



## THE ViiV HEALTHCARE POSITIVE ACTION FUND

### Open Call for Proposals, - **Humanitarian Fund 2024**

Countries: **Focus countries** - Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, as well as **Countries hosting displaced people from focus countries** - Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt, Kenya, and Uganda

**Please note, in focus countries, we understand that there may be the need to support internally displaced communities, as well as those displaced from another country.**

*The listed countries are based on the Top 10 countries outlined in the [International Rescue Committee's 2024 Emergency Watchlist](#) and the ViiV Positive Action definition of a protracted crises (Please see Page 4 for this definition).*

Funding amount available: **Up to £50,000 for one year.**

### **Guidance Notes**

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

### **Call for Proposals**

This **Humanitarian fund** open call for proposals focuses on supporting people living with, affected by or at risk of acquiring HIV displaced by protracted crises, with a particular focus on women and girls.

Applications are welcomed from Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan (focus countries), as well as Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt, Kenya, and Uganda (countries hosting displaced communities from focus countries) Grants of up to a maximum of £50,000 per applicant will be awarded for project implementation over a one-year period.

Positive Action invites applications from **18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (00:01 BST) to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (23:59 BST)** and will host two webinars to provide more information for applicants during the application window. Join the [first webinar](#) on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at 9am BST and the [second webinar](#) on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October at 1pm BST. Applications will be reviewed by ViiV Positive Action in November 2024.

As part of the application, grantees must clarify which activities will be supported by ViiV Positive Action.

## Funding Round Information

### **Funding available and funding duration**

Grants of up to £50,000 will be awarded for implementation over a one-year period.

ViiV funding cannot account for more than 50% of an organisation's annual income if that organisation is based in a Low-Income or Lower-Middle Income country or in Sub-Saharan Africa. For organisations in Upper-Middle Income and High-Income countries, ViiV funding cannot account for more than 25% of an organisation's annual income (or 10% for US-based organisations). [World Bank Country and Lending Groups – World Bank Data Help Desk](#). This will be calculated by ViiV Positive Action using the requested amount for this Humanitarian fund and the organisations' 2024 income, based on secured funds from a donor and/or other income streams during the period of January to December 2024. The organisation's overall income should include any previous ViiV Healthcare grants.

*You can apply for less than £50,000 if your annual income does not enable you to apply for the full amount available. However, you need to apply for a minimum of £20,000.*

### **Funding Round Context**

#### ***The Humanitarian Context***

Humanitarian crises have a huge impact on the global response to HIV and if not adequately addressed, humanitarian crises have the potential to reverse the gains made in the global HIV response.<sup>1</sup> A protracted crisis is a complex humanitarian situation in which a significant portion of a country's population is affected by recurrent and persistent disaster/s, leading to the breakdown of the institutional capacity to meet the affected population's growing needs.<sup>2</sup> These needs are wide ranging and include access to basic food, shelter, sanitation, healthcare, and protection. It is well documented that humanitarian crises due to natural disasters and conflict result in the breakdown of social networks, critical institutions and often leads to mass displacement of people who become vulnerable to HIV and other health conditions.<sup>3</sup>

Despite significant global progress made in reducing the number of new HIV cases and increasing access to effective treatment, governments and humanitarian aid institutions struggle to address HIV care needs in emergency and humanitarian contexts and in fragile states<sup>1</sup> People in those countries/ contexts face serious

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<sup>1</sup> [UNAIDS: Topic – Security and Humanitarian affairs](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Better Shelter: Protracted Crises: The long path towards peace](#)

<sup>3</sup> [IOM: HIV in Emergencies](#)

problems, with reduced or complete loss of access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. Women and girls are at the forefront of this due to the increase in gender-based violence, sexual violence, and exploitation.

### ***Women and Girls***

Over 32 million women and girls live in emergency situations,<sup>4</sup> necessitating the need for sexual & reproductive health (SRH) information and services in humanitarian settings. Power imbalances that make girls and women disproportionately vulnerable to HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancies become more pronounced during conflict and displacement. Pregnant women also need adequate HIV services and antenatal monitoring to prevent vertical transmission of HIV.

