

PROGRESS REPORT 2025



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2025 KEY RESULTS



£37.8M

total funds distributed



450 grants across

44 countries



720,882 people reached

Combined data for Positive Action Global and Positive Action US

POSITIVE ACTION IN 2025

For over three decades, **Positive Action has been at the forefront of the HIV response**, partnering with communities disproportionately impacted by HIV and AIDS through its grant-giving programme.

Rooted in putting people at the centre of the HIV response, Positive Action enables partners to **amplify the voices of those most impacted by HIV**, ensuring that solutions are shaped by lived experience and local leadership.

Through its partnerships, Positive Action supports community-led and locally driven initiatives that are designed to work alongside – and be integrated into – national health systems leading to longer-term resilience, sustainability and improved health outcomes.

In 2025, Positive Action **reinforced its commitment to communities** through continued partnerships and dedicated funding in a rapidly shifting external environment.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, Positive Action Strategic Partnerships continued to demonstrate the power of collaboration and invested **£6.19M across 12 programmes**. This includes an investment of **£410K** into a two-year programme to address sexualised drug use across four districts in Nepal, in collaboration with government to support the National HIV Plan (2027–2032).

CATALYTIC FUND

Positive Action, alongside GSK, also committed **£6M** to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as part of the Eighth Replenishment (GC8) cycle, **building on a previous £6M pledged in 2023** for the Catalytic Fund. This focuses on supporting communities to influence health policies and programmes addressing HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. Both commitments were matched by the Gates Foundation, doubling the total investment which further supports strengthening community-led responses and more resilient health systems.

COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING PROGRAMMES

In 2025, new initiatives were supported for piloting through Strategic Partnerships as well, including over **£315K** for Community-Led Monitoring Programmes focusing on the gathering and sharing of regional insights on HIV service delivery and strengthening working relationships with in-country networks.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In 2025, Community Strategic Initiatives (CSI) funding invested **£6.15M** into **85** new and ongoing unique projects. CSI programmes are funded by Positive Action to strengthen community health systems. In 2025, Positive Action launched three funding rounds focused on scaling up or replicating proven interventions and collaborated with two partners to advance digital health solutions.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDING

In response to a challenging external funding environment, Positive Action launched a Rapid Response funding round and released additional emergency funds to support partners most impacted. This support ensured the continuity of ViiV-funded projects, minimising service disruptions for people living with and affected by HIV. Positive Action invested over **£1.2M** to keep essential community services running. This included additional grants to boost existing CSI and Strategic Partnerships and additional funding through the Robert Carr Fund to sustain core funding for networks.

AMPLIFY IMPACT FUNDING

Amplify Impact is dedicated funding for capacity building, organisational development and institutional strengthening by providing an additional fixed budget allocation of up to **£10K**. In 2025, Positive Action disbursed **£135K** across **17 partners**.

POSITIVE ACTION AROUND THE WORLD - GRANTEE LOCATIONS


Innovator

Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, the Philippines, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe


Momentum

Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Serbia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe


Breakthrough Paediatrics

Cameroon, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania


Fund Our Futures

Indonesia and Malaysia


Women4Global Fund

Ecuador, Kenya and South Africa


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


Rapid Response Fund

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe


Humanitarian Fund

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda


Catalytic Fund

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia


Community Led Monitoring

Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Uganda and Vietnam


Strategic Partnerships Harm Reduction

Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria and Vietnam


Emergency Response Fund – Top Up

Ukraine



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2025 UPDATES

In 2025, Positive Action committed a total of **£4.9M** to launch **45 grants** under its Community Strategic Initiatives Programmes.

Each funding round is tailored to specific end goals and designed to tackle context-specific challenges within the HIV epidemic, unlocking opportunities to innovate and elevate community-led efforts on the ground.

