



THE ViiV HEALTHCARE POSITIVE ACTION FUND

Call for Proposals, Innovator: Round 1 - 2023

Innovative ARV-based HIV Prevention Approaches for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (15 – 24) in their Diversity (Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)

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.

2023 Round 1 Call for Proposals

The 2023 Round 1 Call for Proposals is focused on **developing community-based approaches for the rapid introduction of ARV based HIV prevention technologies and programme innovations for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) (15-24) in their diversity** in Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Positive Action invites applications who focus on providing HIV prevention information and services for cisgender adolescent girls and young women, those who sell sex, those who inject or use drugs and LGBTQ adolescent girls and young women.

Grants of up to £50,000 **per year** over two years, i.e., up to £100,000 over a two-year period will be awarded.

Positive Action invites applications from **20th January 2023 (00:01 GMT) to 17th February 2023 (23:59 GMT)** and will host two webinars to provide more information for applicants during this application window. Join the [first Webinar](#) at **11am GMT Thursday 26th January 2023** and/or the [second Webinar](#) at **12pm GMT Friday 27th January 2023**. Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee in March 2023.

Positive Action online grant management system.

Please submit your application via CyberGrants, ViiV Healthcare Positive Action's 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 the FAQs on the Positive Action website and/or contact the Positive Action mailbox.
WW.PositiveAction@viiivhealthcare.com

Completing Your Application

The application form requires you to outline the **new** intervention(s) that your organisation would like to implement to provide timely, accurate and up to date information on ARV based HIV prevention technologies that will turn the tide of new HIV infections facing **adolescent girls and young women in their diversity (15-24 years old)**.

The application will require you to outline in detail the challenges facing AGYW in their diversity in your context in relation to HIV, your innovative approach to ensure they have the right knowledge and access to ARV based HIV prevention technologies available in your country. Pay particular attention to outline, if relevant, the particular needs of the sub-groups of focus (cisgender adolescents and young people, young people who sell sex, those who inject or use drugs and LGBTQ adolescents and young people) and your tailored approach, should these be the focus of your work.

You will be required to complete a detailed budget, a data collection template (*if you will be collecting any secondary data*) or an evaluation template (*if you are undertaking any programme evaluation*). Please ensure you complete the application form and/or templates in full to ensure that it meets the application criteria.

Deadline: All applications must be received by **23:59 GMT 17th February 2023** to be considered by the Technical Review Committee (TRC) in **March 2023**.

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) is a group of external experts with demonstrated experience and leadership in HIV programming who review applications and make recommendations for funding. The TRC scoring looks at the following areas:

- Clear overview of the context regarding the thematic area of focus: the TRC looks for explicit evidence and data on the state of play in the HIV response as it pertains to the relevant thematic area.
- Addressing gaps: the TRC looks for interventions that will address the stated gaps in the thematic area of focus that will contribute to the HIV response.
- Community engagement: Positive Action believes that engaging affected and local communities is critical to addressing the drivers of health and life inequalities. The TRC places higher weighting on how the applicant has engaged and/or will engaged the

communities of focus in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project, including remuneration of peer educators/supporters.

- Realistic goal, objectives and activities: the TRC looks for detail in the activities to ensure that they will respond to the stated objectives and subsequently meet the goal of the proposed project.
- Innovation and scalability: the TRC looks for new approaches that are being piloted in an Innovator call, and the feasibility of scalability following proof of concept.
- Cost effectiveness and value for money: the TRC places high weighting on the budget, looking at feasibility of implementation and cost-effectiveness.

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 Innovator Call for Proposals

Every two minutes in 2021, an AGYW was newly infected with HIV. AGYW accounted for almost four in five new infections among young people in sub-Saharan Africa¹. While several countries, including Lesotho and Zimbabwe cut new HIV infections by more than 45% between 2015 and 2021, the UNAIDS World AIDS report states that combination prevention programmes for this group were only operating in 40% of high HIV incidence location in 19 of the high HIV burden countries in Africa².

To date, the global 2020 target for oral PrEP uptake (3 million) around the world has been reached but two years late³. Data shows that South Africa has now surpassed the United States as the country with the largest number of people receiving oral PrEP. This and other ARV based HIV prevention technologies, such as the vaginal ring and long-acting PrEP have been shown to have the potential to reduce the risk of sexual HIV acquisition significantly and should therefore be a game changer in the HIV response when used consistently and correctly.

¹ [In Danger: UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022 | UNAIDS](#)

² [Dangerous inequalities: World AIDS Day report 2022 \(unaids.org\)](#)

³ [Px Wire Vol 12 No 2 | AVAC](#)

More female initiated and female controlled options will increase the prevention options that are discreet and safe for AGYW. Several countries are preparing with implementation studies being implemented in East and Southern Africa⁴.

