

PROGRESS REPORT

2021

OUR PURPOSE

Positive Action's mission is to be a transformational partner that champions people and communities to end AIDS.

**Our vision is healthy communities
in a world free of AIDS.**

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Cathy Ferrier

Head of Positive Action, ViiV Healthcare

2021 has been a year of reflection and response. While the world continued to be gripped by the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV remained a global priority and Positive Action sharpened its focus to ensure no one living with HIV is left behind. We prioritised agile investment in and robust partnerships with communities most affected by HIV, focussing on addressing disparities in paediatric HIV care, HIV related stigma, and harm reduction for people who inject drugs.

Improving paediatric HIV care is paramount if we are to make progress in ending the HIV epidemic. This has continued to be at the top of our strategic agenda this year and will remain so for some time to come. With approximately 1.7 million children under 15 years of age living with HIV globally, the disparities, specifically in the treatment gap between adults and children living with HIV, are dramatic. In 2021, 76% of adults aged 15 years and older living with HIV had access to treatment, compared to just 52% of children aged 14 or younger.¹ Simply put, these numbers are stark and we as a global community, must do more to improve the outlook for children living with and affected by HIV.

To strengthen the HIV care continuum in the countries and communities where our partners work, we have intensified our efforts in stigma-specific programmes supporting vulnerable populations. One such key population who face persistent and pervasive stigma are people who inject drugs. Supporting this community has also been a priority for Positive Action this year and working with harm-reduction programmes, we established community-based and community-led services to respond to the unique challenges people who inject drugs face.

Beyond our established strategic partnerships, Positive Action's Emergency Response Fund supported communities experiencing the aftermath and effects of natural disasters that dismantle access to treatment and care, in countries like Haiti and Malawi. Maintaining continuity of care for people who need it most is crucial, and our agility as a funder positions us to respond quickly when support is needed to bolster damaged healthcare infrastructure.

I am proud of the progress we have made to improve care for underserved communities around the world living with and affected by HIV. Yet there remains far more work to be done to address the unmet needs for so many. Through the inspiring work of our partners, I remain hugely optimistic for what we can achieve together in the future, creating healthy communities together, free of AIDS.

1. UNAIDS Global HIV & AIDS statistics – 2021 fact sheet. Available at: <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet> Accessed: November 2022.



Deborah Waterhouse

Chief Executive Officer, ViiV Healthcare

Positive Action embodies our mission at ViiV Healthcare. Through its effective partnership-led model, Positive Action invests in and works side by side with communities to make a meaningful impact around the world, and support those with the greatest need.

By working *with* community partners in an agile capacity to support the most vulnerable people living with and affected by HIV, Positive Action is boldly contributing to breaking down barriers to improve access to HIV prevention, treatment and care. This year has demonstrated how nimble and responsive funders are needed now more than ever in the HIV response, if we are to meet the changing needs of the HIV community in the evolving global health landscape.

At ViiV Healthcare, we remain committed to our mission to leave no person living with HIV behind and will, as a company, continue to champion Positive Action's efforts to support people around the world affected by HIV, no matter who they are, or where they live.

THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

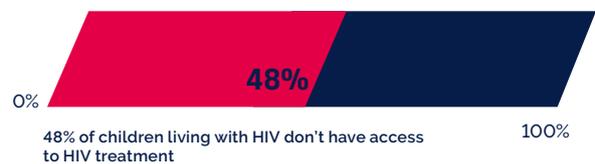
Positive Action is working towards the global objective to end AIDS by 2030, by achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals, with zero HIV or AIDS-related discrimination. Although we have advanced towards these targets, progress has slowed due to a myriad of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies, structural barriers including policy barriers, stigma and discrimination, gender inequalities and gender-based violence that restricts access to HIV services.¹

In 2021, the HIV response was still recovering from the devastating impact of COVID-19, and our grants assisted our partners to re-engage communities and initiate new services to improve HIV treatment, retention in care and prevention.

