



THIRD LATIN AMERICAN AND  
CARIBBEAN FORUM  
"ROAD TO ENDING AIDS IN LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE  
REGIONAL FAST-TRACK TARGETS"  
NOVEMBER 6 - 8, 2017 PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

TROISIÈME FORUM DE  
L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET DES CARAÏBES  
"METTRE FIN AU SIDA EN AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET  
DANS LES CARAÏBES: VERS DES OBJECTIFS  
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## Key Messages

**Third Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Sustaining the Response to HIV  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, November 6-8, 2017. "Putting an end to AIDS in Latin America and the  
Caribbean: Moving towards the sustainability of Accelerated Action's regional targets."**

### - What is the LAC III Forum?

The LAC III Forum is organized by the Haitian government in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), the Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group (GCTH), the Ministry of Health of Brazil, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the Caribbean Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (CRN+), and the Latin American Network of People Living with HIV (REDLA+). 150 participants from Latin America and the Caribbean will meet at the forum, including:

- ✓ Government health, finance, economic development and planning representatives.
- ✓ Multilateral and bilateral partners, civil society representatives, leaders of regional networks and members of faith communities.
- ✓ People that live with HIV, their organizations and networks.
- ✓ The private sector.
- ✓ Academics: health funding experts.

### - Why is this forum taking place?

- ✓ It is taking place because regional stakeholders find that there is an urgent need to promote actions to fast track the end of AIDS as a public health threat ensuring sustainability of the gains made in the HIV response over the last 30 years in the face of financial and economic threats.
- ✓ In the region there is an expressed need for more funds and an ongoing concomitant need to be cost-efficient in delivering national responses to HIV.
- ✓ It is necessary to discuss strategies for ownership and financing of the HIV response in countries that are more dependent on external funds, especially for prevention and care and support for key and vulnerable populations.
- ✓ There is a need to facilitate a dialogue with stakeholders in the region to effectively allocate the necessary financial resources while promoting efficiency.
- ✓ It is critical for stakeholders to share experiences, lessons learnt and best practices that can help the region to build more sustainable mechanisms for efficient health delivery services.



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- ✓ The successful experiences from two previous forums (Mexico 2014 and Rio 2015) on HIV have demonstrated the power of these events to drive actions in the region.
  - **What can we expect from this Forum?**
  - ✓ Representatives and experts from different sectors (governments, civil society, private sector, international partners, academia) will share relevant data and experiences about sustainability of the response with presentations during sessions and posters in a “market place”.
  - ✓ Participants will discuss key challenges in working group sessions and arrive at consensus on actions to move forward the sustainability.
  - ✓ Lastly, the forum will facilitate a discussion about the necessary strategies and mechanisms for transitioning towards sustainable responses at national level.
  - ✓ Participants will agree on a call to action to be implemented. The call to action will provide a set of recommendations to reduce budget gaps, make public expenditure more efficient and equitable and maximize the use of non-financial resources.
  - ✓ Information will be shared widely to participants and external audiences through live broadcast of the proceedings of the forum, social media and a web site.
- **Why is this Forum focused on sustainability?**
- ✓ With the development of the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) there is greater need to expand the scale and scope of addressing HIV within the framework of health, well-being and the right to health.
- ✓ Economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean resulted in a region broadly comprising high and upper-middle income countries, and as a result, having constraints placed on their access to international donor aid, although LAC is the most unequal region in the world
- ✓ In the region, support from donors to the response to HIV, such as the Global Fund and PEPFAR, continues to be essential, but external aid is expected to decrease in many countries, paradoxically as a result of the economic growth that the region has experienced, which decreases their eligibility criteria to receive funds.
- ✓ The discrepancy between resource availability and inefficiency in resource allocation and outlay affects sustainability, especially that of programs and services for the most vulnerable groups and key populations.
- ✓ Just 3 years from the deadline to meet the Fast-Track targets, we find ourselves in a global context with complex development priorities and humanitarian crises that pose challenges to cooperation and national funds.
- ✓ The UNAIDS Fast Track update on investments needed in the AIDS response estimates that middle income countries will need to increase the international and domestic investments in HIV programmes by one third in order to achieve the 2020 targets.
- ✓ Inaction would lead to further resource needs that will increase the costs of responding to the epidemic, which translates into lives lost and a heavy burden on public finances.



