



PROGRESS REPORT

2022



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CATHY FERRIER



Head of Positive Action,
ViiV Healthcare

Founded 30 years ago, Positive Action has helped shape the lives of thousands of people around the world living with and affected by HIV. 2022 was a milestone moment to celebrate the people and partnerships behind three decades of remarkable impact, achieved working hard in tandem with our partners to address the social, cultural and policy challenges of the global HIV response.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still slowing gains in global health and development, and other infectious disease outbreaks around the world, namely monkeypox across South-East Asia, North America and Europe, and Ebola gripping Uganda in the latter half of the year, the challenges facing our partners implementing programmes were persistent. Our team worked to adapt and respond by putting people and communities first, strengthening capacity and collaborating strategically.

This year, the world faced further unprecedented challenges and in response to the shocking events in Ukraine, Positive Action worked at pace to make emergency funds available to our partners in the country including Virus Off, NGO Club Eney and ALLIANCE.GLOBAL, as well as to those displaced by the conflict. Our priority was, and still is, to ensure continuity of care and access to treatment for people living with and affected by HIV.

Against this backdrop, it is remarkable to see the development and impact made by the partners we continue to fund who are investing in key and priority populations living with, or affected by HIV such as paediatrics, adolescents, adolescent girls and young women, sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, and people who use drugs. With our 30-year legacy paving the way for the years ahead, I am hopeful that together, Positive Action's vision of healthy communities in a world free of AIDS will become a reality.

DEBORAH WATERHOUSE



Chief Executive Officer,
ViiV Healthcare

In 2022 we marked 30 years of Positive Action – our corporate foundation dedicated to supporting communities affected by HIV alongside our trusted partners across the globe. I am so proud of the impact Positive Action has made and continues to make for communities with the highest burden of HIV.

Looking forward, Positive Action will continue to fund programmes for key and priority populations to improve health systems and infrastructure with a holistic, sustainable approach. We will also continue to act as a flexible, responsive funder in response to emergency situations and ongoing global health challenges.

Positive Action is now a cornerstone of the ViiV Healthcare mission, ensuring no person living with HIV is left behind. With the tremendous work and dedication of our partners, together we will continue to break down barriers to improve access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for people living with and affected by HIV around the world.

POSITIVE ACTION AT 30

Thirty years of change

Originally set up as part of GSK's Global Health Programmes, Positive Action was created in 1992 as the first pharmaceutical company community-grant giving programme to support communities affected by HIV and AIDS. Today, Positive Action exists to further ViiV Healthcare's mission of ensuring no person living with HIV is left behind by working directly with the communities most affected by HIV, investing in programmes across six continents.



The HIV Response: Then & Now

Great progress has been made in the HIV response over the past three decades.

28.7 million people accessed ART in 2021, up from 7.8 million in 2010. New HIV infections reduced 54% since the peak in 1996.¹

Further progress needs to be made to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

38.4 million people were living with HIV in 2021, with only 75% accessing ART.¹

Key populations have the highest burden of HIV, accounting for 70% of new HIV infections globally.

Only 52% of children living with HIV were accessing ART, compared to 76% of adults living with HIV.¹

Positive Action will continue to invest in partners including community-based organisations supporting people affected by HIV.

Positive Action at 30

At the core of this flagship foundation is our commitment to putting people and communities first, strengthening capacity, and collaborating strategically. To mark our 30th year, we launched 'Positive Action at 30' to celebrate:

- People** at the heart of the programmes
- Partners** in strategy and implementation
- Progress** made through collaboration