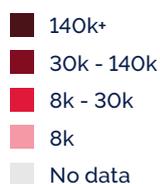
NEW HIV TRANSMISSIONS GLOBALLY IN 2021²



1.7 MILLION CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV IN 2021²



PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN 2021 (ALL AGES)³



1. UNAIDS. Millions of lives at risk as progress against AIDS falters. Available at: https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2022/july/20220727_global-aids-update Accessed: November 2022. 2. UNAIDS. Global HIV & AIDS statistics – 2021 fact sheet. Available at: <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet> Accessed: November 2022. 3. UNAIDS. People living with HIV – All Ages. Available at: <https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>. Accessed: November 2022.



Latifah, a doctor at the Teens Link Harm Centre in Wakiso, Uganda

Our focus for 2021

Following the launch of our 2020-2030 strategy, our focus areas continued to be:

Ending paediatric AIDS

- Working to end paediatric AIDS through initiation and retention of children and young people in HIV services and improving maternal health.

Supporting community-based harm reduction services

- Partnering with communities to increase usage of HIV and harm-reduction services.

Addressing HIV-related stigma

- Supporting organisations to address stigma with the aim to improve access and retention in HIV prevention and treatment services.

In 2021, we also supported HIV prevention projects through our **Flexible Fund** and provided emergency funding to organisations in Haiti and Malawi in response to natural disasters.

Key locations of Positive Action Grants



MAP TO SHOW KEY LOCATIONS OF GRANTS

- **Innovator**
 Turkey, Egypt, Somalia, Tunisia, Morocco, Malawi, Nigeria, Serbia, Thailand, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Indonesia, Nepal
- **BT Paeds**
 US, Netherlands, South Africa for implementation in Mozambique, Uganda and Nigeria
- **Africa REACH**
 South Africa and US for implementation in priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- **ERF**
 Malawi and Haiti
- **Momentum**
 Zambia, eSwatini, Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe
- **SCDI**
 Vietnam
- **HER Voice Fund**
 Netherlands for implementation in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- **Flexible Fund**
 Ukraine and Tajikistan
- **Challenge**
 Russia, Zambia, Nepal, Uganda, Ukraine
- **AMREF**
 Ethiopia
- **Staying Alive Foundation**
 South Africa
- **W4GF**
 Zimbabwe, Toronto
- **COVID-19 ERF**
 South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Nepal, UK
- **mothers2mothers**
 Ghana
- **Unfinished Business**
 South Africa
- **Harm Reduction Nigeria**
 Nigeria



OUR RESULTS 2021

2021 KEY RESULTS



£10.3M

of funds disbursed to ongoing grants

397,554

people reached

3,641

service providers trained

209,781

people tested for HIV or linked to HIV testing services

26,959

people received HIV treatment guidance and support

89

grants were funded across 28 countries

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Strategic partnerships supported by Positive Action in 2021:

- The Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI) in Hanoi is working with Mainline (a harm-reduction organisation) to improve harm reduction services in Vietnam and in the Southeast Asian region.
- The Women4Global Fund (W4GF) is working with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria (Global Fund) to address the rights of women and girls through its investment in HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria programmes. It continues to advocate to promote and protect gender equality.
- The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF) are driving African-led accountability toward paediatric, adolescent, and maternal HIV goals by 2025, through a project known as Africa Realizing the End of AIDS in Children and Youth (REACH).
- mothers2mothers (m2m) Ghana is strengthening primary HIV prevention and paediatric case-finding in the Greater Accra and Eastern Region of Ghana by integrating its maternal health and early childhood development models.
- Amref is supporting the Developing Regional States of Afar and Gambella in Ethiopia to reduce vertical transmissions rates of HIV to less than 5%, and achieve HIV control towards elimination by 2030, through the HIV, Malaria, and TB project for maternal and child health.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



- The International AIDS Society (IAS) is developing the Youth Co-Lab with its partners, to empower young leaders and facilitate innovation, networking, peer mentorship, project collaboration and access to funding.
- Y+ Global continues to implement the HER Voice Fund, supporting adolescent girls and young women in 13 sub-Saharan African countries to have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their lives.

- Together with the Global Fund, Positive Action awarded grants to six CBOs in Nigeria to provide community-led services for women who use drugs, and those who inject in four Nigerian states.

