

PROGRESS REPORT 2024



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POSITIVE ACTION IN 2024

Established in 1992 as part of GSK's Global Health Programmes, **Positive Action, ViiV Healthcare's grant-giving initiative**, has stood alongside communities disproportionately impacted by HIV and AIDS for over **three decades**.

In 2024, Positive Action continues to partner with community-led and global organisations, working collaboratively to **achieve the goal of ending AIDS by 2030**. This commitment reflects ViiV Healthcare's unwavering mission to ensure **no person living with HIV is left behind**, prioritising people, contributing to strengthening health systems, and fostering strategic partnerships for healthier communities.

GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY PROJECT

ViiV Healthcare pledged US\$7.8M to the Global Philanthropy Project's 'Fund Our Futures' campaign, focused on addressing HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

GENDER EQUALITY FUND

GSK, Positive Action and the Global Fund announced the first set of Gender Equality Fund funding partners. Over the next three years, these partners will receive up to US\$7.5M in grants to further their work across HIV, TB and malaria through community engagement and empowerment.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Fifteen Community Champions for Children were co-appointed by the Global Network of People Living with HIV and Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030, with funding provided by Positive Action. The Champions are actively raising awareness of the Global Alliance's mission, fostering increased digital engagement and support for children and adolescents affected by HIV.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

The Community Strategic Initiatives funding rounds invested £6M, supporting 45 projects that are unlocking community opportunities to innovate and elevate on the ground action, improving the quality of life of everyone impacted by HIV and end AIDS-related deaths. In addition, 30 partners were funded through the Amplify Impact initiative. This fund seeks to provide comprehensive support to community partners, through funding organisational development and institutional strengthening initiatives.

HUMANITARIAN FUND

Piloted a new humanitarian fund that supports communities experiencing protracted crises. Funding is targeted towards countries with displaced populations and countries hosting displaced populations, particularly women and girls.

EMERGENCY FUND

In response to Kenya and Tanzania experiencing severe flooding and landslides from heavy rains, emergency funding was provided to sustain HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support services amidst the crisis. The Emergency Fund has provided £150K for 6 critical relief projects.

2024 KEY RESULTS



£13,484,741

total funds distributed



174 grants across

32 countries



666,579

people reached

LOCATIONS OF POSITIVE ACTION GRANTS

- Innovator**
Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Momentum**
Cameroon, Eswatini, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Serbia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Breakthrough Paediatrics**
Cameroon, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda
- Women4GlobalFund**
Ecuador, Kenya and South Africa
- Strategic Partnerships Harm Reduction**
Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria and Vietnam

- Africa REACH**
South Africa
- HER VOICE Fund**
Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

- Strategic Partnerships Paediatrics**
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Zambia
- Unfinished Business**
South Africa
- Emergency Response Fund**
Kenya, Tanzania and Ukraine

- Gender Equality Fund**
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia
- Humanitarian Fund**
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

In 2024, Positive Action launched **45 projects** with a total of **£6.6M** through Community Strategic Initiative grants and **14 projects** with a total of **£590K** through the Emergency Fund.

FUND	PURPOSE OF GRANT	NO. OF PROJECTS FUNDED	LOCATION	TOTAL FUNDING
MOMENTUM COMMUNITY-BASED HARM REDUCTION	Scaling-up evidence-based approaches to provide community-led harm reduction services, including HIV prevention, care and treatment programmes for people who use drugs.	11	Kenya, Nepal, Tanzania, Thailand, South Africa and Vietnam	£3.1M
INNOVATOR PAEDIATRICS	Innovative community led approaches to support the transition of HIV care and management from caregiver care to self-care for adolescent boys and adolescent girls aged 10-14.	6	Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa	£650K
INNOVATOR STIGMA	Innovative community-led approaches to address the multiple layers of stigma that impact people living with HIV.	13	Cameroon, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Sudan, Uganda and Vietnam	£1.3M
MOMENTUM PLUS PAEDIATRICS	Sustainability, extension, enhancement and/or expansion of existing interventions that have been implemented as part of the Paediatrics 2021 Momentum Grant.	6	Cameroon, Kenya and Uganda	£580K
HUMANITARIAN FUND	Supporting people living with, affected by or at risk of acquiring HIV displaced by protracted crises, with a focus on displaced women and girls.	9	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda	£398K
UKRAINE EMERGENCY FUNDING PHASE 5	Provide emergency funding for partners based in Ukraine to ensure continued access to HIV prevention and treatment services.	8	Ukraine	£440K
FLOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE – TOP-UP	Provide emergency funding for partners in Kenya and Tanzania to respond to the impact of flooding.	6	Kenya and Tanzania	£150K

