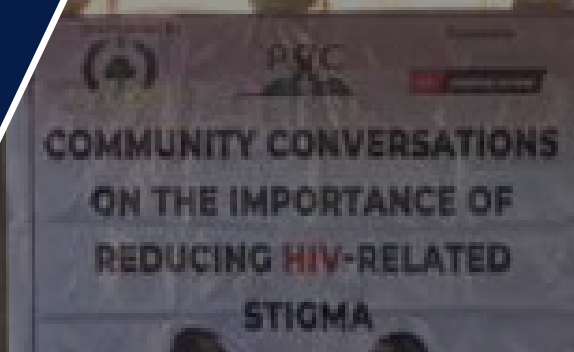




SOMALI WOMEN VISION

INNOVATOR
& MOMENTUM
FUNDING



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
REDUCING HIV-RELATED
STIGMA

HIV IN SOMALIA

SOMALI
WOMEN VISION

POSITIVE ACTION'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (CSI) PROVIDE FUNDING TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WHO SEEK TO PREVENT NEW CASES OF HIV AND SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV.

INNOVATOR & MOMENTUM FUNDING

As part of its strategy, Positive Action provides first time investments to test and pilot new ways of working through its Innovator funding rounds. Innovator grantees receive up to £100,000 over a two-year period.

Innovator-funded projects that have successfully generated evidence of impact can be scaled up by Positive Action through its Momentum funding. Momentum grants are a £300,000 investment over three years and aim to advance existing interventions.



HIV IN SOMALIA

Across Somalia, people living with HIV face both external and internalised stigma due to their HIV status. This leads to self enforced isolation, which can directly impact willingness to seek care.¹

Myths such as 'touch spread' and assumptions of immorality can further impact a persons' readiness to share their status, even with close family members.²

1. Salad AM et al. Sick and solo: a qualitative study on the life experiences of people living with HIV in Somalia. HIV AIDS (Auckl). 2019 Mar 15;11:45-53.
2. Africa Voices Foundation for Unicef Somalia. 2017. Beliefs and practices of Somali citizens concerning HIV/AIDS. Available at: https://www.africasvoices.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/09/UNICEF-Somalia-HIV_AIDS-report-March-2017-Google-Docs.pdf



“AS A CONSERVATIVE COUNTRY, HIV IN SOMALIA IS OVERLOOKED AND MASSIVELY UNDERFUNDED. FURTHERMORE, CONSTANT DISASTERS (DROUGHTS, CONFLICTS) IN THE COUNTRY DIVERT THE FUNDING TO HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES. POSITIVE ACTION’S FUNDING HAS HELPED OUR ORGANISATION TO PARTLY FILL THAT GAP AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF VIIV HEALTHCARE, WE WERE ABLE TO REDUCE LIFE-THREATENING STIGMA IN THE TARGET AREA.”

– Hawo Hamud, Executive Director of Somali Women Vision (SWV)

SOMALI WOMEN VISION

PROGRAMME APPROACH

Through Positive Action's Innovator grant, Somali Women Vision was able to establish a community outreach programme focused on HIV education and awareness. Somali Women Vision convened people living with HIV alongside members of the broader community to **'debunk' traditional myths** and stereotypes around HIV transmission, and **address stigma** in the context of human rights. The project ensured interventions were designed and led by communities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The programme was able to reach both people living with HIV and the broader community with accurate information about HIV transmission and address the stigma people living with HIV face. Additionally, the grant helped to fund the creation of an **anti-HIV stigma committee**, composed of 11 members representing a mix of religious leaders, community representatives and local authorities, all living with HIV. While the group faced initial resistance, they were able to gain support and **defend against accusations of immorality**.

MOMENTUM GRANT SCALE-UP

Somali Women’s Vision received an additional £212k to scale-up its Innovator-funded project. The additional funding from the Momentum grant will enable Somali Women Vision to expand its work to address HIV stigma to three new locations (Galkacyo, Garowe and Bosaso - Central and North-East regions of Somalia), enabling them to reach even more people.

The expansion hopes to achieve two core results:



Reduce internalised stigma



Reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination within the wider community