- The Staying Alive Foundation Inc. (MTV Shuga) provides a comprehensive HIV education programme in South Africa, Botswana and Cote d'Ivoire. The programme aims to change behaviour and increase uptake of HIV prevention services, including PrEP.

- The Paediatric Breakthrough Partnership is harnessing the combined power of Aidsfonds, EGPAF, PATA, UNICEF and ViiV Healthcare Positive Action to increase access to testing, treatment and retention in care for children and adolescents living with HIV. The activities are informed by the Paediatric Service Delivery Framework, which maximises impact by identifying and supporting activities based on local context and need, with the goal of ending paediatric AIDS in Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda.
- Unfinished Business focuses on high HIV burden districts in South Africa to scale effective paediatric and adolescent services, and work with government to institutionalise this into the health system.

Positive Action funding to date





Zulaika, Young Adolescent Peer, The AIDS Support Organization (TASO)

Paediatric Grants

Our paediatric funding is delivered to countries with the **greatest impact of paediatric HIV** including Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, South Africa, Nigeria, and Mozambique. Since 2020, we have contributed £15.58M to the paediatric HIV response in these countries and beyond.

In 2021, the Community Strategic Initiatives (CSI) Momentum held three key funding rounds to support maternal and paediatric care:

- **Round 1:** Supporting adolescent mothers living with HIV and their children
- **Round 2:** Improving retention in HIV care among children (5-14) living with HIV and their caregivers
- **Round 3:** Increasing HIV case finding, treatment and support of children and early adolescents (0-14 years) living with HIV

In 2021, the Strategic Partnership funding provided:

- **Breakthrough Paediatric partnership:** Funding across Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda to locate, link, treat, and retain mothers and children in care who are at risk of acquiring or living with HIV
- **HER Voice partnership:** Funding to support organisations led by adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) through grant-making, leadership building, organisational strengthening, and advocacy in 13 Global Fund priority countries in Africa



Paediatric Case study: Breakthrough Paediatric Partnership in Nigeria

Strategic Partnership

The Paediatric Breakthrough partnership is implementing the **paediatric service delivery framework** in specific locations including Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda, with a commitment to ending paediatric AIDS by 2025. The Paediatric Breakthrough Partnership aims to improve HIV identification, treatment initiation, retention and viral suppression using age-appropriate strategies, whilst simultaneously increase monitoring, data collection and documentation to inform programming. The partnership works to strengthen advocacy for improved service delivery at both community and facility levels for children and adolescents living with HIV.

In Taraba, Nigeria, the partnership collaborated with several stakeholders, including local government and health agencies, with external partners contributing direction to facilitate a clinic-community collaboration. Two of the partners, UNICEF and EGPAF, worked together to improve service provision and included antiretroviral therapy (ART) training for healthcare professionals to ensure thorough retention and adherence counselling of clients.

In Taraba, community-based work engaged **15,555 pregnant women** and **37,354 children** at community levels. Of those mobilised, **14,678 women** and **35,746 children** were tested for HIV. Subsequent tests identified **84 pregnant women** and **57 children** living with HIV, who were enrolled onto ART.



Flavia, mothers2mothers client, Uganda

Paediatric Case study: mothers2mothers, Uganda

mothers2mothers delivers comprehensive maternal and child health programming, through a peer-led model that builds strong linkages between health and community systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Uganda, with support from ViiV Healthcare, mothers2mothers is delivering health services, education, and support to improve paediatric care and treatment outcomes for children living with HIV and their caregivers. mothers2mothers is scaling-up programming at seven sites in Eastern Central Uganda by implementing the Mentor Mother Model in communities to reduce vertical (mother-to-child) transmission. The Mentor Mother Model employs local Ugandan women living with HIV from the community to deliver these services, working alongside doctors and nurses in clinics and community outposts.

Important progress was made through the programme:

- **3,321** potentially at-risk children were identified and **856 children** were tested for HIV. Of this, **12 children** were newly identified as living with HIV and all were linked and initiated on antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- Mentor Mothers continued utilising the m2m digital health platforms and Ministry of Health (MOH) ART tools for tracking client clinic attendance. Clients missing appointments were identified daily and all 12 newly diagnosed children and 305 children previously identified as living with HIV were retained and adherent on ART.
- Clients were profiled for viral load testing to determine their viral suppression status. **257 (82%)** of children (5-14 years old) living with HIV accessed viral load testing services, with **228 receiving results**. Those who were virally unsuppressed were enrolled in intensive adherence counselling and support.



