



THE ViiV HEALTHCARE POSITIVE ACTION FUND

[Open Call](#) for Proposals, Momentum 2024

Community-Based Harm Reduction

Countries: Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam.

Funding amount: £300,000 total for three years (£100,000 per 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 open call for proposals is focused on scaling-up evidence-based approaches to provide Community-Based and community-led harm reduction services, including HIV prevention, care and treatment programmes for People Who Use Drugs (PWUD).

Applications are welcomed from the following countries: **Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand and Vietnam** and grants of up to a maximum of £300,000 per applicant will be awarded for project implementation over a three-year period (£100, 000 per year).

Positive Action invites applications from **12th February 2024 (00:00 GMT) to 1st March 2024 (23:59 GMT)** and will host two webinars to provide more information for applicants during the application window. Join the [first webinar](#) on 14th February 2024 at 8am GMT and the [second webinar](#) on 21st February 2024 at 8am GMT. Applications will be reviewed by the ViiV Positive Action Technical Review Committee in March 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 £300,000 will be awarded for implementation over a three-year period (£100,000 a year).

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. This will be calculated by ViiV Positive Action using an organisations' 2023 income, based on secured funds from a donor and/or other income streams during the period of January to December 2023. The organisation's overall income should include any previous ViiV Healthcare grants (or 10% over a 12-month period for US-based organisations). [World Bank Country and Lending Groups – World Bank Data Help Desk](#).

You can apply for less than £300,000 if your annual income does not enable you to apply for the full amount available.

Funding Round Context

The HIV context

There has been great progress made in the fight against the HIV epidemic and globally the number of new HIV cases is decreasing. Today, 29.8 million of the 39 million people living with HIV are receiving life-saving treatment. If this annual increase can be maintained, the global target of 35 million people on HIV treatment by 2025 will be within reach¹.

However, there has been uneven progress in reducing new HIV cases among people from key populations. People who use and inject drugs are among the groups at highest risk of acquiring HIV yet remain marginalised and unable to access health and social services.² Globally, harm reduction services are not available at the level and scale required to end AIDS. In too many countries, there are no harm reduction services at all.

The risks and potentially devastating health consequences associated with using drugs are greater for women, who represent in many countries a growing share of all people who inject and use drugs. HIV and drug use are an often-ignored combination among women, as the majority of services for PWUDs are targeted at men.³ Risks and health consequences associated with drug use increase further for Transgender women and female sex workers, due to criminalising laws, harassment and harmful gender norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and violence, severe social stigma, and discrimination by health-care staff.⁴

Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, the focus on HIV prevention, treatment and care among PWUD has concentrated on the needs of people who inject drugs (PWID). However, data shows that there are HIV-related risks associated with the

¹ [2023 Report - UNAIDS - Global Report 2023](#)

² [HIV and people who use drugs — Human rights fact sheet series 2021 \(unaids.org\)](#)

³ [UNAIDS data 2023 | UNAIDS](#)

⁴ [2023 Report - UNAIDS - Global Report 2023](#)

use of non-injecting stimulant drugs, as well as with the unsafe injection of drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances.⁵ As part of Positive Action's funding programme, anecdotal evidence has also shown that the use of non-injecting stimulant drugs is an emerging trend and all PWUD need to be included in harm reduction programming.

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.⁶

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 PWUD. 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 healthcare and criminal justice systems.”⁷

Why Community-Based harm reduction services?

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

It is a well-known 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 PWUDs behind. Positive Action supports people and communities of PWUDs to reimagine service delivery models that enable person-centred, stigma-free and Community-Based harm reduction care, including HIV service provision.

Why this Geographic Focus?

Globally there are differing HIV rates amongst PWUDs and approaches to harm reduction. In Asia, there are over 2.5 million PWUDs and many others who use drugs via other methods.⁸ The majority of the region continues to subscribe to hard-line

⁵ [HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People Who Use Stimulant Drugs: Technical Guide \(unodc.org\)](#)

⁶ [Harm Reduction International, 2020](#)

⁷ [2018 United Nations common position](#)

⁸ [The Global State of Harm Reduction 2022 - Harm Reduction International \(hri.global\)](#)

approaches and 'drug-free' policies which has reduced the uptake and provision of harm reduction services.

Available data from Southern and Eastern Africa shows an increase in injecting drug use, and increased HIV and hepatitis infections among PWIDs. Southern and Eastern Africa is also characterised by repressive criminal laws, high estimated transmission rates of HIV and viral hepatitis among PWIDs and an absence of essential health services.⁸

Positive Action has previously funded harm reduction programmes in Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, Nepal and Vietnam which have proven to be effective. This Momentum call seeks to scale up and build on the successful harm reduction interventions that have been delivered in those countries.