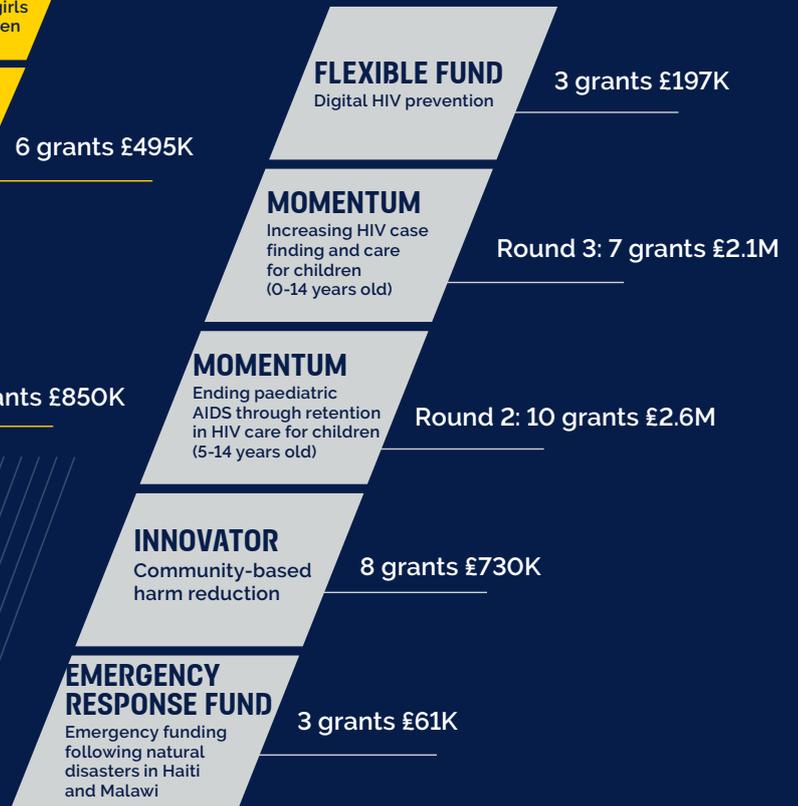
The year-long campaign, run in parallel to new grant-giving rounds issued as a part of the anniversary year, shone a spotlight on the three key themes; people, partners, progress.