Peer Educators at Teens Link, Uganda

Harm Reduction Grants

Positive Action is working to support community-based harm reduction by focusing on supporting people who inject drugs and increase usage of HIV and harm-reduction services. In 2021, Positive Action directed £1.5M in funding towards harm reduction programmes in targeted geographies.

Strategic Partnerships

- Partnering with organisations in Nigeria to increase tailored support for women who use drugs and build the capacity for these organisations.
- Establishing an action-learning hub for stimulant harm reduction for the South East Asia region.

Community Strategic Initiatives - Innovator Grant

- Driving collaboration between people who inject drugs, broader communities, healthcare providers and government stakeholders to drive referral, uptake, and retention of community-based HIV and harm reduction services.
- Innovative community-based HIV and harm reduction service delivery models, in rapidly changing environments including Vietnam, Tanzania, Mauritius, Indonesia, Kenya and Nepal.



Henry, HIV advocate, Taipei, Taiwan

Harm Reduction Case Study: Lighthouse Vietnam

Lighthouse Vietnam's 'High, Fun and Safe' project aimed to increase access to HIV and harm reduction services for the Chemsex community in Vietnam through community-led work. The services provided were initiated and co-designed by the Chemsex community, and provided by peers and at the Lighthouse clinic, a community-led healthcare facility.

The project combined awareness-raising, and behaviour change to promote healthy behaviours and linkage to specialist services. This involved the development of a unique 'High, Fun and Safe' Facebook page to establish a safe and friendly platform, provide accurate information and promote safe behaviours. This allowed Lighthouse to connect with the Chemsex community to share a map of HIV and harm reduction services in Vietnam, host peer-peer meetings, foster peer-peer exchange and direct people to the Lighthouse community-led clinic and other health facilities.

The project also provided HIV and harm reduction packages that were designed by the Chemsex community comprising of contraceptive protection, HIV self-test kits, face masks, sanitary products and practical guides to safety, first-aid, and available services. The services offered included counselling sessions on a range of topics including harm reduction, HIV, safe sex, mental health and comprehensive medical screening services.



Shakirah, Client, Teens Link Uganda

Stigma Grants

Since the launch of our new strategy in 2020, we have contributed **£1.8M** to programmes to address stigma and self-stigma through our **Community Strategic Initiatives Innovator grants** in the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

The objectives of the stigma funding were to:

- Support groups and activities focused on interventions to address self-stigma including creating awareness on what self-stigma is.
- Wellbeing and mental health programmes and services that increase self-esteem, coping skills, and reduce self-stigma.
- Structural interventions such as social empowerment, antiretroviral therapy (ART) rollout, and economic strengthening.
- Leadership empowerment to support people living with and affected by HIV to increase resilience, and engage them in the HIV response.



Stigma Case study: Association Red Line, Serbia

Association Red Line, an organisation based in Serbia, developed the 'Change is in us' project to reduce self-stigma among men who have sex with men in Novi Sad and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia.

The 'Change is in us' project increased the understanding of self-stigma amongst people living with HIV and their families through support groups, individual peer-to-peer support and psychotherapy. The project also educated health care professionals and social workers about HIV to increase their capacity to recognise and manage HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

"The self-support group on self-stigma opened my eyes and helped me to understand myself and my problems to stand up for myself and not be afraid because I am HIV positive,"
Marko, a support group participant.

POSITIVE ACTION FUNDING STREAMS

via our local ViiV Healthcare operating
companies: **Case studies**

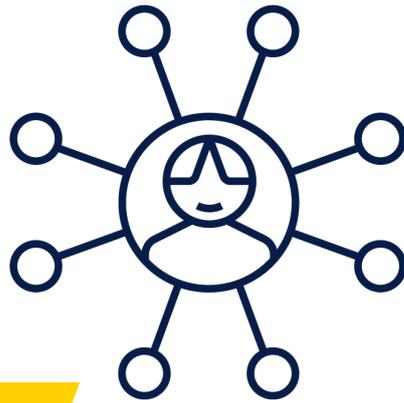


France case study: The Aremedia patient organisation

The Aremedia patient organisation focuses on HIV prevention and screening, for marginalised and underserved populations, including migrants. Stigma and concerns of how they will be perceived can prevent migrants from accessing HIV testing services and impact treatment adherence and regular testing.