FUND	PURPOSE OF GRANT	NO. OF PROJECTS FUNDED	LOCATION	TOTAL FUNDING
MOMENTUM PREVENTION ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE	Scaling up evidence-based approaches to provide community-led combination HIV prevention for adolescents and young people 15-24 years	9	Uganda, Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania	£2.56M
MOMENTUM PREVENTION ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE LATIN AMERICA (LATAM)	Scaling up evidence-based approaches to provide community-led combination HIV prevention for adolescents and young people most impacted by HIV (15-24 years) and their sexual partners in Latin America	7	Brazil, Mexico, Colombia	£1.56M
MOMENTUM PLUS PREVENTION	Scaling combination HIV prevention approaches for all adolescent girls and young women (15 - 24)	4	South Africa, Uganda, Malawi	£280K
DIGITAL HEALTH	Co-designing and scaling up digital health solutions, strengthening the capacity of community health workers and advancing HIV service delivery	2	Kenya, Zimbabwe	£200K
RAPID RESPONSE FUNDING	Supporting partners to address challenges arising from changes in foreign aid funding, ensuring the continuation of ViiV-funded projects and minimising service disruptions for project participants	23	Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Zambia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Vietnam, Myanmar	£264K

SPOTLIGHTS



AFRISLUM, UGANDA

Restoring confidence and connection for people living with HIV in Uganda

AFRISLUM Uganda is a non-governmental organisation committed to implementing high quality evidence-based holistic approaches that address the full realities of people's lives, including their health, relationships and economic wellbeing.

At the heart of AFRISLUM's work is a simple but powerful shift: **creating safe, peer-led spaces where people living with HIV can reduce self-stigma and rebuild confidence in their own worth.**

With Momentum Stigma Funding from Positive Action, AFRISLUM is implementing a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) approach. HIV Expert Clients deliver CBT group sessions that help people from underserved communities rethink HIV, build self-worth, and develop healthier ways of coping with self-stigma. This approach has translated into tangible change for people who have long felt excluded from formal health systems.

One participant described how living with HIV had slowly narrowed their world. Fear of judgement meant avoiding clinics, withdrawing from family and concealing their status. Joining peer-led CBT marked a turning point. Facilitated by trained experts with lived experience, the sessions felt relatable and respectful, offering understanding rather than instruction. Hearing from others replaced isolation with a sense of belonging.

This experience has been repeated across the programme. In its second year, AFRISLUM Uganda delivered **213 CBT sessions**, supported by **56 trained peer experts and 52 active CBT groups**. These groups have become trusted community spaces where participants can challenge internalised stigma, develop coping strategies and reconnect with others.

Despite a changing external funding landscape, AFRISLUM demonstrated resilience through support from Positive Action's Rapid Response Fund. **Over 950 people were screened for HIV-related self-stigma** and linked to culturally appropriate mental health support, helping ensure continuity of care when services were at risk.

The impact extends beyond numbers, with participants reporting **improved self-esteem, stronger social connections and sustained engagement with HIV care.**



ESCOLA LIVRE DE REDUÇÃO DE DANOS (ELRD), BRAZIL

How harm reduction reshaped HIV care for marginalised young people

Escola Livre de Redução de Danos' (ELRD) Recife-based community centre is dedicated to fostering peer support networks and building trust, which is essential for engagement and retention in care for young people experiencing high social vulnerability.

For many adolescents and young people in underserved communities in Brazil, stigma, criminalisation and social exclusion create powerful barriers to accessing HIV prevention and care. ELRD was established to challenge these barriers, placing dignity, trust and harm reduction at the centre of the HIV response. With support from Positive Action's Innovator Prevention Funding, ELRD has transformed how young people from marginalised communities engage with health services.

One participant described how fear of judgement had kept them away from health facilities for years -

"Here I feel welcomed without being judged. I learned how to take care of myself, to protect my health, and to understand that I have rights. This place showed me that I am not alone."

Through ELRD's mobile outreach, they encountered a space that felt different – non-judgemental, youth-led, and grounded in real-life experiences. Conversations focused not only on combination HIV prevention, but also on self-confidence, decision-making and navigating complex social realities.

ELRD's approach of integrating comprehensive combination prevention strategies with holistic risk and harm reduction approaches has **enabled significantly improved access to HIV and STI prevention**, testing, referral and treatment services for young people often excluded from traditional healthcare systems.

Alongside service delivery, the programme invests in social and personal development, recognising that lasting impact depends on empowering young people beyond a single intervention.

The influence of ELRD work now extends far beyond Recife. Through **training professionals** in harm reduction, **strengthening collaboration** with public health services and **developing practical learning materials**, the programme has achieved national recognition.