2022

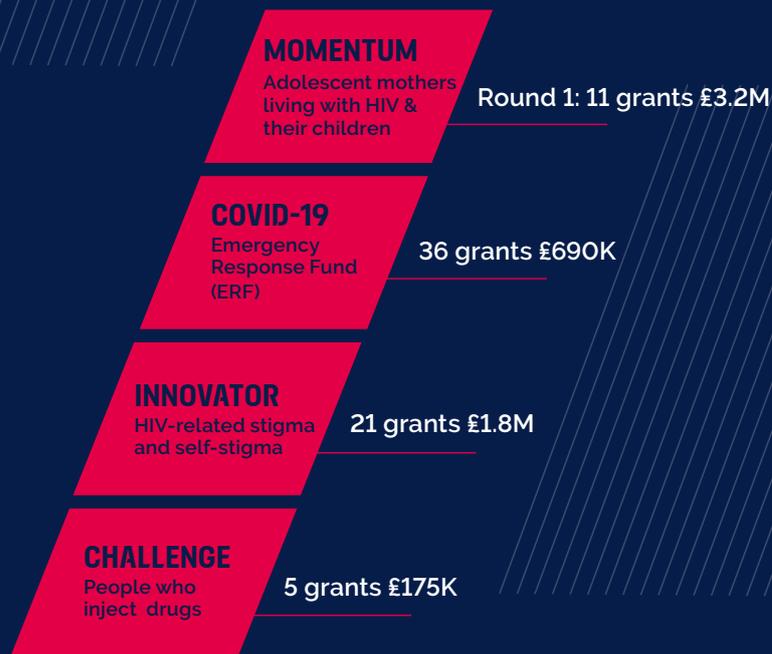


2021



Funding Update

2020



Locations of Positive Action Grants



MAP TO SHOW LOCATIONS OF GRANTS

- **Innovator**
 Turkey, Egypt, Somalia, Tunisia, Morocco, Malawi, Nigeria, Serbia, Thailand, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Indonesia, Nepal, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam
- **BT Paediatrics**
 South Africa for implementation in Mozambique, Uganda and Nigeria
- **Africa REACH**
 South Africa
- **mothers2mothers**
 Ghana
- **SCDI**
 Vietnam
- **HER Voice Fund**
 Netherlands for implementation in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- **Unfinished Business**
 South Africa
- **Momentum**
 Zambia, eSwatini, Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa and Tanzania
- **AMREF**
 Ethiopia
- **Women4Global Fund**
 Zimbabwe
- **Public Health Institute**
 Kenya
- **Emergency Response Fund**
 Malawi, Haiti, Ukraine
- **Challenge**
 Russia, Zambia, Nepal, Uganda, Ukraine
- **Harm Reduction Nigeria**
 Nigeria
- **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**
 South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Nigeria, Cameroon, India, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia
- **Flexible Fund**
 Ukraine, Tajikistan
- **Staying Alive Foundation**
 South Africa



OUR RESULTS 2022

2022 KEY RESULTS



12.67M

Total funds distributed



5,433

service providers trained



120,885

people tested for HIV



137

grants in

33

countries



392,227

people reached

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Strategic partnerships supported by Positive Action in 2022:

- Together with the Global Fund and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Positive Action expanded its support for women who inject drugs to eight community-based organisations (CBOs) across seven priority Nigerian states.
- The Paediatric Breakthrough Partnership continues to harness the combined power of Aidsfonds, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), PATA, UNICEF and Positive Action to support interventions, which 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.
- The Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI) in Hanoi continues to work with Mainline, an organisation that aims to improve the health and rights of people who use drugs, to improve the harm reduction services and capacity building in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.
- Women4Global Fund (W4GF) is dedicated to ensuring that The Global Fund addresses the rights of women and girls through its investment in HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria programmes. It continues to advocate to promote and protect gender equality.
- African Medical and Research Foundation (Amref) Health Africa is supporting the Developing Regional States of Afar and Gambella in Ethiopia to reduce vertical transmissions rates of HIV to less than 5%, and HIV control towards elimination by 2030, through the HIV, Malaria, and TB integrated project for maternal and child health, a collaboration between Positive Action, GSK and USAID.



TASO community client, **Uganda**

- The EGPAF and the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF) launched the Africa Realizing the End of AIDS in Children and Youth (Africa REACH), driving African-led accountability for paediatric, adolescent, and maternal HIV targets on the continent by 2025.
- mothers2mothers (m2m) Ghana and Zambia continues to strengthen primary prevention and paediatric case-finding by integrating its reproductive, maternal, new-born, child health and early childhood development models.
- IAS - the International AIDS Society - has developed the Youth Co-Lab with its partners, to empower young leaders to develop new projects, provide seed grants, and exchange ideas and problem-solve around their needs in the HIV response with the aim of facilitating innovation, networking, peer mentorship and project collaboration.
- Y+ Global continues to implement the 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 in 13 sub-Saharan African countries.
- MTV Staying Alive Foundation is focusing on reaching young people with education on HIV prevention, PrEP and HIV testing in South Africa, Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire through the production of MTV Shuga. The programme aims to change behaviour and combined with referrals to youth-friendly services providers, increase uptake of HIV prevention services.
- Unfinished Business focused 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.
- Public Health Institute (CAMI Health) is developing a 'story-mapping' tool to highlight end-user voices in Kenya on barriers to HIV prevention services, HIV stigma and quality of life including the intrinsic links between risks for HIV, other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancy.

