

2020 Call for Project Proposals

*Programme for the Strengthening of Country Responses to HIV in Times of COVID-19
Addressed to Community-Led Organizations Working with HIV in Latin America and the
Caribbean*

1. About the *Programme for the Strengthening of Country Responses to HIV in Times of COVID-19 Addressed to Community-Led organizations working with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean*

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented crisis that is taking thousands of lives, straining health systems everywhere, affecting livelihoods and impacting the economies of countries and individuals. The knowledge and experience of UNAIDS in supporting national, regional and global HIV responses serves as a lesson learned in developing a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNAIDS contributes to this strengthening process through the promotion of transforming gender-based responses that are founded on evidence and human rights.

On the other hand, in the global context, UNAIDS promotes the strengthening of social protection actions to reduce gender, income and social inequalities, which are factors that increase the risk of infection and the negative impacts of HIV on people's lives. Worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic is particularly affecting members of communities of people living with HIV, key populations and other vulnerable people, including young people, women, indigenous communities, migrants and refugees.

UNAIDS promotes the idea that communities have an incomparably profound experience in creating community-led responses to humanitarian and health crises.

The networks of community-led organizations that were developed in response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic have a unique expertise and value, as well as an organizational capacity to facilitate service delivery and basic care, and to influence people's real-life practices to better protect their health.

As stated in the *“Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030”*, countries must “call for increased and sustained investment in the advocacy and leadership role, involvement and empowerment of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, women, children, bearing in mind the roles and responsibilities of parents, young people, especially young women and girls, local leaders, community-based organizations, indigenous communities and civil society more generally, as part of a broader effort to ensure that at least 6 per cent of all global AIDS resources are allocated for social enablers, including advocacy, community and political mobilization, community monitoring, public communication and outreach programmes to increase access to rapid tests and diagnosis,

as well as human rights programmes such as law and policy reform and stigma and discrimination reduction.”¹

2. Context:

UNAIDS, in the COVID-19 context, launched a rapid survey to have a better understanding of the needs of people living with HIV in the Latin America and Caribbean region, including aspects such as access to health, availability of antiretroviral treatment, as well as other important aspects, including social protection and the protection of human rights. Of the total number of survey respondents, eight out of ten (82%) indicated as a priority their wish to receive information on tips for the care of people living with HIV (PLWHIV). Besides this, 31% expressed they had not received enough information on how to prevent the transmission of the new coronavirus.

70% of the survey respondents indicated they did not currently have more than a two-month supply of antiretrovirals (ARVs). This represents a challenge for the health systems in the region and the community responses.

All this evidence constitutes a warning which calls for the active participation of governments, international cooperation, and communities in a coordinated response to the needs of PLWHIV. For this reason, UNAIDS is making a call to support the actions of civil society and communities.

3. Objective and strategic lines of the call:

3.1. Objective: Support the central role played by the communities working with or affected by HIV in the Latin America and Caribbean Region in the response to COVID-19 to promote community-led projects and evidence.

3.2. Strategic lines of the call:

1. Prevention of the transmission of COVID-19.
2. HIV response and prevention continuum.
3. Human rights, stigma, discrimination and violence towards people living with or affected by HIV and COVID-19.

¹ Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2016/2016-political-declaration-HIV-AIDS>

Examples of each line:

Line	Example
1. Prevention of the transmission of COVID-19	Promotion of COVID-19 prevention measures, like the use of face masks and social distancing. Promotion of behavioural change, starting with communities.
2. HIV response and prevention continuum	Promotion of PrEP, PEP, HIV self-tests, increased detection. Encourage self-care, the use of condoms, sex education, psychosocial support for people living with HIV. Promotion and adherence to antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV. Support for multimonth dispensing of antiretroviral treatment in the context of COVID-19, support communities to ensure the delivery of ARVs. Promotion of healthy behaviours.
3. Human rights, stigma, discrimination and violence towards people living with or affected by HIV and COVID-19	Promotion of the human rights of key populations. Raise awareness of the human rights of people living with HIV. Communication for the development and behavioural change that would prevent violence against people living with HIV and key populations. Actions that promote health for everyone. Social protection actions.