ELRD's community-led model has been incorporated into Brazil's national health system, with government funding secured to sustain and expand implementation – demonstrating how rights-based, innovative approaches can reshape national responses and deliver impact for young people.



LVCT HEALTH, KENYA

How digital innovation coordinates and strengthens community health in Kenya

LVCT Health is an NGO based in Kenya, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable populations through evidence-based programmes, health systems strengthening, and digital innovation.

In 2025, through partnering with Positive Action, LVCT adapted the Boost App to suit the Kenyan context. The app was rebranded to HimaRika, a community-led digital tool supporting Community Health Workers (CHW) with job aids, referrals, and youth health content that is **relevant for Kenya and across most of the East African regional context**. HimaRika has been translated into local languages. For CHWs, delivering quality care has long been challenged by fragmented, paper-based tools and limited access to up-to-date information. LVCT Health's HimaRika pilot is changing this reality by placing practical, digital support directly into the hands of frontline workers.

Before HimaRika, many CHWs in Nairobi, Kiambu and Mombasa described feeling unsure how to raise difficult topics, especially when there is only a short window of time to interact with a client. With HimaRika, step-by-step prompts help guide conversations, support HIV risk screening and ensure timely referrals.

CHWs have shared that having clear guidance made it easier to speak openly and respectfully, helping clients feel listened to rather than judged. Since the Positive Action partnership began, **155 CHWs have used HimaRika to support over 800 client screenings, with more than 200 people referred to essential services**. More importantly, trust has grown. Clients are more likely to return, follow up on referrals and stay engaged in prevention and care.

HimaRika also eases pressure on overstretched systems by reducing reliance on refresher trainings, offering real-time information when it is needed most. With strong uptake and plans to scale, HimaRika shows how digital tools – when designed with people at the centre – can strengthen community health systems and improve access to HIV care.



GAIA, MALAWI

NELSON'S STORY – BRINGING LIFE-SAVING CARE CLOSER TO HOME IN RURAL MALAWI

Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance's (GAIA) Thanzi kwa Achinyamata (Health for Young People) project is dedicated to improving health outcomes and preventing new HIV cases among high-risk populations, through coordinated mobile health clinics.

For people living in remote parts of Malawi, distance can be life-threatening. Clinics are far away, transport is costly, and seeking care often means choosing between health and survival.

In response, GAIA established a community-led mobile clinic model, using rugged four-wheel drive ambulances to reach **36 hard-to-access sites each week**. The mobile clinics deliver HIV services, maternal care and essential medicines to nearly **150 people every day** – meeting people where they are.

Nelson's (not his real name) story from the village of Kunyenga shows what this means in real terms. **Living 37 kilometres from the nearest health facility, Nelson missed months of his HIV and tuberculosis treatment** because he could not afford transport. His health deteriorated quickly.

When GAIA's mobile clinic arrived, everything changed. A clinician listened without judgement, provided immediate treatment, and helped Nelson restart his care. Since then, he has not missed a single dose.

"If not for the GAIA clinic, I would have lost my life," Nelson shared. "I am now healthy again and able to work in my garden."

Nelson's story reflects the wider impact of GAIA's mobile clinics, delivered **in partnership with and supported by the Government of Malawi**.

Government financial support has been critical in sustaining and expanding these services, ensuring that life-saving care reaches the most remote communities.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTED BY POSITIVE ACTION IN 2025

PARTNER
PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

GLOBAL FUND AND NIGERIAN IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	Providing support for women who inject drugs and community-based organisations across seven priority Nigerian states
BREAKTHROUGH PARTNERSHIP PHASE II	Supporting interventions across Mozambique, Nigeria, Cameroon and Tanzania which increase access to testing, treatment, and retention in care for children and adolescents living with HIV
CATALYTIC FUND	Integrating HIV, TB, malaria, and sexual & reproductive health and rights programming. A collaboration between the Global Fund, GSK and ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Strategic Partnerships
WOMEN4GLOBAL FUND (W4GF)	Advocating for the inclusion of women and girls in HIV, TB and malaria programming – Ecuador, Kenya, and South Africa
AFRICA REACH	Driving African-led accountability for paediatric, adolescent and maternal HIV targets on the continent
MOTHERS2MOTHERS	Strengthening primary prevention and paediatric case findings in Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo while building further on the sustainability efforts implemented through the project over the past two years in 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 Eastern & Southern Africa and Cameroon
HARM REDUCTION BANGLADESH	Harm reduction interventions to support the national HIV response in Bangladesh
HARM REDUCTION NEPAL	Scoping assessment for people engaged in sexualised drug use with the implementation of a pilot programme