UKRAINE

Emergency Response Fund

In response to the conflict in Ukraine, Positive Action moved rapidly to launch the Ukraine Emergency Response Fund to support people living with HIV in Ukraine and across the region. Ukraine has the second largest HIV epidemic in the region, with 260,000 people living with HIV estimated to be in Ukraine, 152,000 of whom are on HIV treatment that needs to be taken daily in order to maintain viral suppression.¹

Positive Action made £830,000 available to partners based in Ukraine and neighbouring countries to protect and prioritise the health of people living with and affected by HIV who have been impacted by the conflict. In addition to the support launched by Positive Action, ViiV Healthcare worked to support refugees to ensure they receive continued care.

Read on to discover how a select group of Emergency Fund grantees responded to support communities affected by HIV through the Emergency Response Fund.

CASE STUDY

Ukraine Emergency Response Fund

ALLIANCE.GLOBAL Ukraine

Alliance Global provides access to HIV, STI and viral hepatitis services for key populations, specifically to men who have sex with men in Ukraine. Due to the military action and continued threat to civilians' safety, certain key populations were evacuated from Central Ukraine to Western regions where they could receive specialist support. In 2022, Positive Action supported its HIV prevention programme in Western Ukraine for evacuated men who have sex with men, employees and current clients who were displaced.



The programme maintained access to HIV prevention services amongst men who have sex with men in Ukraine and helped to transition service delivery within clinics to homes or digital platforms. Social workers contacted clients via dating apps to identify client needs, provide counselling, and offer free HIV testing services. The project provided HIV testing, HIV testing kits, and follow-up care for people on PrEP and antiretroviral treatment. The programme also delivered adherence and psychosocial support, as well as strategies for remote populations to access treatment.

Overall, **1,531 men who have sex with men** were reached through the programme, **1,204 men who have sex with men** received HIV prevention services. **22 men who have sex with men** were newly diagnosed with HIV and **96 men who have sex with men** were linked to HIV treatment.

NGO Club Eney Ukraine

NGO Club Eney supports the health and human rights of people living with HIV, with a focus on women who use drugs and sex workers who are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV.

Through Positive Action funding, NGO Club Eney implemented the project 'Women Initiating New Goals of Safety' or WINGS, to expand access for women through an online gender based violence (GBV) prevention and safety programme, to give onward referral services for HIV screening and treatment. The project was delivered through the support of community outreach workers conducting sessions for women to develop personalised WINGS safety plans to reduce risks of exposure to GBV and HIV, and facilitate access to treatment, psychological or legal assistance needs. As a result of the military action in Ukraine, NGO Club Eney adapted 'WINGS for Conflict Settings' to respond to the additional risks, challenges, and instability that the conflict has brought about. WINGS sessions continued for the most vulnerable women within the project, with facilitators who conducted sessions online withstanding difficult conditions including blackouts, air raids, and even conducting sessions in bomb shelters.



Support group, NGO Club Eney, Ukraine

Overall, **610 women** participated in WINGS sessions, **led by 19 community leaders** who were trained and skilled up on the programme which included GBV screening and automated feedback on their risks as well as safety planning and identifying service needs. Additionally, **201 women** were referred to HIV testing, with **158 women** receiving tests.

"I feel good here, I have everything I need. Before, it was not always possible to sleep at home at night, but now there is support, a personal safety plan and I know how to act to protect myself. Thank you very much for accepting and supporting me!" Feedback from Club Eney client who engaged in the WINGS programme.

Positive Action is currently supporting the rehabilitation of a drop-in centre at NGO Club Eney's premises, which enables women to receive humanitarian, harm reduction, HIV, and counselling services in an inclusive and safe space. In addition to this, the Ukraine Emergency Fund enabled access to humanitarian assistance for communities, including food parcels and medical aid kits.

Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) Ukraine and neighbouring countries

GNP+ is a global organisation working to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV in all their diversity. Its Ukraine response programme focused on delivering emergency humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees living with HIV and/or Tuberculosis (TB), people who use drugs, sex workers, LGBTQI people and other vulnerable populations arriving in Moldova, Hungary, Romania, Poland, and Slovakia from Ukraine. Funding from the Positive Action Ukraine Emergency Response Fund, GNP+ focused its efforts on Moldova and Hungary, working with in-country partners including the Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender, and Sexual Diversity (ECOM) and Positive Initiative.