Some of the risk factors for the increase in HIV transmission in displacement settings include.<sup>5</sup>

- 1. Transactional sex:** Women and children are sometimes coerced into transactional sex to survive in displacement settings.
- 2. Gender based violence:** As compared to global estimates where 35% of women experience gender-based violence (GBV), in humanitarian contexts this proportion doubles: 70% of women are subjected to GBV.<sup>6</sup> This can be attributed to displacement, disruptions in family and social networks, breakdown of protection mechanisms from family and community, and changing roles of men and women, plus increased risk factors relevant to conflicts and other types of emergencies, for example armed actors using sexual violence as a tactic of war, control and exploitation.<sup>5</sup> GBV has a negative impact on the physical and mental health of survivors, who are at higher risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV, physical injuries, unintended pregnancies, urinary tract infections, depression etc. than women who do not experience GBV.<sup>7</sup>
- 3. Disturbance of community and family life disrupting social norms governing sexual behaviour:** Disturbance of community and family life among displaced populations can disrupt social norms governing sexual behavior. Adolescents may begin sexual relations at an earlier age and/or are more likely to take sexual risks, such as having sexual intercourse without using a condom.
- 4. Limited / no access to essential HIV services:** Essential HIV services that existed before the humanitarian crisis may be disrupted leading to lack/limited access to information about HIV prevention, condoms, lubricants, vertical

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<sup>4</sup> [WHO: Sexual and reproductive health and rights in health emergencies.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [UNAIDS: Guidelines for addressing HIV in humanitarian settings](#)

<sup>6</sup> [UNOCHA: Gender and Gender-based violence in humanitarian Action.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [L Jennings et al: A forgotten group during humanitarian crises: a systematic review of sexual and reproductive health interventions for young people including adolescents in humanitarian settings.](#)

transmission, HIV treatment, treatment of opportunistic infections and critical viral load monitoring. Health needs are also put at risk due to nutritional needs not being met.

Furthermore, literature has confirmed that displaced populations often comprise of a high proportion of women and children. It is therefore critical for women to receive tailored support in humanitarian contexts given the vulnerabilities outlined above to ensure they adequately fulfil their role as mothers, breadwinners and head of households thereby benefitting the families they are responsible for.

### **What we are looking for to support**

ViiV Positive Action seeks to support community-based organizations operating in communities displaced by protracted crises to improve access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services and to support people living with HIV (PLHIV) to improve their mental health, ensure their basic needs are met and offer opportunities for them to generate income to secure livelihoods.

International Non-government Organisations (INGOs) are eligible for this funding but 85% of funds must be sub-granted to a national NGO/community-based organisation.

*For this funding round, Positive Action defines protracted crises as recurrent natural disasters or a conflict leading to food crises, breakdown in livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to the crisis for a **period of more than one year**.*

**This funding round is specific to organisations working in the listed countries and operating in the communities where refugees/ displaced individuals live.**

We are looking to support activities targeted at supporting people living with HIV and engaging with displaced communities to prevent new HIV cases. It is encouraged that activities should specifically address the needs of women and girls in settings where displaced populations reside.

**Your application must address work area 1 as detailed below. Work area 2 and 3 are optional and can be selected in addition to work area 1. We recommend you address a maximum of two work areas ONLY. Applications that do not consider work area 1 will not be eligible for funding.**

#### **1. Driving uptake of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services, and where possible, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services**

Under this work area we are seeking interventions focused on supporting continued access to critical HIV services for displaced communities through community-based models aimed at increasing access to HIV services (HIV testing, prevention and treatment services which includes self-HIV testing, PrEP, PEP and ART), and where possible, SRH services (family planning, STI diagnosis & management, Female genital cutting/mutilation (FGC/M)

awareness and care and ensuring access to safe abortion care). This work area seeks to address barriers to access HIV and SRH services for displaced women and girls, including stigma and discrimination.

## **2. Provision of mental health support**

Displaced individuals and people living in humanitarian crises often experience challenges such as stress stemming from living away from their home, uncertainty of the future, lack of sustenance to support family, sexual violence, grief from the loss of loved ones and in the case of young people, taking up adult roles within families. Interventions should focus on mental health support for PLHIV, as well as supporting PLHIV address HIV-related internalised stigma. This work area seeks to address barriers to access to mental health support for displaced women and girls living with HIV.

## **3. Provision of humanitarian and livelihoods support**

We are also looking to fund interventions that respond to the basic needs of PLHIV that have been displaced by protracted crises. This can include the provision of food parcels, dignity kits, shelter kits etc. In addition, we will support interventions for PLHIV focused on helping them generate income and rebuild their lives. Projects can include distribution of agricultural supplies and farm inputs, livestock/fishing supplies, small scale equipment to produce goods / services, village saving/ loan schemes and skills/ technical training etc. Livelihoods interventions should be based on local market opportunities. Similar to work area 2, we are particularly interested in interventions that support women and girls living with HIV but under work areas 3, in addition we are interested in supporting women and girls also at risk of acquiring HIV.