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: AVERT- ZIMBABWE AND KENYA

Avert's mission is to improve global health through sharing accurate information and education about HIV and AIDS.

Over the past four years, Avert has focussed on digital communications, developing tools to improve health literacy. They have been transitioning their core tools, such as **Boost**, over to partners to support local community health workers (CHWs) with their outreach and service delivery.

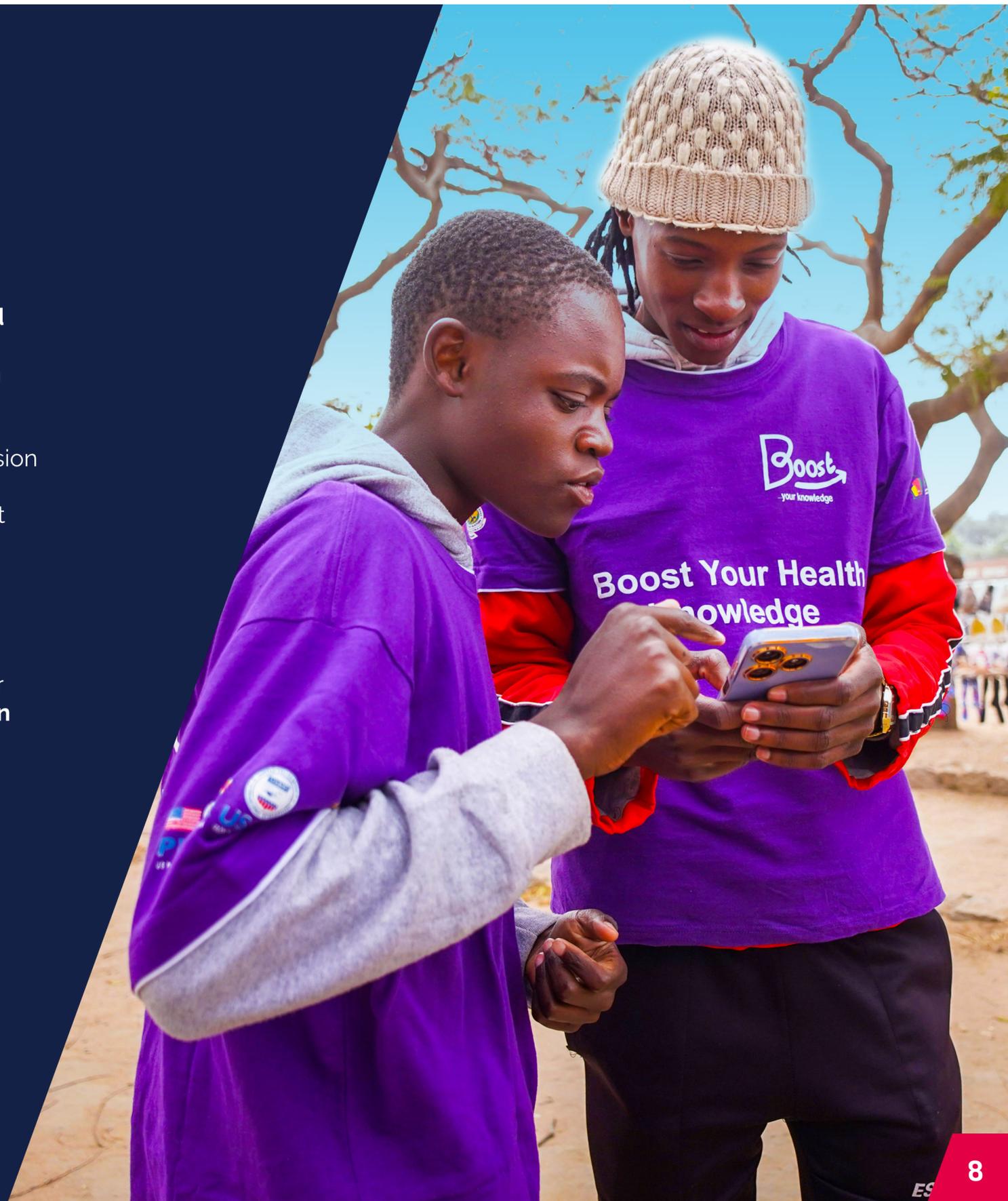
Boost is a digital aid available as an app and website. **It has equipped tens of thousands of frontline health workers with the knowledge and confidence to share accurate information on HIV**, sexual and reproductive health, and other essential services. By reaching these health workers, Boost is significantly enhancing the quality of counselling and information provided.