ECOM

ECOM developed an online helpline service to provide information and psychological assistance to men who have sex with men and trans people who needed support related to displacement, loss of income, and urgent relocation. The project expanded its reach and promoted the helpline service via social media in Ukraine, Moldova, and Hungary. To meet the increased demand, ECOM trained more counsellors on access to ARVs, HIV prevention (including PrEP), STIs, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services. From July to September 2022, the platform provided **547 peer-to-peer consultations** and **162 doctor consultations**.



Positive Initiative

Positive Initiative provided crisis assistance to refugees from key populations affected by HIV/TB, temporarily displaced or transiting through the Republic of Moldova. It provided primary medical appointments and financial support for urgent medical care. It funded **29 peer counsellors** to provide mental health screening to **556 refugees** and counselling for **364 refugees**. The humanitarian programme also provided specialist services including harm reduction and testing, and treatment for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis.

PAEDIATRIC FUNDING



Community client, Breakthrough Partnership, Uganda



Community client, mothers2mothers, Uganda

Children and young people continue to be a priority population for our funding. Gender disparities mean that adolescent girls and young women are more vulnerable to acquiring HIV than their male counterparts, due to factors including stigma, transactional sex and gender-based violence. Such gender disparities are seen in sub-Saharan Africa with, almost six times as many adolescent girls acquiring HIV compared to boys of the same age in 2021.¹

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 the launch of the current Positive Action strategy in 2020, we have contributed £18.48M to the paediatric HIV response.**

Positive Action is also supporting the scale up of community-based interventions that will address key barriers facing adolescent girls and young women, from inequalities and power imbalances to HIV prevention, testing and treatment.

In 2022, the Community Strategic Initiatives (CSI) Momentum funding had one key grants cycle:

- **Momentum:** Focused on addressing inequalities and power imbalances to HIV prevention, testing and treatment for adolescent girls and young women (15-24 years old) in their diversity. We committed £3.2M for 12 grantees.

In 2022, CSI Momentum continued to provide:

- **Support for maternal and paediatric care** through supporting adolescent mothers living with HIV and their children, improving retention in HIV care among children (5-14) living with HIV and their caregivers, and increasing HIV case finding, treatment and support of children and early adolescents (0-14) years living with HIV.

In 2022, the Strategic Partnership funding continued to provide:

- **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.
- **The HER Voice Fund partnership:** Funding to support organisations led by adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) through grant-making, leadership building, organisational strengthening, and advocacy in 13 priority countries in Africa.
- **Unfinished Business:** Focused 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.

CASE STUDY

Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU) Uganda

CHAU aims to improve health outcomes for adolescent mothers living with HIV and their children across Iganga, Nakaseke, and Nakasongola districts in Uganda.

The three-year (2021-2024) programme, funded by ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action, set out to identify, enrol and provide **15,000 adolescent mothers** living with HIV and their children with HIV, SRHR and social protection services. It adopted a networks model; peer-led and community engagement. Mentor Mothers and peer educators reached out to pregnant peers, young parents and adolescent girls living with HIV to attend monthly group meetings at community safe spaces.



CHAU Mentor Mothers, Uganda

Away from adults, these spaces provided a friendly environment for adolescent girls and their children. They received counselling and support from Mentor Mothers and peer educators, who are openly living with HIV, on raising their self-esteem, taking ART medication as prescribed and continuation with life-saving ART treatment.

They also obtained counselling on pregnancy, parenting and breastfeeding, relationship navigation and tools to cope with stigma and mental health. Many adolescent mothers experienced poor adherence to treatment and retention in care before entering the programme due to the stigma associated with HIV and adolescent pregnancy and parenting. In turn, they faced challenges testing for HIV and disclosure of status results due to fear of the potential impact on personal relationships. CHAU's community network model provides linkages with health facilities in instances such as these, and as a result, the programme attracted and enhanced adherence and retention of adolescent mothers living with HIV onto HIV treatment.