The HIV prevention 2025 roadmap aims to reduce new HIV infections to fewer than 370,000 annually by 2025. The 2025 roadmap is underpinned by the Global AIDS strategy 2021- 2026 which calls for additional investment in HIV prevention interventions with a substantial share of these resources focused on key populations in all regions. The urgency in implementing community-based HIV prevention programmes is critical to achieving the 2025 targets.

The 2025 roadmap includes a specific focus on scaling up primary prevention and a considerable complementarity and interaction between primary prevention, testing, treatment and prevention of vertical transmission of HIV.

ARV-based HIV prevention has the potential to drastically reduce new HIV infections among girls and women in sub-Saharan Africa and key populations everywhere as the decision and choice rests solely on the individual. The potential for meeting the new prevention targets becomes feasible as more options for HIV prevention, such as vaginal rings, long-acting PrEP become available alongside oral PrEP.

How the Innovator Proposal Should Be Targeted

The HIV Prevention 2025 roadmap⁵ provides a clear, evidence-informed pathway for reducing new HIV infections. As more prevention tools become available, focused efforts will be required to roll them out as swiftly and effectively as possible through differentiated programmes and interventions that correspond to specific contexts. The 2025 road map highlights ten priority areas that countries must action to build momentum to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Focus of Call: Positive Action welcomes proposals designed to implement community-based approaches for the rapid introduction of ARV-based HIV prevention technologies and programme innovations for adolescent girls and young women (15-24) in their diversity in Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The global targets for 2025 require 95% of people at risk of HIV infection, receive, and use appropriate, prioritised, person-centred, and effective combination HIV prevention options. The Global AIDS Strategy 2021- 2026 calls for additional investment in HIV prevention interventions with a substantial share of these resources focused on key populations.

⁴ [Px Wire Vol 12 No 2 | AVAC](#)

⁵ [JC3053 2022-HIV-Road-Map-Publication En v6.pdf\(unaid.org\)](#)

This call should be targeted at addressing the HIV prevention needs of girls and young women in their diversity in sub-Saharan Africa

Positive Action is interested in supporting innovative community-based interventions that demonstrate effectiveness in rolling out at least **two of the four themes** highlighted below. Positive Action is keen to see explicit linkages and/or partnerships across your interventions that demonstrate how you will achieve your overall goal

1. **Community based advocacy and educational campaigns** to raise awareness for HIV prevention technologies such as vaginal ring, oral PrEP, long-acting PrEP.

Lessons from the implementation of oral PrEP have shown that it is important to engage the key influencers of AGYW in support of their prevention journey. Much like the uptake of contraceptives, parents/caregivers, male partners and fellow peers (amongst others) often influence the HIV prevention choices of AGYW. In addition, community-based advocacy holds an important role of reducing HIV related stigma by normalising HIV prevention among AGYW and the communities they are part of and addressing the misconceptions around taking PrEP. Targeted and relevant messaging through community dialogues and educational campaigns is therefore key for creating demand and for the vital uptake of HIV prevention options.

Applicant should highlight what community-based advocacy and/or educational campaigns will be implemented to raise awareness and increase support for AGYW in their diversity to access, use, stay on (or stop) the HIV prevention journey.

2. **Drive uptake of HIV testing and prevention services** through innovations such as those pioneered and driven by community led organisations during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, e.g., via digital platforms.

Community based innovative service delivery models provide a wider range of options and flexibility for prevention as these are based on client needs and preferences, convenience and choice which increases user engagement and ownership. Different adaptations should be considered including tele-health for PrEP and community pharmacy-based models.

HIV self-testing could increase access to and uptake of PrEP, as well as continuation and adherence, which is key to achieving prevention targets. Linkages to facilities/community pharmacy-based models will be crucial to not only ensure access to ART for those testing positive for HIV but to also ensure that other wrap-around services,

e.g., sexual and reproductive health clinics for STI management, GBV services, PEP and contraception etc can be provided.

Applicants should outline how the proposed intervention/s will drive demand and vital uptake of HIV testing and support the adoption of prevention services for those testing negative for HIV.

- 3. Develop innovative community models to ensure linkage, retention and support for the prevention journey**, including through virtual/digital platforms and promote their adoption, where available.

Linkage to and retention in the HIV prevention journey depends on several factors, including structural barriers, risk perception, change in life circumstances, peer pressure from fellow peers and other influencers etc. The importance of identifying, understanding and addressing facilitators and barriers to starting, remaining on and/or or stopping HIV prevention options are important in order to design innovative methods for supporting AGYW in their diversity on the prevention journey.