In Zimbabwe, the Organization for Public Health Interventions and Development (OPHID) piloted and adopted Boost to support their HIV treatment programme for 350 CHWs. **This partnership has enabled OPHID's CHWs to conduct nearly 230,000 health screenings and over 98,000 referrals to health services.** The success of Boost has been showcased at various conferences.

In 2024, Positive Action partnered with Avert and OPHID to expand Boost to four of their grantees in Zimbabwe, equipping hundreds of CHWs with immediate access to crucial information.

Positive Action's support has facilitated a new version of Boost for East Africa. In collaboration with LVCT Health, a Kenyan public health organisation, Boost has been rebranded as HimaRika, meaning "fast peers", with translations for the Swahili-speaking context. Plans for rollout across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia are already underway.

User feedback highlights Boost's impact; one user from Zimbabwe stated, **"With the Boost app, I can now easily teach and interact with the youth"**, underscoring the difference Boost and Positive Action are making in communities to support health workers and improve health outcomes.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN INJECTING DRUG USERS INITIATIVE TANZANIA (WIDUIT) - TANZANIA

Positive Action supported WIDUIT through the Amplify Impact (AI) funding to strengthen organisational development and institutional capacity.

Established in 2017, WIDUIT is a peer and women-led organisation, committed to advancing the health and rights of women who use drugs in Tanzania.

With the support of Positive Action, WIDUIT has made strides in strengthening its organisational capacity through the AI budget. This funding has been pivotal in updating the organisational strategic plan for the next five years, aligning it with the current context and future projections. The AI budget facilitated improvements in financial management and resource mobilisation. Five fundraising boot camps were conducted, resulting in the successful submission of grant applications to various organisations, including Grand Challenges Canada and the Africa Women Development Fund.

These grants have not only bolstered WIDUIT's operational capacity but also expanded its efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) and tuberculosis (TB).

In 2021, through the Innovator Fund, WIDUIT partnered with Positive Action to pilot interventions focused on women using drugs. Key lessons learned during the Innovator grant are now being translated into the Momentum grant, awarded in 2024.

Firstly, peer involvement has proven essential in overcoming barriers preventing women who inject drugs from accessing vital services. Furthermore, collaboration with healthcare providers is crucial for delivering non-judgmental HIV care and harm reduction services, WIDUIT aims to strengthen these partnerships. Creating a trusted, non-stigmatising environment encourages women to seek support, and the organisation plans to ensure resources are available to foster this safe space.

Engaging communities and local leaders enhances support for individuals seeking services, while using data-driven insights will inform advocacy and improve response strategies.

WIDUIT plans to scale its interventions, expanding services to two additional high-need districts in Dar es Salaam. WIDUIT is determined to deepen its impact and to safeguard the healthcare needs of women who use drugs.



INDIVIDUAL SPOTLIGHT: MILES OF SMILES FOUNDATION, WARRIOR CAMP - UGANDA

Miles of Smiles Foundation tackles the significant barrier of access to healthcare for children and adolescents living with HIV. Recognising that transportation costs and logistical hurdles often prevent engagement with vital services, Miles of Smiles provides transport support, ensuring young people can reach clinics, receive treatment, and ultimately thrive.