NEW IN 2025

HEALTHY CITIES WITH PRIDE	Driving health & local-level advocacy in Indonesia and Malaysia
COMMUNITY LED MONITORING	Utilise community generated data to improve HIV service quality, reduce stigma, strengthen community and health collaboration and support policy change
HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	Leveraging existing structures to institutionalise HIV care integration within the Ugandan Ministry of Health

THE POSITIVE ACTION PAEDIATRIC BREAKTHROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Expanding the Positive Action Paediatric Breakthrough Partnership (PBP) into Cameroon and Tanzania

The PBP, collaborating with Aidsfonds, EGPAF, PATA, UNICEF, and in-country implementing partners and ministries of health, is dedicated to reducing inequalities in the HIV treatment cascade between adults and children.

In 2025, the partnership continued its vital work in Mozambique and Nigeria, and expanded to Cameroon and Tanzania. Uganda transitioned from the partnership after the HIV care package was integrated as part of government-funded services after four years of implementation, highlighting the success of effective collaboration and partnership.

Common challenges such as fragmented referral pathways, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, stigma, misinformation and limited resources hinder effective paediatric HIV care which results in delayed diagnoses, interrupted treatment, and disengagement from vital HIV services.

The PBP directly addresses these challenges by strengthening connections between facility-based clinical care and community-level support, ensuring consistent and continuous care through collaborative community-facility efforts.

CAMEROON:

- **Over 14,000 children**, adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding women have had access to comprehensive HIV services since the PBP inception
- **Faster turnaround times for HIV test results**, resulting in earlier identification and timely initiation of antiretroviral therapy among mothers living with HIV, enabling quicker clinical decision making and improved care
- **Stronger coordination between community health workers and facility staff**, resulting in more person-centred service delivery and increased uptake of testing and treatment
- **Health workers reported greater confidence in managing paediatric and adolescent HIV cases**, supported by stronger documentation and data-driven planning processes

TANZANIA:

- **Over 1,200 children** were tested for HIV through family-based household testing, leading to the identification of 28 new cases, who were all promptly linked to care
- **95% of children and adolescents now achieved viral suppression below 1,000 copies/mL** with 100% of adolescents and children achieving below this threshold at four facilities
- **1,163 children and adolescents were supported** through integrated community-facility networks, promoting adherence to treatment and timely clinic visits for follow-up care
- **Community health workers, mentor mothers, traditional birth attendants, and peer supporters collaborated with healthcare providers** using shared client lists to deliver coordinated, family-centred support at 18 Health facilities and their respective communities

Figures for Tanzania from Aug 2024 – Dec 2025.



The next phase of the PBP aims to strengthen district ownership by integrating successful strategies into government systems. Focus will be placed on developing local leadership, and leveraging real-time data to drive evidence-based and more effective HIV care.



THE POSITIVE ACTION PAEDIATRIC BREAKTHROUGH PARTNERSHIP

AMINA'S STORY – HOW COORDINATED CARE CAN SAVE A LIFE

Amina's (not her real name) story is a powerful reminder that for children living with HIV, **survival often depends on more than medical treatment alone.** At just 10 years old, Amina, who lives in Tanzania's Dodoma region, became critically unwell while on antiretroviral therapy. What began as weight loss and persistent fevers quickly escalated into severe weakness, malnutrition and nose bleeding.

Amina was eventually diagnosed with life-threatening anaemia and **urgently needed specialist care.** However, for her family, the prospect of referral to the regional hospital was overwhelming. Transport costs and feared medical expenses placed life-saving care seemingly out of reach. As her caregiver later shared, **the family believed they were about to lose their child simply because they had no money.**

What followed was an example of truly integrated, child-centred care. A multidisciplinary team – including healthcare providers, community health workers and the local social welfare officer – came together to assess Amina's medical and social needs. Rather than focusing on a single diagnosis, the team recognised the interconnected barriers placing her life at risk.