In addition, this call is open to a further three countries: South Africa, Thailand and Mozambique.

The use of injection drugs in South Africa is increasing, however harm reduction services for PWUD living with HIV is limited and not well documented.⁹ Within Asia, Thailand is one of the only countries with an HIV prevalence close to 1 percent among the adult population¹⁰ and within PWUD the HIV prevalence is estimated to be in the range of 30 percent to 40%.¹¹ In Mozambique, the PWUD population has the highest HIV prevalence among key populations living with HIV, estimated at nearly 50%. Less than half of people living with HIV who inject drugs are linked to HIV treatment and are retained in care. One of the main reasons is that HIV treatment is mainly provided in a public health facility and PWUD delay accessing healthcare since they anticipate mistreatment from multiple levels of healthcare providers.¹²

What we are looking for

Positive Action seeks to support the scale up of Community-Based and community-led interventions that demonstrate effectiveness in providing Harm Reduction Services for PWUDs.

We are looking to fund interventions which focus on collaboration between PWUD and the broader community, including healthcare providers, law enforcement entities and other government stakeholders to drive referral to, uptake of and retention in Community-Based harm reduction services, including HIV services. These programmes should also involve where possible, PWUD from the community as advisors, outreach workers, peer navigators, treatment-support managers and program evaluators.

We are particularly interested in organisations who will provide interventions tailored to women in all their diversity. Most Harm Reduction services fail to

⁹ [\(High risk injection drug use and uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services among people who inject drugs in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa | medRxiv\)](#)

¹⁰ [UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010 | UNAIDS](#)

¹¹ [The Global HIV Epidemics among People Who Inject Drugs \(worldbank.org\)](#)

¹² [People Who Inject Drugs in Mozambique: We need to normalize HIV treatment and care services in specialized community centers for people who inject drugs! - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

address the needs of women and as such women face greater barriers to accessing care. This is especially exacerbated for transgender women and female sex workers due to the additional discrimination they face.

We are also looking for partners who will provide comprehensive healthcare including access to Hepatitis C, TB, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), and where relevant, primary healthcare services. In addition, proposals of work that can provide wrap-around support to PWUDs will be considered, including increasing access to income generation, social (including housing) and legal support.

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.

Your application should address work areas 1, 2 and 3. Work areas 4 and 5 are optional. Applications that do not consider work areas 1, 2 and 3 will not be eligible for funding.

- 1. Awareness raising, education campaigns and linking to services for PWUDs:** In this work area we are looking for targeted interventions aimed at increasing the knowledge of harm reduction approaches and services amongst PWUDs, including increasing their knowledge of HIV prevention and treatment services and other services that they may benefit from accessing. This can be done through outreach programmes in the community or social media messaging where appropriate. Campaigns can include (but are not limited to) sharing information on safe drug use, highlighting risks of sharing needles, information on overdose management and information on where to access relevant services. Messaging can also focus on ways to prevent HIV, including condom usage and PrEP options, as well as the importance of HIV testing. Messaging aimed at supporting PWUD living with HIV to access HIV care and treatment can also be supported through this funding.

In addition to increasing the knowledge of PWUDs so they can seek the services they need; we will also fund outreach interventions focused on identifying PWUDs in communities and linking them to services.

Applicants should highlight what educational campaigns and community outreach will be implemented to raise awareness of harm reduction approaches amongst PWUD with the key aim to increase uptake in harm reduction services, including HIV, SRH and general health services.

- 2. The delivery of comprehensive harm reduction services for PWUDs, including services for HIV prevention and care, Hepatitis C, TB, SRH and general health services:** Providing a holistic programme of care and interventions is an important aspect of delivering harm reduction services for PWUD.

PWUD often require multiple types of care due to co-infections, mental health conditions and/or due to experiencing violence.

We are seeking to fund harm reduction services such as needle and syringe programmes, drug substitution therapy/Medically Assisted Treatment, overdose management and any other services focused on enhancing the safety of drug use. The provision of comprehensive care should also incorporate access to HIV testing, prevention (including condom usage and uptake of PrEP) and treatment services, as well as Hepatitis C, TB and STI testing, treatment and care and broader SRH services, such as access to contraception, safe abortion services, cervical cancer screening and where appropriate, access to the HPV vaccination. General health services to provide wrap-around care for PWUDs will also be supported, as many of our partners have reported the need to provide care to address skin conditions and other health concerns that may have resulted from drug use.

Previous experience in Positive Action programmes has indicated that offering psychosocial support improves retention into harm reduction services. Wherever feasible, programs should also offer mental health support to PWUD.