- 4. Engaging and collaborating with relevant in-country stakeholders** to support the inclusion of evidence based and costed HIV prevention interventions are included into national planning and proposal cycles e.g., National Strategic Plan on HIV, National Guidelines, Global Fund New Funding Model 4, PEPFAR CoP process.

ARV Based HIV prevention options have the potential to change the trajectory of the HIV epidemic. Political, financial and community support from relevant stakeholders is key to building momentum and mobilisation to achieve the HIV prevention targets. The lessons learnt from oral PrEP are paving the way for the setting up of mechanisms for the rapid introduction of other PrEP options including the vaginal ring and long-acting PrEP.

Applicants are invited to consider how they will work with partners in country to ensure that evidence from community-based HIV prevention programmes are fed in country planning and proposal cycles to ensure that interventions are tailor made for AGYW in their diversity and that demand and supply are facilitated.

Geography

Positive Action would like to invite proposals from the following **eight** countries that have high annual new HIV infections in AGYW and have minimum two ARV based HIV prevention options approved for introduction.

Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Key considerations for this Innovator call for proposals

Your application should be specific in describing how you will address at least **two themes** of the call and specifically, what new initiative, innovation or intervention you are piloting to stem the trend of new infections in adolescent girls and young women in their diversity.

Funding criteria:

1. Who can apply?

Positive Action is targeted at supporting communities affected by HIV. Any not-for-profit national or community-based organisation that represents, or is working with or for, affected communities is eligible to submit a proposal. We encourage girl and women led and youth led groups to apply.

Non-governmental organisations that can deliver change at a community level through their links with or representation of the communities affected especially adolescents and young people in all their diversity can apply. Current Momentum grantees of Positive Action are **NOT** eligible of this call.

2. New Project

Your project must consist of **new** work that has not been previously funded, however, it can include projects transferred to a new location(s).

3. 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

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.

Innovator Prevention Funding Round opens	20 th January 2023
Innovator Prevention Funding Round closes	17 th February 2023

Webinar 1	25 th January 2023
Webinar 2	26 th January 2023
Technical Review Committee meets	Week commencing 6 th March
Additional information and documentation may be requested	Week commencing 20 th March
Recommended applications pass through validation	Week commencing 27 th March
Final decision and contracting	Mid-May 2023 onwards.

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

AMPLIFY IMPACT

AMPLIFY IMPACT is an offer of technical assistance designed to facilitate joined up impact, ongoing learning and improvement in the achievement of the Positive Action strategy. Positive Action's strategy will be achieved through grant making enabled by two elements of Amplify Impact outlined below:

- a) **Technical Assistance:** An additional/up to 10% top up of your recommended grant amount **may** be provided to support organisational development and programmatic technical assistance.
- b) **Skills Connector:** GSK/ViiV employees provide advice and provide **short-term**, long-distance, specialised support to grantees. Support can range from 3 hours – 10 days (per year) and will focus on the following broad areas:
 - Business Development & Change Management
 - Communications (media, messaging and publicity)
 - Data Management and Knowledge Transfer (enhancing data value and distribution)
 - Information Technology (IT) (networking and infrastructure)
 - Representation and Influence (public speaking, effective representation)
 - Sales and/or Marketing (promoting services, securing clients, raising money)
 - Legal advice, ideally nationally based lawyers, as appropriate: guidance in registration of organizations, representation on issues of intimate or gender-based violence, drafting MoUs, and/or advising on employment law.

You must clearly stipulate on the application form whether you will require Amplify Impact, and which element of Amplify Impact you will require.

Outline Budget

The budget template embedded in the online application form 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 instructions provided in the budget template, noting the following:

- The total grant amount requested for Year 1 cannot account for more than **50%** of an organisation's overall income, in the last 12 months, for countries in [low and middle income countries and more than 25% of an organisation's in High Income Countries](#) (. **The organisation's overall income includes any previous ViiV Healthcare Positive Action grant/s disbursed within the last 12 months.**
- **85%** of project budgets must be spent in country.
- Overheads 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 Innovator Grant 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 that relevant indicators are pre-selected for this thematic area and will be agreed prior to contracting. However, you must provide a high-level description of how your organisation will measure effectiveness of your interventions. Please complete the relevant template included in the application portal if you are planning data collection and/or to carry out a program evaluation.

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. References must use the template embedded on the application portal and tick the box in the template confirming that you have their permission to share their personal details with ViiV Healthcare Positive Action.

Please do not upload any additional documents to support your reference, we will only accept and review your completed "reference template".

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.

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.