Positive Action, through its support of Miles of Smiles Foundation, provides a critical role and supports the organisations Warriors' Camp. These residential camps, designed for adolescents struggling with HIV adherence, offer a combination of peer support, expert guidance, and emotional tools to manage their HIV.

BOB'S STORY:

Bob's (not his real name) life was challenging from the outset. Born with HIV, he faced his mother's abandonment and the limitations of his elderly father's care. When healthcare workers discovered him, he was hospitalised with severe infections. His high viral load demanded comprehensive support.

Miles of Smiles Foundation were able to step in and conducted a home visit with the orphans and vulnerable children partner in the region to teach his caregivers how best to care for him.

In 2023, Bob joined the Warriors' Camp and his camp experience was transformative.

He embraced the programme, committing to his medication with new-found resolve. The impact was evident in his consistent clinic attendance and improved adherence.

His remarkable progress led to an invitation to the 2024 camp as a peer leader. Sharing his story, Bob encouraged others to prioritise adherence and viral suppression.

His own viral load plummeted from 2,390 copies/ml in December 2023 to just 30 copies/ml in September 2024.

Thanks to additional support, Bob will begin school in 2025. His journey highlights how Positive Action's investment in community-led programmes like Miles of Smiles and Warriors' Camp can impact communities, showcasing the transformative potential of peer support and comprehensive care for adolescents and young people living with HIV.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTED BY POSITIVE ACTION IN 2024

PARTNER**PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE**

GLOBAL FUND AND NIGERIAN IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Providing support for women who inject drugs to eight community-based organisations across seven priority Nigerian states.

BREAKTHROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Supporting interventions across Africa, which increase access to testing, treatment, and retention in care for children and adolescents living with HIV.

GENDER EQUALITY FUND

Integrating HIV, TB, malaria, and sexual & reproductive health and rights programming to tackle gender inequalities for girls and women.

WOMEN4GLOBAL FUND (W4GF)

Ensuring the rights of women and girls through investment in HIV, AIDS, TB, and malaria programmes.

AFRICA REACH

Driving African-led accountability for paediatric, adolescent, and maternal HIV targets on the continent by 2025.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PAEDIATRICS WITH MOTHERS2MOTHERS

Strengthening primary prevention and paediatric case findings by integrating its reproductive, maternal and child health development models in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Zambia.

HER VOICE FUND

Supporting adolescent girls and young women to have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their lives via a small grants programme across 13 sub-Saharan African countries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Focusing on high HIV burden districts in South Africa to scale effective paediatric and adolescent services in the health system.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: THE BREAKTHROUGH PARTNERSHIP: NIGERIA AND MOZAMBIQUE

Achieving and Sustaining Viral Suppression Among Children

The Breakthrough Partnership, collaborating with Aidsfonds, EGPAF, PATA, and UNICEF, is dedicated to reducing inequalities in the treatment cascade between adults and children.

By prioritising collaboration between community, clinic and government, the partnership has made extraordinary progress in ensuring comprehensive HIV services for children. **Across 147 sites, the partnership has achieved an average viral load suppression rate of >80% for more than 15,000 children.**

In 2024, the partnership continued its vital work in Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda, and expanded to Cameroon and Tanzania until 2026.

Nigeria Case Study: Improving Family Index Testing

In Nigeria, a targeted initiative has enhanced the uptake of Family Index Testing among biological children and adolescents through caregiver-facilitated HIV Self-Testing (HIVST). There, **2,863 HIVST kits were distributed, with 1,892 (66%) used unassisted. 2,705 (94%) results were reported,** leading to 9 reactive cases among children and adolescents. **This initiative has enabled 2,705 children and adolescents living with HIV to know their status.**

Mozambique Case Study: Community Dialogues

In Mozambique, community dialogues (CD's) have played a crucial role in increasing demand for health services and enhancing the connection between communities and health facilities.

CD's create a safe space for individuals to learn and share experiences while generating demand for health services related to HIV. These structured, interactive weekly discussions cover essential topics such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission, HIV prevention and testing, early initiation and adherence to ART, and gender roles.

