



IN THIS 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
AND THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF HIV AND AIDS ...

... PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS: INVEST IN WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING WITH HIV

2011 – TIME FOR CHANGE!

Why is it that women living with HIV still have to beg for the smallest crumbs of occasional funds for our campaign work?

Why do we have still to fight for our voices to be heard in places where decisions that so deeply affected our lives are being made?

Why is it that so many international organisations that claim to prioritise the rights and needs of women and girls living with HIV and proclaim their commitment to our meaningful involvement in decisions which affect our lives, still systematically exclude us?

Why are we not included in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes?

Why are we not in leadership positions in organisations that work with women?

Why do we not have access to funds to sustain our self-help and social justice networks?

In this policy briefing paper, as we enter the fourth decade of this pandemic, we address these questions to all the world’s leading scientists, clinicians, public health experts, as well as to all the UN Family, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), the Global Fund, PEPFAR, the World Bank-MAP project, the IMF, governments, private foundations, not-for-profit organisations and all others who seek to contribute to an effective response to the HIV pandemic.

Where is the funding and what are the approaches for supporting, enabling, accompanying and promoting the meaningful participation of HIV-positive women’s networks, organisations and community support groups, at the local, national, regional and global levels?

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN’S NETWORKS AROUND THE WORLD

#1 Develop straightforward, quick-to-access and transparent funding sources with small enough lower limits. Most of the major funds start at minimal amounts too large for small networks to absorb. So, these go to the big international non-governmental organisations (implementing partners) with sophisticated structures in place to access and deploy them. Positive women’s networks are then just included as mere ciphers in these organisations’ grant proposals, in order to tick convenient boxes. Our meaningful involvement is rarely sought, nurtured or acknowledged.

#2 Create springboards and develop structural frameworks which enable women at community level to access funding. These include:

- Support for our formal organisational registration costs and efforts, wherever we are
- Support for our running costs which include access to an office, electricity, a telephone, bank account, accountant and HIV-positive women mentors
- Support our capacity to develop monitoring, evaluation, budgeting, governance, internal and external accountability and accounting systems and procedures
- Develop donor awareness of and concern for quality of care and human rights outcomes
- Invest in our ability to hire and pay skilled programme and fund-raising officers
- Support for our access to and use of IT and communications technology and the skills necessary to use it
- Fund our access to mentoring and leadership programmes from other HIV-positive women who wish to support us
- Enable the expansion of our capacity to write up what we do in ways that will enable us to publish and disseminate our efforts
- Fund our participation (registration, travel, accommodation and living costs) in the same conferences that you attend so that we too can take an active part.

#3 Raise global support for our own work to be funded. Global priorities are not aligned with community needs. Support us by investing in our projects – not by expecting us to provide service delivery in yours. Support all the levels at which we work – local, provincial, national and regional – not just at the level which suits your structures.

#4 Other recommendations and interventions for increasing access to funding for women and girls living with HIV:

- Leverage the statistical evidence you already have to support us in deed and not just in words: put your money where your mouth is
- Recognise that the evidence base is also a politically driven and wealth- and skills-determined asset, which is globally tipped against women: “absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence”
- Strengthen our capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate our programmes, to provide the evidence you require of us
- Enable our access to education and skills acquisition through local and international scholarships
- Increase our capacity and uphold our rights to engage in local, national, regional and global dialogues
- Recognise and actively support the immense potential of HIV-positive girls and young women through education and peer-mentoring and intergenerational mentorship programmes
- Recognise that our work is critically valuable and needs your investment: enforced volunteerism of women who work for human rights is deeply unjust.



SIGNATORIES OUR NETWORK OF HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN WANTS TO SEE INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING WITH HIV AND WE WANT TO SEE IT START NOW

Pink Space, China/East Asia; International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW) Global; ICW North America; PozfemUK; WECARE+; Public Personalities Against AIDS Trust, Zimbabwe; Positive Women Inc., New Zealand; Cambodian Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (CCW); U.S. Positive Women’s Network; Grassroots Empowerment Trust (GET), Kenya; Namibian Women’s Health Network; ICW Asia Pacific; Club Svitanok, Ukraine; ICW West and Central Africa (Anglophone); Jamaican Community of Positive Women; Chisinau Moldova; Hope and Life, Uzbekistan; Mama’s Club, Uganda; ‘Demetra’ Association of Women and their Families Living with HIV, Lithuania; Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (REDBOL); ‘Remissans’ – The Charitable Foundation to Protect the Rights and Interests of People Affected by HIV/AIDS, Russia; Odessa Life+, Ukraine; League of People Living With HIV, Moldova; Tajikistan Network of Women with HIV; Non-profit Organization of Social Support of the Population ‘Project April’, Russia; Srijansil Mahila Samuha, Nepal; Indonesia Positive Women Network; Rozaria Memorial Trust, Zimbabwe; Échos Séropos, Belgium; APUVIMEH, Honduras; Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation; Thai Positive Women Network, Thailand; Women of APN+; INA (Maori, Indigenous and South Pacific) HIV/AIDS Foundation; Igat Hope Positive Women’s Network, Papua New Guinea; Public Foundation ‘Answer’ Kazakhstan; Public Organisation AMICUS, Ukraine; Asociación Itxarobide, Spain; Associação Positivo, Portugal; Movimiento Latinoamericano Y Del Caribe+, Colombia; Asociación de Mujeres Gente Nueva (AMUGEN), Guatemala; Asociación de Usuarios en Mantenimiento con Metadona Organizados (AUMMO), Spain; APDO, Spain; Movimiento Latinoamericano y Del Caribe, Peru; Tawoliha Mwanza, Tanzania; Esperanza y Vida/MLCM+, Uruguay; Red Argentina de Mujeres Viviendo con VIH/SIDA; Network Alba, Scotland; Grupo de Género y VIH (REDVIH), Spain; Asociación Madvihda, Spain; Patagonia Positiva Mia, Argentina; Libiki, France; Projet Matongé, Belgium; La Voix des Faibles, Belgium; Movimiento Mexicano de Ciudadanía Positiva, Mexico; Childhood for All (Copilarie pentru Toti), Moldova; Kredintsa ‘Faith’, Moldova; ‘Second Wind’, Moldova; Trinity, Moldova; Mums for Life, Moldova; Canadian Treatment Action Council; WAPN+; Charitable Women’s Foundation Astra, Russia; The Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+)

