



THE ViiV HEALTHCARE POSITIVE ACTION FUND

Call for Proposals, Momentum Round 1 – 2021

Improving retention in HIV care among children living with HIV and their caregivers

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.

2021 Round 1 Call for Proposals

The 2021 Round 1 Momentum Call for Proposals is focused on ending paediatric AIDS and is open to applications of up to £100,000 per year over three years, i.e., up to £300,000 over a three-year period.

Positive Action invites applications from 26 March 2021 (00:01 GMT) to 23 April 2021 (23:59 BST). Applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee at their meeting in May 2021.

Specific application deadlines for other funding rounds are available on the Positive Action website.

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 applications 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, selection of indicators and

an outline of a workplan. 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 BST** 23 April 2021 to be considered by the Technical Review Committee in May 2021.

Should your application be successful, the content will be shared with our partner the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), 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.

CAF 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.

Context for the Momentum Call for Proposals

"The world has failed to diagnose and start treatment for almost half the children living with HIV" ([UNAIDS, 2020](#)).

There has been significant momentum towards reaching targets outlined in the [Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive](#). This strategy has enabled a 48% decline in new infections in children during the first 5 years of implementation ([UNAIDS, 2020](#)). The fast track targets were then set looking to build on this momentum and reduce the 190,000 infections in 2015 to 20,000 by 2020 (See [Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free](#)).

Progress since 2015 has been limited. Globally, 150,000 new HIV infections among children aged 0-14 years, were reported in 2019 ([UNAIDS, 2020](#)). Treatment coverage among 0-14 year olds makes for equally disappointing reading, with just 53% of HIV positive children receiving the antiretroviral therapy (ART) that they need ([UNICEF, 2020](#)). The improved ART coverage rate among pregnant women living with HIV is not translating down to a reduced rate of HIV infection among children. [UNAIDS results from 2019](#) show that over two thirds of children living with HIV not on ART are between the ages of 5 and 14.

While adult populations are steadily advancing towards the Global Targets, progress for children increasingly lags behind ([UNAIDS, 2020](#)).

Recent data shows:

- Low testing of children for HIV
- Inadequate treatment services for children: in 2019, children accounted for 5% of people living with HIV but represented 14% of all AIDS-related deaths;
- Poor retention in care for children living with HIV: UNAIDS data shows that only 37% of children receiving ART achieve viral suppression.

Recent analysis by UNAIDS identifies key gaps yet to address, in order to reach the Global Plan targets ([UNAIDS 2020](#)). These recommendations include identifying those children above the age of 5 that have limited access to the health sector through innovative and holistic approaches (e.g. case management approaches, peer support, mental health support, support for caregivers, referral to other relevant services and institutions).

In many settings, there is insufficient investment into mental wellbeing programming designed for caregivers and children living with HIV ([UNAIDS PCB, 2018](#)). Recent literature reviews suggest adolescent caregivers and their children, in particular, face distinct challenges of access to, and retention in, HIV care. A need for holistic, differentiated services for caregivers and children – especially for adolescent caregivers – is needed. See [Toska et al. \(2020\)](#) for promising programme models supporting the wellbeing of adolescent parents and children.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children living or at risk of HIV cannot be ignored. Children and caregivers are facing increased barriers to accessing ART, impending or current stock-outs of ART, restricted movement to health facilities, and worsening social and economic situations. Children's health and wellbeing is under greater threat. The COVID-19 pandemic does, however, allow for critical thinking on how differentiated services can ensure caregivers and children have access to, and are retained in, HIV services. This Positive Action Momentum Call for Proposals welcomes applications that place children at the centre of differentiated service approaches, in order to improve HIV outcomes among those children and their caregivers.

How Momentum Proposals Should Be Targeted

"Globally, pregnant women, children and adolescents living with HIV are in desperate need of newly energized and catalytic HIV responses centred on human rights and equity." ([UNICEF, 2020](#))

Focus of Call: Positive Action welcomes proposals designed to improve retention in HIV care among children living with HIV and their caregivers

Positive Action is interested in supporting community-based interventions that demonstrate effectiveness in:

- Scaling up diagnosis and linkage to care of children living with HIV who are not on treatment.
- Linking caregivers of children living with HIV to tailored prevention and mental wellbeing services that ensure retention in care for themselves and their children; and
- Providing differentiated HIV services to children living with HIV

Focus on children aged 5-14 years old: This Momentum Call for Proposals is focused on supporting children between ages 5 through 14 years of age. [UNAIDS results from 2019](#) show that over two thirds of children living with HIV not on ART are between the ages of 5 and 14.

There are fewer opportunities and more limited interactions with the health sector for older children, which highlights the significant challenges with identifying and retaining these children in HIV care. Focused efforts putting these children at the centre and involving their caregivers will be required to make the difference.

Priority countries:

Positive Action welcomes applications from the following priority countries: **Indonesia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mozambique, Uganda, and Kenya.**

These countries have been identified for this Call for Proposals, for their comparatively lower ART coverage for children aged 0-14 (see [UNAIDS, 2020](#); [UNAIDS, 2019](#)):

Country	New infections 0-14	ART coverage 0-14	ART coverage pregnant women	Rate of MTCT
Indonesia ¹	~3,500	22%	15%	29.3%
Cameroon	~3,000	33%	73%	14%
Nigeria	~22,000	36%	43%	22%
Mozambique	~15,000	63%	100%	14%
Uganda	~5,000	66%	100%	6%
Kenya	~6,000	68%	94%	11%

Key considerations for Momentum Proposals

Positive Action awards Momentum grants to proven projects that are prepared to scale-up or replicate in next contexts.

Your application should be specific in describing how the interventions that you want to implement will build on what works to support retention of children living with HIV in care, as well as caregivers of children living with HIV. Interventions that focus on addressing structural barriers are encouraged.

¹ [UNAIDS, 2019 data](#)

Funding criteria:

1. Who can apply?

Non-governmental and community-based organisations that can deliver change at a community level through their links with or representation of the communities affected especially adolescents' girls and young people, in all their diversity

2. New Project

Your project must focus on scaling up or replicating interventions that are proven to work to improve the lives and wellbeing of pregnant and parenting adolescents living with HIV, as well as caregivers of children living with HIV. **It cannot be a pilot project.**

3. Community Focus

Positive Action believes that engaging local communities 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 are mandatory requirements for all Positive Action grants: your proposal must demonstrate how your work will engage, involve and empower and benefit affected communities.

As an example, the [Clinic-CBO Collaboration \(C3\)](#) Programme is one model of community engagement with health facilities and key local stakeholders.

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 2020 Call for Proposals.

Momentum Funding Round 1 opens	26 th March 2021
Momentum Funding Round 1 closes	23 rd April 2021
Technical Review Committee meets	Week commencing 15th May 2021
Recommended applications pass through validation	Week commencing 20 May 2021
Additional information and documentation may be requested	Week commencing 01 st June 2021
Final decision and contracting	August 2021 onwards

Please note that these dates are a guide.

General Guidance

Your Organisation

Positive Action is targeted at helping 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 £100,000 per year up to a maximum of £300,000 over three years.

Outline Budget

The online application system will require you to enter a detailed budget. This should show spending 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 both local currency and 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.**

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 select up to 5 indicators prior to submission. Please note that relevant indicators are pre-selected for this thematic area and will be agreed prior to contracting

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.

Designating a Primary Contact

We require that all international organisations with a country office where the project will be located provide a contact in-country. A secondary contact out of country may also be included.