To address this, Aremedia set up a mobile screening unit in areas of Northeast Paris and Seine Saint-Denis, that are often visited by migrant men who have sex with men. After receiving anonymous free testing for HIV and STIs, people screened were linked to specialist health centres for treatment and care.

The service was rolled out **four evenings a month** (two Friday evenings and two Saturday evenings) for 4-5 hours each evening and screened a total of **400 people**. The service played a key role in engaging with target audiences, and breaking barriers for people who can experience stigma to encourage testing.



Canada case study: LetsStopAIDS

LetsStopAIDS holds Canada's largest youth-HIV leadership conference, "NoTimeToWait", which gathers youth leaders to network, share knowledge on HIV-related issues, and develop advocacy skills necessary to carry-out initiatives with lasting impact. In 2021, the conference brought attention to HIV issues related to dating, sex positivity and protection, HIV testing, HIV status, access to care and support, and intersectional treatment. It included powerful speakers and panel discussions with local and international community leaders such as prisoners, sex workers, and faith leaders.

NoTimeToWait 2021, included more than **200 attendees** with reach across Canada and participants from 18 other countries. Subsequently:

- **80%** of participants reported an increase in their general knowledge about HIV. The average "HIV knowledge score" increased by **37.5%** post-conference.
- **77%** of participants advised they would be more willing to engage further in topics like HIV in the workplace, and **81%** endorsed a greater desire to join a health equity organisation.



Spain case study: The Adhara/Sevilla Checkpoint

The Adhara/Sevilla Checkpoint is a community screening centre for HIV and other STIs in Seville, Spain. During the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns meant that sexual health centres were closed abruptly in southern Spain. The Adhara/Sevilla Checkpoint centre developed an online service to address and monitor sexual health and used a courier service to deliver HIV auto-test kits and prevention kits.

Overall, through the project:

- **1,407** people were reached, including 70 sex workers, 251 migrants and 90 people who needed legal advice
- **860** people living with HIV attended a peer programme for emotional support
- **75** attended a ChemSex care point
- **633** HIV auto-test kits were delivered to sex workers
- **68** prevention kits were delivered to sex workers
- **275** people in detention were reached through adapted video and online platforms

The highest satisfaction scores were obtained from online services users (average satisfaction of 4.98/5.00).

The partnership enabled effective emotional, educational and peer support through an accessible digital format, to meet the needs of people living with and affected by HIV during unprecedented times.

"Auto-test was easy to use and with a clear output. I would like to make use of this service again," **Feedback from a service user.**



**WHAT'S
NEXT?**

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2022 and beyond, we will continue to advance our 2020-2030 strategy as we work towards achieving healthy communities in a world free of AIDS. Through close collaboration with our partners, we will strive to enable delivery of community-led programmes, to improve HIV prevention, treatment, and care for underserved populations in countries with the highest burden of HIV.

Adolescent girls and young women, who are disproportionately affected by HIV due to gender-based discrimination and violence, continue to be a key subject of our team's focus as we enter 2022. The facts are stark and in sub-Saharan Africa adolescent girls and young women are more than twice (2.4 times) as likely to acquire HIV than their male peers.

¹Our 2022 grants reflect this. The 2022 Momentum fund will provide £3.2M between 12 grantees to address inequalities in HIV prevention, testing and treatment for adolescent girls and young women in their diversity in East and Southern Africa. The 2022 Innovator fund will provide £495K between six grantees for combination HIV prevention approaches for adolescent girls and young women in their diversity.

2022 also marks the 30th anniversary year of Positive Action. A year-long campaign will highlight Positive Action's past impact, present role, and future focused work to address the HIV epidemic. It will celebrate and amplify the people at the heart of the programmes, partners in strategy and implementation, and progress made through collaboration.