The programme also provided economic opportunities for many adolescent mothers living with HIV through the establishment of collective small businesses, selling poultry and products in their local communities. CHAU's peer-led programme continues to empower thousands of adolescent mothers living with HIV in Uganda to take the lead in their health and lives. With the support of Positive Action, CHAU directly reached **5,000** people. During the reporting period, the programme linked a total of **2,865** people to HIV testing services, with **2,567** adolescent mothers receiving results for HIV testing. CHAU's HIV treatment adherence guidance and support services reached **2,401** people and **4,981** mothers in the programme received mental wellbeing services.

HARM REDUCTION FUNDING

Positive Action is investing in community-based harm reduction efforts, focusing on supporting people who inject drugs and increasing usage of HIV and harm-reduction services. Since 2020, Positive Action has directed a total of **£2.4M** in funding towards harm reduction programmes in targeted geographies.

Strategic Partnerships

- Expanding support to organisations in Nigeria to increase tailored interventions for women who inject/use drugs, alongside capacity building.
- Establishing an action-learning hub for stimulant harm reduction in Southeast Asia.

Community Strategic Initiatives - Innovator Grant

- Continuing to drive collaboration between people who inject drugs, key populations, healthcare providers and government stakeholders to drive referral, uptake, and retention of community-based HIV and harm reduction services.
- Engaging with partners implementing innovative community-based HIV and harm reduction service delivery models, in rapidly changing environments including Vietnam, Tanzania, Mauritius, Indonesia, Kenya and Nepal.



Peer Educator, Teens Link, **Uganda**

CASE STUDY

Sadar Hati Foundation Indonesia

The Sadar Hati Foundation works to provide better access to harm reduction and HIV services for people who inject drugs and people who use methamphetamine across the Malang and Jakarta districts in Indonesia.

The JARING project, initiated by The Sadar Hati Foundation with the support of Positive Action, adopted a collaborative approach, working with outreach workers to deliver one-to-one addiction counselling, group therapy and education on HIV, COVID-19, mental health, and harm reduction. The foundation also distributed harm reduction kits to its clients, to implement safe behaviours.

Focused group discussions were conducted three times a month to improve knowledge on HIV and provide information for people who use drugs on risk factors around drug use including sharing needles, safety advice such as sterilisation of smoke and injection tools, and prevention of transmission of infectious diseases including HIV, COVID-19, TB, and STIs.

In one year, **17,710 syringes** were distributed, **10,342** in Jakarta and **7,368** in Malang. A total of **441 condoms** were distributed to people who use methamphetamine who are at risk of contracting HIV through sex. In 2022, the project carried out six meetings, attended by **60 people living with HIV**, and 24 health therapy sessions were attended by **240 people who use drugs**.



Peer Educators, Teens Link, Uganda

STIGMA FUNDING

Peer Mentor, One to One. **South Africa**



Since the launch of Positive Action's 10-year strategy in 2020, we have **contributed £1.9M** to programmes which address stigma and self-stigma in the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

In 2022, our **Strategic Partnerships** also supported the 'Stigma (r)evolution programme' to accelerate targeted community-led advocacy and action to reduce stigma, discrimination and violence against people living with and most at risk of acquiring HIV in Thailand, Côte d'Ivoire, and Kazakhstan.

In addition, in 2022 the Community Strategic Initiatives (CSI) Innovator funding continued to fund:

- Support groups and activities focused on interventions to address self-stigma including increasing awareness on what self-stigma is.
- Wellbeing and mental health services that increase self-esteem, coping skills, and reduce self-stigma.
- Structural interventions such as social empowerment, ARV 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.