Please note, cash transfers are not eligible under this funding round.

### **Key Principles for ViiV Grants**

- This grant must not be used for the purchase or promotion of prescription only medicines (including medicines for treatment and/or prevention of HIV).
- This grant must not be used for the advertisement of prescription only medicines (including medicines for treatment and/or prevention of HIV) to the public, including patient organisations. If the grantee discusses ViiV Products and/or products of other companies in any forum, the Recipient shall ensure that such discussion is balanced and objective for all products and does not give undue prominence to any ViiV Products such that it would be considered promotion of those products (for example, if ViiV has the only approved product for prevention in a particular country, or is the only preventive medicine available in that country, then there needs to be careful consideration by the grantee as to whether any public-facing materials referring to the ViiV product might be considered promotional. Equally ViiV expects the grantee to also be

responsible for assessing whether any local laws or regulations do not permit the naming of specific products in any publicly facing materials).

- The grantee shall at all times undertake all activities under or in connection with this project with all due professional diligence, skill, and care and in strict compliance with all applicable Laws and Regulations.

## Key considerations for this open Humanitarian Fund call for proposals

### **Funding criteria:**

#### **1. Who can apply?**

The ViiV Positive Action Humanitarian Fund is targeted at supporting displaced / migrant communities affected by protracted crises and also affected by HIV. Any not-for-profit non-governmental national or community-based organisation that represents, or is working with or for, displaced communities is eligible to submit a proposal.

INGOs are eligible to apply for this funding but 85% of funds must be sub-granted to a NNGO.

#### **2. Community Focus**

Positive Action believes that engaging affected and 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.

### **Timelines**

Please take note of the application deadline of **13<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. The CyberGrants application portal will close by 23:59 (BST) and Positive Action does not accept emailed applications.

**TIPS:** Please allow sufficient time for the preparation and submission of your application to mitigate the risk of encountering any unforeseen events, such as technical issues, which could potentially result in disappointment.

The Positive Action application, review and grant process can take up to four months to complete. The following table outlines the review process for this invitation.

Funding Round opens	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Funding Round closes	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Webinar 1	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
Webinar 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024
Positive Action reviews applications	October - November 2024

Recommended applications pass through validation	November 2024
Final decision and contracting	December 2024 onwards

**\*\*Please note that these dates are a guide\*\***

### Application language

The application **MUST** be submitted in English. Any applications submitted not in English will not be considered.

### Outline Budget

The budget template embedded in the online application form will require you to enter a detailed budget. This should show planned spend for the full duration of the project against lines including any assets, staffing, travel, training, monitoring and evaluation, and communications.

Please follow the instructions provided in the budget template, noting the following:

- ViiV funding cannot account for more than 50% of an organisation's annual income if that organisation is based in a Low-Income or Lower-Middle Income country or in Sub-Saharan Africa. For organisations in Upper-Middle Income and High-Income countries, ViiV funding cannot account for more than 25% of an organisation's annual income (or 10% for US-based organisations). [World Bank Country and Lending Groups – World Bank Data Help Desk](#). This will be calculated by ViiV Positive Action using the requested amount for this Humanitarian Fund and the organisations' 2024 income, based on secured funds from a donor and/or other income streams during the period of January to December 2024. The organisation's overall income should include any previous ViiV Healthcare grants.

*You can apply for less than £50,000 if your annual income does not enable you to apply for the full amount available. However, you need to apply for a minimum of £20,000.*

- **85%** of project budgets must be spent in country.
- Overheads (indirect costs) over **15%** of the total project budget will not be accepted; and
- **Budget limits will be strictly adhered to** – do not request more than the allowable amount for the Humanitarian Fund 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.**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Please note a few relevant indicators are pre-selected for this funding round and will be agreed prior to contracting. However, you must provide a high-level description of how your organisation will measure the reach of your interventions.

### **Validation**

If your funding is approved by the committee, 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.

### **Designating a Primary Contact**

We require all grantees to designate a key contact for the application and project implementation period. If you are and INGO sub-granting to a NNGO, please provide a secondary contact from the NNGO you are sub-granting to.

### **Applications through CyberGrants portal**

All applications should be submitted through the CyberGrants online portal. The link to the application is available on the ViiV Positive Action website. A version of the application form to download will be made available. This version can be made to draft your application ahead of your submission into CyberGrants.