The impact of these dialogues is significant. **Of the 13,837 participants who completed the sessions, an average of 96% responded correctly to questions after the final session, compared to just 49% before the sessions.** This increase in knowledge demonstrates the effectiveness of community engagement in improving health literacy and outcomes.

Through these initiatives, the Breakthrough Partnership continues to advance the fight against HIV among children and adolescents.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HEALTH - NIGERIA

Society for Family Health (SFH) is a Nigerian NGO dedicated to transforming healthcare delivery and advancing social justice through partnerships with communities, government, and the private sector. Focused on a comprehensive range of health services, SFH plays a pivotal role in HIV interventions for priority populations and implements various health programmes, including nutrition, sexual reproductive health including family planning and HIV.

SFH has made significant progress in enhancing health outcomes for Women Who Inject Drugs (WIDs) through its innovative Reducing the Incidence of HIV and Hepatitis among Women Who Inject Drugs (RIHHWID) project.

Supported by Positive Action, this initiative has successfully reached 3,504 unique WIDs across Abia, Gombe, and Oyo states.

Key achievements of the RIHHWID project include:

- Reaching over **3,500 unique WIDs** with vital harm reduction services.
- Conducting a Human-Centred Design study to identify and **address barriers to service access**.
- Hosting **co-creation workshops** with WIDs to develop interventions tailored to their needs.
- Providing **integrated training** on HIV and hepatitis.
- **Engaging stakeholders through advocacy** efforts to enhance intervention packages.
- **Organising outreach activities** on World Hepatitis Day.

A powerful illustration of the project's impact is the story of Jane (not her real name), a 27-year-old who began injecting drugs at 21. Jane's life changed when an outreach worker from the RIHHWID project approached her. After testing positive for HIV, Jane was enrolled in antiretroviral therapy (ART) and has diligently adhered to her treatment.

Recently discovering she was pregnant, Jane was referred to a facility for prevention of vertical transmission services. Comprehensive care has improved Jane's health and ensured the well-being of her unborn child. Her journey exemplifies the success of the RIHHWID project.

Through the RIHHWID project, SFH, with the support of Positive Action, continues to empower WIDs, significantly reducing the incidence of HIV and hepatitis while enhancing overall well-being in the communities they serve.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: BLUE DIAMOND SOCIETY - NEPAL

Since 2001, the Blue Diamond Society (BDS) has worked tirelessly to promote equal rights, economic empowerment, and access to services for sexual and gender diverse communities in Nepal and across Asia.

BDS operates nationwide, collaborating with local and national organisations to lead initiatives focused on health, HIV/AIDS awareness, and prevention, care, and support.

In 2024, BDS took a proactive stance to address the rising concern of 'chemsex', or sexualised drug use, alongside their partner Recovering Nepal. With the support of Positive Action, BDS conducted a scoping assessment to determine the needs and impacts of chemsex for men who have sex with men and gender diverse communities.

The quantitative assessment has engaged nearly 500 individuals across seven provinces, gathering vital data to inform the design of future interventions. Part of this scoping includes an innovative pilot initiative for people that engage in sexualised drug use, aiming to provide community-based services such as HIV prevention, care, and mental health support.

The next stage of the project is to design a comprehensive harm reduction programme focussed on sexualised drug use, using the findings from the scoping assessment and pilot study.

By sharing finding results with stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental partners, **BDS aims to influence national policy and integrate successful elements of the intervention into broader harm reduction strategies.**



WHAT'S NEXT:

In 2024, Positive Action continued to **actively provide support to communities living with and affected by HIV globally.**

We remained flexible and adaptable to address the social, cultural, and policy challenges of the global HIV response. Through **collaboration with our trusted partners**, these programmes have become a reality and continue to gain momentum.

We are committed to **funding and amplifying programmes** that will contribute to strengthening health systems with a sustainable approach to ongoing health challenges in vulnerable communities. Together with our partners, we will ensure that support will be provided for those in greatest need, **as we look towards a world free of AIDS.**