CASE STUDY

One to One Children's Fund South Africa

One to One Children's Fund provides sustainable peer-led support for adolescents living with chronic health conditions, such as HIV, kidney disease and diabetes. Adolescents with chronic conditions in South Africa often don't receive age-appropriate healthcare, with the majority being moved to adult-centred services at the age of 13. Many have become accustomed to the facilities and people at children's hospitals, and the move to a new, bigger, adult-orientated facility is anxiety-provoking. Clinicians face challenges to support their multiple needs and are often not used to working with adolescents. What's more, adolescents, who already face confidence and self-image issues, can struggle with the daily demands of a chronic illness, and their treatment regimens. Poor diagnosis of chronic conditions and access to care can also contribute to high adolescent mortality and the outcomes for those receiving treatment are very low.

One to One Children's Fund partnered with specialist clinicians at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town to implement the 'Better Together: Level up' programme. The face-to-face peer support initiative paired adolescents with peer mentors who also live with chronic conditions themselves. Group and individual counselling sessions in a youth-friendly space within the hospital were held regularly, providing a support system tailored for young people to help them manage challenges with stigma, specifically self-stigma, increase uptake to and adherence of HIV treatment, and improve their quality of life. Topics addressed in the sessions not only relate to caring for a chronic illness but also deal with general health, development and mental health issues. Most importantly they address the challenges of being a teenager, including sexual health, contraception, vocational choices, diet, self-esteem, self-stigma, body image and conflict resolution.

Overall, **10 peer mentors** were trained through the programme. Between January and July 2022, **383 young people** were reached through group sessions and individual counselling.



Peer Mentors, One to One, South Africa

PREVENTION FUNDING

Positive Action's HIV prevention funding aims to encourage prioritisation of, and investment in, HIV prevention. In many countries, the HIV epidemic continues to be concentrated among specific populations who have disproportionately low access to HIV prevention services.

Delivering effective prevention strategies, including antiretroviral based prevention options and harm reduction programmes, are critical to advance the HIV response. The UNAIDS 2025 targets require 95% of people at risk of HIV infection to receive and use effective prevention options.

In 2022, Positive Action launched two prevention funding rounds to encourage the prioritisation of, and investment in, HIV prevention:

- **Momentum:** Focused on providing combination HIV prevention approaches for adolescent girls and young women (aged 15-24) in their diversity in East and Southern Africa. We committed **£2.1m for 7 grantees.**
- **Innovator:** Focused on providing combination HIV prevention approaches for young people in their diversity (15 -24 years old). We committed **495K for 6 grantees.**



Coach-Counsellor, TackleAfrica, Uganda



POSITIVE ACTION FUNDING STREAMS

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

Associação Humanitária de Saúde e Apoio Social (AHSeAS) Portugal

Valorizar, Integrar, Dialogar e Autonomizar (V.I.D.A) is a project run by Associação Humanitária de Saúde e Apoio Social (AHSeAS) in Sintra/Lisbon to promote an integrated approach to care for people living with HIV who have difficulties adhering to HIV treatment.

The V.I.D.A programme uses several initiatives to improve treatment adherence including daily directly observed therapy, monitoring home delivery of ARTs, accompanying people to medical appointments, monitoring for comorbidities, and linking people to psychological and social support, individual health education and health literacy session, done by AHSeAS staff through a formal protocol between the Infectious Diseases Ward of Hospital Fernando da Fonseca and AHSeAS.

Overall, **103 people living with HIV** participated in the programme (2022), and 76% of these people were migrants. At the start of the project, **46 out of 103** had a detectable viral load and after one year, **101 out of 103** people had an undetectable viral load. The programme demonstrated the value of personalised care to ensure that all people with HIV adhere to treatment and receive necessary support in accessing their treatment.