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- **What is the investment situation regarding the response to HIV in the region?**

- ✓ In both Latin America and the Caribbean, the resources allocated to fast track the end of AIDS remain lower than what is needed to achieve Fast-Track Targets by 2020
- ✓ Donor dependency is higher for prevention with proven impact, especially in the Caribbean and in Central America, and especially for Key and vulnerable population
- ✓ In Latin America total resources for the HIV response in the region increased by 139% between 2006 and 2016, from around US\$ 1 billion to US\$ 2.6 billion. An additional 22% increase will be needed to reach the level of funding required to reach the Fast-Track Targets for 2020.
- ✓ Caribbean countries funded 21% of an estimated total of US\$ 367 million allocated to HIV responses in the region in 2016.

- **What are the main sustainability challenges in the response to HIV in LAC?**

- ✓ The region has made some remarkable achievements which need to be safeguarded through structural barriers involving equity to access to health care and social justice.
- ✓ Diminishing external funding for their HIV programmes threatens the gains made so far.
- ✓ Fiscal spaces are cramped in countries with small economies as characterized by the vulnerable small islands nations that compose the Caribbean.
- ✓ Identifying new resource mobilization approaches, improvements in allocating and tracking HIV resources, and increases in efficiencies and cost savings in a global economic environment which is shifting.
- ✓ Getting governments to commit to increase public funds towards supporting prevention programmes for key populations at risk of being discontinued because the primary support is through international donors.
- ✓ Financing studies and research to build evidence for policy and decision making.

- **What is a possible way forward?**

- ✓ A shared responsibility: Ending the AIDS epidemic is a shared responsibility, requiring increases in both international and domestic investment in the AIDS responses of low- and middle-income countries. It is essential there is a Regional commitment to this shared responsibility and that the resources required to reach Fast-Track Targets are urgently mobilized.
- ✓ Ending AIDS by 2030 in LAC will require increased investment in the expansion of prevention, diagnosis, care (including social protection) and treatment services in the most efficient way to safeguard the sustainability of the national responses.



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- ✓ Efficiency gains, price reductions for commodities, and allocative and technical efficiencies will be needed to secure a financially sustainable response that is capable of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- ✓ Ensure that services and budgets related to HIV are integrated into universal access for healthcare.
- ✓ Countries must take advantage of the transition period to new financing scenarios to position their response to HIV in the context of broader healthcare and other sectorial reforms towards decentralized universal healthcare coverage.
- ✓ A new interpretation must be made of the concepts of multilateral and bilateral cooperation to guarantee that not just financial resources, but also technical support is available.
- ✓ It is key to reinforce accountability mechanisms and strategic information systems that make focused and efficient interventions possible.
- ✓ Maximizing scarce resources: A Fast-Track approach requires more than additional resources. Fast-Track is a comprehensive approach of health systems working in close collaboration with civil society to deliver evidence-informed, high-impact services within an enabling environment that protects people's rights and advances progress towards achieving zero discrimination
- ✓ Fast-Track is guided at the national level and realized at the local level. It requires cities, towns and communities to take charge of their HIV responses by analysing the nature of their epidemics and then using a location–population approach to focus their resources on the geographical areas and among the populations in greatest need.
- ✓ Community-based service delivery models are required to reach key populations, such as sex workers, people who inject drugs, transgender people, and gay men and other men who have sex with men.
- ✓ Investment needs by programme area: Approximately one quarter of total investment should be focused on preventing new HIV infections. These prevention investments—including condom promotion, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, pre-exposure prophylaxis and a contribution towards services for key populations—need to increase.