constrained Settings.'](#) Chapter 4.

⁸ See [UNAIDS 'Communities Deliver](#)

⁹ For more on the community-based drug treatment model in Yunnan Province, see [Frontline AIDS, 'Piloting Alternatives to Incarceration to Address Drug Use in China'](#)

found that PWID are regular victims of violence and harassment. Police and PWID trained on the rights of PWID to support referral to appropriate care and prevention of harassment¹⁰

2. **Innovative community-based HIV and harm reduction service delivery in rapidly changing environments or contexts, including, but not limited to, peer-led models.**

For examples, see:

- a. In Côte d'Ivoire, community-based organisations distribute COVID-19 prevention materials alongside clean needles and syringes, as well as promoting good handwashing among PWID accessing harm reduction services at facilities.¹¹
- b. In Spain, a study investigated the effectiveness of take-home methadone treatment to maximise adherence among PWID, during government-imposed lockdown from COVID-19.¹²
- c. In the United States, new harm reduction vending machines are dispensing clean syringes and safe sex kits for PWID in Las Vegas.¹³
- d. In France, community-based organisations are adapting harm reduction services to meet the needs of men who have sex with men practicing chemsex.¹⁴
- e. In Malaysia, a study compared the timing and occurrence of opioid relapse in individuals transitioning from compulsory drug detention centres to community-based voluntary drug treatment centres in light of shifting national policy.¹⁵

Please note: Focused initiatives that demonstrate real impact in one topic area are most frequently the strongest proposals. Please provide a strong rationale if you want to focus on more than one topic area.

Funding criteria:

1. Who can apply?

¹⁰ For more about the study and community-based programme, see [Frontline AIDS, 'Access to HIV care and harm reduction for people who inject drugs in Kenya'](#)

¹¹ For more on community adaptations of harm reduction services during COVID, see [UNAIDS, 'Harm reduction continues for people who use drugs during COVID-19 in Côte d'Ivoire'](#)

¹² For more information on the study and take-home methadone approach, see Trujols et. al., 2020, [Increased flexibility in methadone take-home scheduling during the COVID-19 pandemic: Should this practice be incorporated into routine clinical care?](#) *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. 119.

¹³ Learn more about the Southern Nevada Health District's harm reduction vending machines, from [Dr. Joe Iser, Chief Health Officer 'Innovating to Reduce Harm in Las Vegas'](#)

¹⁴ Learn more about AIDES, the community-based HIV organisation, and their harm reduction services, [NAM Aidsmap, 'The chemsex response is reshaping sexual health services and reinventing harm reduction'](#)

¹⁵ Wegman, et. al, 2016. [Relapse to opioid use in opioid-dependent individuals released from compulsory drug detention centres compared with those from voluntary methadone treatment centres in Malaysia: a two-arm, prospective observational study](#). *The Lancet Global Health*. 5(2), pages e198-e207

Non-governmental and community-based organisations that are or can deliver innovative and sustained harm reduction services at the community level. The Innovator funding round is about trying out new ideas, changing existing models or developing new ones in ensuring that people who use drugs are able to access the services they require, in their community.

2. Financial Eligibility Requirements

- a. We do not provide grants of more than 50% of an organisation's total annual revenue (income) in low- and middle-income countries and 25% of an organisation's total annual revenue (income) in high income countries¹⁶ (or 10% over a 12-month period for US-based organisations). You will need to provide your current annual income, in GBP, for the last 12 months and the most recent 12-month accounting period
- b. You will be required to provide a list of any existing secured funding your organisation has received or will receive from ViiV Healthcare for any project/work in this last 12 months. Please do not include this current application in this list.

3. Outline Budget

The online application system will require you to enter a detailed budget. This should show spend for each year of the project against lines including any capital costs, staffing, travel, training, monitoring and evaluation, and communications.

Please follow the budget template in the application form.

Please note the following:

- The total grant amount cannot account for more than **50%** of an organisation's overall income for countries in LICs/MICS.
- **85%** of project budgets must be spent in country; and
- Overheads over **15%** of the total project budget will not be accepted.
- **Budgets will be strictly adhered to** – do not request more than the allowable amount as you will not be able to submit your application.

We request that all budgets are submitted in Pound Sterling (at the prevailing rate of exchange). **You must include an annual and total budget for your project in Pound Sterling to be considered for funding.**

4. New Project

Your project must consist of new work. It can include projects transferred to a new location (s) and/or include the expansion of a recently evaluated model or pilot. It may not be a continuation of a previously funded activity/service.

¹⁶ [World Bank Country and Lending Groups – World Bank Data Help Desk](#)

5. Community Focus

Positive Action believes that engaging local communities who injects drugs, is critical to addressing the drivers of health and life inequalities, it therefore seeks to promote community responses that work at the level of changing beliefs, attitudes and behaviours to improve health and rights at the community level.

Community engagement, participation and/or leadership, particularly from people who use drugs are mandatory requirements for this Positive Action grants: your proposal must demonstrate how your work will engage, involve, empower and benefit affected communities.

Timelines

The Positive Action application, review and grant process can take up to three months to complete. The following table outlines the review process for the 2021 Call for Proposals.

Positive Action Funding Rounds and themes announced	
Funding Round 1 opens	15 January 2021
Funding Round 1 closes	12 February 2021
Technical Review Committee meets	Week commencing 08 March 2021
Recommended applications pass through validation	Week commencing 22 March 2021
Additional information and documentation may be requested	Week commencing 22 March 2021
Final decision and contracting	Week commencing 31 May 2021

Please note that these dates are a guide.

General Guidance

Your Organisation

Positive Action is targeted at supporting communities affected by HIV and AIDS. Any properly registered not-for-profit organisation that represents, or is working with or for, affected communities is eligible to submit a proposal.

The Size and Period of the Grant

The funding available is up to £50,000 per year up to a maximum of £100,000 over two years.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Program monitoring and evaluation is highly recommended. Please review the Positive Action results framework to ensure that your indicators are aligned and

ensure that you agree to report on indicators on the application form. Please note that relevant indicators are pre-selected for this thematic area and will be agreed prior to contracting.

Amplify Impact

AMPLIFY IMPACT consists of a series of support options designed to facilitate joined-up impact, ongoing learning and improvement and builds on and replaces earlier, more limited offers of Technical Assistance. Applicants need to indicate on their application form, whether you will request Amplify Impact support. This will not impact your application.

Successful grantees can apply for Amplify Impact in two areas;

Accompaniment: Technical Assistance support: Investment in grantee through the inclusion of an additional fixed budget allocation (up to 10% of total grant size) to procure required technical assistance for institutional strengthening areas.

Skills Connector: Ability to access advice and short-term, long-distance, specialised support from GSK/ViiV Employees. This focusses on providing a package of support from 3 hours – 10 days (per year)

References and Validation

Two references are required. References should have knowledge of your organisation's work and should include a named contact with phone number and email.

If your funding is approved by the Board, validation of your organisation's charitable status is required before funding is made available. Validation will be undertaken by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Please see the FAQs for more details on Validation.

Multiple Proposals

As a rule Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should not apply for more than one grant in this call for proposals. However, we will consider applications from different country offices of the same organisation.