3.3. Populations to be addressed:

People living with HIV; key populations of the HIV epidemic (gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and prisoners); women; boys, girls, teenagers and young people living with or affected by HIV; indigenous populations and people of African descent; people in mobility (migrants, refugees or asylum seekers) living with or vulnerable to HIV.

4. Phases of the call

1. Optional Training workshop on the creation of projects:

The organizations may choose to participate in this first phase, that, through online teaching, aims to provide information and build capacities on the basic elements of project creation.

The organizations interested in taking part in this workshop must send an email to: cuadraM@unaids.org and provisramirez@unaids.org with a concept note (according to the form Annex 1) in which a general description of the project is presented along with the certificate or accreditation document of the NGO.

To participate in the first phase, the concept notes must be submitted from July 18 to July 31 2020 (Panama time) as shown by the sent date.

The concept notes must:

- Fall within the established strategic lines.
- Address at least one of the suggested populations.
- Be presented by an entity or group of entities that are accredited as an NGO.
- The organization that presents or leads the proposal works in one or more countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The organization that presents or leads the proposal is led by and for people living with HIV and/or the key populations selected for this call.

The organizations whose Concept Notes are selected will receive a notification from UNAIDS, indicating the next steps to be taken.

2. Project Submission:

The organizations that wish to submit a project must send an email to the following addresses: cuadraM@unaids.org and provisramirez@unaids.org considering the following:

- Projects may be submitted by legally established non-profit community-led organizations, with presence in one or more countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, that have a bank account enabled to receive international transfers and finance systems with strong accountability.
- Organizations that work with HIV, sexual diversity, gender identity, human rights or key populations.
- Only one proposal per organization may be submitted, according to the format provided by UNAIDS (Annex 2).
- The budgets must be prepared in United States Dollars (USD).

Criteria for the submission of a project:

A)

- It falls within the strategic lines established for this call.
- Address at least one of the suggested populations.
- Incorporate the needs of the country or region based on evidence, providing innovative solutions to social, health or human rights issues.
- Envision a gender approach.
- Consider short-term measurable impacts.
- Coordination with other civil society social actors and networks.
- Commitment with the exchange of knowledge through the documentation, evaluation and dissemination of results.
- Consider methods for the communication and dissemination of results.

B)

- Be presented by an entity or group of entities that are accredited as an NGO and have a certificate guaranteeing their legal status.
- Include a balanced budget according to the duration of the project.
- Have potential to replicate multiplying, transforming and sustainable impacts.

The suggested solutions will be positively assessed if, besides meeting the criteria, they:

- Promote the leadership and participation of communities and people affected by the problem.
- Use alternative means and innovative methodologies that reach people that are normally left behind.
- Promote coordination and multisectoral work, approaching the problems to be addressed in a multidimensional way.

UNAIDS for Latin America and the Caribbean will be actively involved in the guidance and orientation of the programme.

Amount of funding:

The budgetary requests can be a maximum amount of \$5,000 USD. The projects must have a minimum duration of 2 months, and a maximum duration of 4 months. To consider the formal aspects and clauses of the use of the funds, please refer to the finance guide of this call (Annex 3).

Date for the submission of projects

The projects must be submitted from August 17 to August 31, 2020 (Panama time -GMT-5), along with a detailed budget (Annex 3), to the following email addresses: cuadraM@unaid.org and provisramirez@unaid.org.

Project Selection:

Once the period for the submission of projects has ended, a technical committee made up of members from PAHO, WFP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, will select the proposals that fall under the strategic lines of this call. This committee can make comments and suggestions to the projects that must be included in the final proposal. The process in which the funds will be disbursed is detailed in the finance guide (Annex 3).

Calendar:

Phase	Date
Launch of the call	July 17, 2020
Reception of concept notes according to phase 1	July 18, to July 31, 2020
Optional training for civil society organizations phase 1	August 12, 2020
Project submission phase 2	August 17, to August 31, 2020
Last date for publication of selected projects by the Committee	September 18, 2020