An urgent referral was coordinated to the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital, a site supported by the Paediatric Breakthrough Partnership.

Crucially, the family was supported with transport and essential costs, ensuring Amina could access the blood transfusion and advanced care she urgently needed.

Support did not end at the hospital doors. Health workers and community teams remained closely connected, following up regularly and supporting Amina's parents to keep treatment on track.

Today, Amina is stable, thriving and continuing her treatment with a strong support system in place.

"I thought my child would die because we had no money," her caregiver said. **"The support we received saved her life and gave us hope."**

Amina's journey demonstrates the life-saving power of coordinated care that addresses both medical urgency and the real-world challenges families face – strengthening pathways for children living with HIV and ensuring that no child is left behind.



FUND OUR FUTURES – HEALTHY CITIES WITH PRIDE

Empowered leadership from grassroots and youth-led organisations leading local-level advocacy efforts

The Healthy Cities with Pride initiative is a fully community-led decision-making project, where youth - and LGBTQI+ - led organisations lead the way. Since 2023, Aidsfonds has been implementing the Healthy Cities with Pride project in Indonesia, in partnership with Inti Muda and Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality (YIFoS). In 2025, Positive Action supported a scoping phase in close collaboration with communities to expand the Healthy Cities with Pride initiative to Malaysia.

In Malaysia, HIV remains a significant public health challenge with HIV cases rising rapidly and disproportionately impacting young people and other key populations. These populations face barriers such as **stigma, discrimination, limited access to care, and policies that discourage engagement with health services.**

The Healthy Cities with Pride programme and partners such as Jejaka are addressing these challenges by empowering intersectional communities to confront stigma and advocate for equitable access to health services and human rights. The programme amplifies the voices of young people, bringing issues of decriminalisation, policy, health and rights challenges to the forefront of conversations in public spheres while promoting community-led solutions to health disparities and working to remove structural barriers at local and national levels.

Through trust-based and participatory funding frameworks, grassroots and youth-led organisations have redirected resources towards interventions that are culturally relevant and meaningful to their communities.

Across the programme, young leaders are stepping into advocacy roles, creating momentum for change. Grassroots groups are developing **sustainable local solutions**, and communities are collaborating with policymakers to **challenge stigmatising policies and strengthen protections for marginalised populations.**

The Fund our Futures partnership with Aidsfonds demonstrates the power of youth - and community-led action to enhance health systems, increase equitable access to HIV services, and tackle societal stigma and discrimination.



LOOKING AHEAD: POSITIVE ACTION'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2026-2030

2025 marked a pivotal moment for Positive Action as we reached the mid-point of our ten-year strategy (2020-2030). It was an intentional moment to pause, reflect, and listen – taking stock of what is working well, where we can do better, **and how we can continue to respond flexibly to the evolving needs of people impacted by HIV.**

Central to this reflection was engagement with our community partners and the communities they partner with, whose recommendations continue to shape our direction and reinforce the principle that people are at the heart of everything we do.

As we move into the next phase of the strategy, Positive Action enters 2026-2030 with renewed ambition and focus. Our priority will be to operationalise the strategy in ways that **strengthen community health systems and complement national HIV responses**, contributing to sustainable, long-term impact. Through our grant-giving, we will collaborate to **close critical gaps in paediatric and adolescent HIV**, while continuing to **address HIV-related stigma and discrimination** – barriers that prevent far too many people from accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Partnership will remain central to our approach. We will continue to work alongside community-led and strategic partners, recognising that locally driven solutions, grounded in lived experience, are essential to accelerate progress towards ending AIDS for everyone, everywhere.

Alongside programmatic funding, **we will deepen our commitment to strengthening the operational and organisational capacity of our partners**, supporting them to be resilient, effective, and sustainable over the long term.

POSITIVE ACTION WILL CONTINUE TO EMBODY ViiV HEALTHCARE'S MISSION OF LEAVING NO PERSON LIVING WITH HIV BEHIND.

