

POSITIVE ACTION

for Men Who Have Sex with Men
and Transgender People

Strategy Paper (2018-2019)



Introduction

We believe in the power of communities to counter HIV, promote sexual health and wellbeing, and advance social and economic justice for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM),¹ and transgender people.²

We appreciate the diversity of communities within the broader LGBTI population and ensure that any projects we support are grounded in the specific community they seek to serve. Because of this, we support initiatives led by and focused on either MSM or transgender people.

HIV is the core component of the grants we give. We want to support truly community-based organisations to ensure the future for those they serve is one in which there are no new HIV infections, nobody loses their life to AIDS-related illnesses, and there is no stigma, discrimination or violence due to HIV, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

We believe the way to do this is to trust in community leadership, and to align our approach with what communities tell us by empowering organisations not just to address sexual health, but also to consider the holistic needs of the individuals they serve.

Because of this, we support projects that have HIV, sexual health and sexual wellbeing at their core, but also address one other topic: education and economic empowerment; social justice and human rights; homelessness and shelter; or mental health and wellbeing.

Our focus is resource-limited settings/developing countries and those environments which are particularly hostile to MSM or transgender people. More than that, we are committed to directly funding community-based organisations that may not often draw funding from other donors, including those in rural areas or smaller towns and cities, newly created organisations, and others.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

¹ Men who have sex with men (MSM) includes men who identify as gay or bisexual, transgender men who have sex with men, men who identify as heterosexual, and those who do not associate themselves with any particular identity, community or terminology.

² Transgender people refers to people whose gender identity is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. Our grant making for transgender people includes both transgender women and transgender men. Projects which support those people who identify as gender non-conforming, genderqueer or non-binary are also in scope, as are those which support intersex people. **In all cases our grant giving is driven by unmet need and where the burden of HIV and AIDS is greatest.**

Mission Statement

To improve sexual health and wellbeing and advance social and economic justice for men who have sex with men and transgender people in resource-limited and hostile settings.

By doing so, we aim to build evidence to demonstrate that supporting community-level interventions to address HIV in combination with other holistic needs can significantly reduce incidence of HIV, prevalence of STIs and mortality due to AIDS-related illnesses.

Our Small Grants Programme

The flagship programme of MSM & Transgender People, committing a minimum of £1.25 million each year to community-based initiatives focused either on men who have sex with men or transgender people.

- Our focus is **resource-limited settings/developing countries** and those countries which are **particularly hostile to MSM and transgender people**.
- We support projects that address HIV, sexual health and sexual wellbeing **in combination with** one other topic (please see below).
- In some instances, we also support applications that focus on just one of the topics below. For example, an organisation may apply to work on economic empowerment but only if: **(1) they already address HIV and sexual health comprehensively, and; (2) their proposed project focuses only on people at risk of or living with HIV.**
- We encourage all applicants to ensure that **safety & security, activities to strengthen and develop their organisation & reasonable core costs** are adequately addressed in their proposed budget.



| | Examples of projects we support | Examples of projects we do not support |
|--|---|---|
| HIV, Sexual Health and Sexual Wellbeing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HIV prevention & testing - STI prevention & testing - Counselling services - Access to & retention in culturally competent (& gender affirming) health services - Adherence to antiretroviral (ARV) medicines - General sexual health and sexual wellbeing promotion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment - Purchase or prescribing of HIV medicine |
| Education and Economic Empowerment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting young LGBT people to remain in school - Inclusive & comprehensive sex and relationships education - Vocational training, aligned to the job market - Mentorship & other support into work - Working with employers to provide links into employment & inclusive workplaces - Supporting access to social benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School fees - Other long-term costs associated with school attendance - Longer term cash transfer programmes - Short-term income generating activities |
| Social Justice and Human Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes & consequences of stigma, discrimination & violence related to HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity & expression - Access & linkage to justice services & support - Contributing to the documenting and reporting of human rights violations | |
| Homelessness and Shelter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support with pre-empting and mitigating potential periods of homelessness - Linkage to temporary shelter with a clear transition plan into other accommodation - Support with reintegrating into society following a period of homelessness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent costs for individuals |
| Mental Health and Wellbeing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building understanding of the importance of mental health - Providing safe spaces - Counselling & support groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospital or pharmaceutical treatment |

Governance and Geography

Decisions about which organisations we support through our small grants programme are taken by Community Advisory Board, with representatives from the following regions:



- Latin America & the Caribbean
- Africa
- Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia
- Asia-Pacific

Our Community Advisory Board is led by two co-chairs, each of whom has a specialism that complements the skillset of our other board members. The following countries are in scope for our grants:

| Latin America & the Caribbean | Africa | Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia | Asia-Pacific |
|--|---|---|---|
| Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Gr., Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela | Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eq. Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe | Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia Hz., Bulgaria, Comoros, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Tunisia, Turkey, U.A.E, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yemen | Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, North Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam |

Please note:

All grants selected by our Review Boards are only provisionally approved until our due diligence processes conclude and their outcome is reviewed and approved by ViiV Healthcare.

Our Other Grant Making and Initiatives

Strategic Grants

A series of grants which aim to inform, strengthen and complement the work of community-based organisations by supporting:

- 1) Evidence Generation
 - 2) Capacity Building
 - 3) Interventions to Promote an Inclusive Social and Economic Environment
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Support Grants

Grants to pre-empt and mitigate acute hostility to the LGBT community, ensuring community-led HIV, sexual health and human rights programming can be sustained.

Grants are given either (a) in 'clusters', with one more-established organisation providing support to a small number of others, or (b) to specialist donors.

Other Grant Making

A small number of initiatives encouraging innovation and impactful collaborations, with the aim of addressing specific gaps in the HIV response for MSM or transgender people.

Non-Financial Initiatives

We aim to support LGBT-led CBOs in a diverse range of ways, above and beyond our grant making. This includes:

- Skills-building workshops
 - Forums to engage with other CBOs
 - Our Associates Programme (dedicated grant managers, each with a specialist skillset in HIV)
 - Partnerships to support new CBOs, e.g. with grant writing & resource mobilisation
 - Novel conference activities
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