CASE STUDY

Positive Women Victoria Australia

Positive Women Victoria facilitated the 'Reaching Your Potential' project; a peer-led and peer-developed four-part workshop programme to increase confidence and develop the life skills of women living with HIV. Each workshop provided education on HIV and HIV advocacy, as well as tools for effective communication. The workshops helped ten women living with HIV to understand how they can use their own experience with HIV to create positive change both for themselves and the wider community.

The workshops were designed to develop personal and professional skills including how to speak in front of a camera, communicate to influence and create impact, actively engage in HIV advocacy, and how to adopt a positive growth mindset.



Support workshops, Positive Women Victoria, **Australia**

As a result of the programme, **100% of women** agreed they have increased confidence and better communication skills. The participants also took action to become HIV advocates, with **80%** registering to join the Positive Speakers Bureau training programme, run by and tailored for people living with HIV who are trained public speakers and presenters to reduce fear, misinformation, stigma, and discrimination around HIV; **40%** have joined or expressed interest in joining the Positive Women Victoria Board. One participant is building a social media platform for 'Stop HIV Stigma', an HIV charity, to raise funds to support orphans living with HIV in Zimbabwe and raise awareness of HIV-related stigma. The social platform will be used to encourage support and recruit volunteers. Another participant is developing a documentary to explore HIV stigma and using social media platforms to reach younger audiences. One participant has used her video interview to disclose her HIV status and another woman plans to use her video interview to help other people living with HIV feel more confident.

"Words can't describe how much I loved the experience of this filming workshop. It was one of the most empowering things I've done in my life, and I have already used the footage when disclosing."

Feedback from a woman who participated in the programme.

Risk to Reasons

USA

The 'Risks to Reasons' initiative, set up by Positive Action for Women, aims to reframe and refocus HIV prevention and care for Black women in the US. Today, Positive Action for Women represents ViiV Healthcare's continued commitment to all women in the US, especially those disproportionately affected by HIV. The Risk to Reasons community grants invested **\$8M** over three years and is the largest philanthropic investment dedicated to HIV prevention for Black women in the US. These community-led programs will work to engage Black women in prevention in care, train service providers, and change the narrative around HIV and women.

The initiative aims to challenge the framework of 'risk' that has characterised HIV prevention and replace it with 'reasons' that motivate and empower women to address their sexual health. Moving from 'risk' to 'reasons' offers an opportunity to rethink and redefine the relationship between Black women and HIV.

The effort was co-created with ViiV Healthcare's Black Women's Working Group to Reframe Risk and designed to create new messages, new messengers and new methods for communicating and connecting with Black women around HIV. The 'Risk to Reasons' guide was developed to share insights and recommendations for advocates, service providers, public health experts, researchers, and communicators about how to make HIV prevention and care more relevant for Black women.

So far, the programme has achieved impressive media coverage, including top tier outlets and more than **20** media pieces in print, online, and radio. The content has been shared across traditional and social media channels and training on how to adapt the framework has been delivered to more than **2,500** people in the first year.



Risk to Reasons project, ViiV Healthcare

WHAT'S NEXT?

There is still significant advancement to be made if we are to achieve our goal of healthy communities in a world free of AIDS by 2030. We will continue to work collaboratively with our trusted partners and look to deepen our network to support those who need it most.

In our 30th year, we are proud to reflect on our past impact, present role and of course, to look to our future work to address the HIV epidemic. Positive Action at 30 shone a spotlight on the people at the heart of our programmes, recognised our partners in strategy and implementation, and acknowledged the progress made through true collaboration. This anniversary year demonstrated that even among the hardest of circumstances - be they health or humanitarian - our team will always strive to support those in greatest need.

As we look to 2023, our efforts will centre around four strategic priorities; ending paediatric AIDS, reducing new HIV infections in people who inject drugs, prevention and reducing stigma. These priorities will be reflected in our 2023 funding rounds as we focus our resources in these important areas of the HIV response.

We remain committed to being a flexible and agile funder, working side by side with our partners to support people living with and affected by HIV around the world.