We will fund a variety of service delivery models which respond to the needs of PWUD. Service delivery models such as, community outreach (including peer led methods), home visits and drop-in centres can be supported.

As outlined in the introduction, we are particularly interested in Harm Reduction services tailored towards women in their diversity, with specific focus given to services for transgender women and female sex workers. Based on this, funds can be used to provide specific healthcare to women who are experiencing/have experienced gender based violence (GBV), including sexual gender based violence.

Please note, ViiV Positive Action funds are targeted at supporting initiatives aimed at preventing new cases of HIV and supporting people living with HIV. Applications that do not have a significant focus on reducing new HIV cases amongst PWUDs and supporting those living with HIV will not be eligible for funding.

- 3. Creating a supportive and enabling environment through community sensitisation:** PWUD often face discrimination and stigma in their communities which impacts their uptake of harm reduction services. Stigma can come from their families, the wider community and the local services they may be seeking. We are looking to support interventions that provide education and awareness on drug use within communities and address the stigma which can adversely impact PWUD's uptake of harm reduction services. In addition to addressing stigma at a household and community level, we are also looking to fund interventions that educate and establish allies amongst community leaders, such as religious leaders. Education of service providers (e.g., healthcare, social), as well as representatives from law enforcement agencies can also be supported through this funding.

- 4. Additional support to PWUD:** Previous experience has demonstrated that in addition to comprehensive healthcare, PWUD require other support, including access to income generation opportunities, legal advice and social (including housing) support. Positive Action funding can be used to deliver interventions focused on providing additional care and support for PWUD, beyond health-related services. These interventions can be delivered by the lead applicant, by the lead applicant partnering with local organisations that have the capability to provide relevant services, and/or by facilitating referrals to government-led services. As we want to support women who use drugs holistically, we also understand that there may be a need to provide services focused on supporting women experiencing violence and therefore, interventions focused on linking women who use drugs to GBV services can be supported by this funding.

- 5. Creating a supportive and enabling environment through advocacy and engagement:** Laws, policies and practices can undermine PWUD's access to harm reduction services. We are seeking to fund interventions that aim to address existing harmful laws, policies and practices at a sub-national and national level. These can include sensitisation of senior law enforcement officials, lobbying for change in laws and addressing gaps in policies, services and guidelines. We are also looking to fund activities where PWUD are supported to engage with decision makers and powerholders to share their experiences and establish and maintain their voice.

As part of the applications process applicants will also be asked to demonstrate how their interventions will be sustained beyond the project implementation period.

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 particularly 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 Momentum call for proposals

Funding criteria:

1. Who can apply?

Positive Action is targeted at supporting communities affected by HIV. Any not-for-profit non-governmental national or Community-Based organisation that represents, or is working with or for, affected communities is eligible to submit a proposal.

International non-governmental organisations that can deliver change at a community level through their links with or representation of the communities affected can also apply for this funding.

2. Type of Project

Your project must focus on scaling up or replicating interventions that are proven to work. **It cannot be a new/pilot project.**

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.

Community engagement and participation are mandatory requirements for all Positive Action grants. Your proposal must demonstrate how your target group/recipients of care are involved in your project.

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.

Funding Round opens	12 th February 2024
Funding Round closes	1 st March 2024
Webinar 1	14 th February 2024
Webinar 2	21 st February 2024
Technical Review Committee meeting to review applications	11 th March to 28 th March
Recommended applications pass through validation	April 2024
Final decision and contracting	April 2024 onwards

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

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 each year 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. This will be calculated by ViiV Positive Action using an organisations' 2023 income, based on secured funds from a donor and/or other income streams during the period of January to December 2023. The organisation's overall income should include any previous ViiV Healthcare grants (or 10% over a 12-month period for US-based organisations). [World Bank Country and Lending Groups – World Bank Data Help Desk](#). *You can apply for less than £300,000 if your annual income does not enable you to apply for the full amount available.*
 - **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 Momentum 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.**

Workplan

You will be required to complete a workplan as part of your application. Please outline the activities that will be completed for each Work Area in the template provided via the online application system. Activities outlined in the workplan should be consistent with what is written in the narrative application and shown in budget.

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 an 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 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 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.

Amplify Impact

If your application is successful, you will have the opportunity to apply for additional funding (up to £10,000) from the Positive Action Amplify Impact fund to invest in interventions aimed at strengthening your organisation. Because of this, do not include organisational strengthening activities in your proposal.

Amplify Impact allows organisations to focus on strengthening areas such as governance, systems, processes, policies and procedures to achieve the desired strategy and goals of an organisation.

More information will be provided on the Amplify Impact fund once an application has been approved.

Application Form

A version of the application form to download will be made available. This version can be made to draft your application ahead of submission into CyberGrants.

