At the age of 15, Carol got pregnant and contracted HIV after being convinced by her teacher that sex relieves menstrual cramps. Misinformation is harmful.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education must be legalized in schools.

© Naskmariz 2018 | PhotoVoice | Frontline AIDS | PITCH | Uganda

Photovoice photos were taken by members of key population communities in PITCH countries.
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**PITCH** Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response  
**aidsfonds**  
**FRONTLINE AIDS**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
# Acronyms

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>AWID</td>
<td>Association of Women in Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>CCM</td>
<td>Country coordinating mechanism</td>
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<td>DTG</td>
<td>Dolutegravir</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNP+</td>
<td>Global Network for and by People Living with HIV</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender</td>
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<td>NSWP</td>
<td>Global Network of Sex Work Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEPFAR</td>
<td>President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief</td>
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<td>REAct</td>
<td>Rights Evidence Action</td>
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<td>READY</td>
<td>Resilient and Empowered Adolescents and Young People</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Community</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health and rights</td>
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<td>SRC</td>
<td>Sexual Rights Centre</td>
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<td>UNYPA</td>
<td>Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV and AIDS</td>
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<td>UHC</td>
<td>Universal health coverage</td>
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**Foreword**

*Why we’re here*
In 2015, we had the vision that advocacy should be instrumental in the HIV response, particularly for the most marginalised populations. The Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH) has provided a rare and focused opportunity, enabling communities to really make advocacy part of their DNA and to amplify the voice of key populations and adolescent girls and young women at all levels of the HIV response.

*Achievements and challenges*
Looking back over the last four years, we have achieved far-reaching successes. Some repressive laws and policies have been changed or blocked, ensuring human rights are upheld for marginalised people. The evidence collected has proven crucial in enabling the communities most affected by HIV to claim a seat at the table in national decision-making spaces, and increasingly to engage in meaningful dialogue with authorities. Many such interactions have already led to important policy changes, reflecting the needs and concerns of key populations and adolescent girls and young women. Community partners have also played an important role influencing the national plans of countries taking forward their universal health coverage (UHC) implementation, such as Kenya and Vietnam.

At the global level, PITCH has enabled community voices to become more powerful and influential in the decision-making of funding mechanisms, such as the Global Fund and PEPFAR, and in policy spaces such as the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

However, these achievements are at risk. Globally, and in many of the PITCH countries, we are witnessing the harmful effects of rising populism and ultra-conservatism on civic space, especially for organisations and networks led by criminalised and marginalised communities. As the Global Fund transitions out of certain countries, and country coordinating mechanisms cease to exist, the gap between communities and governments is further widening, which risks diminishing the hard-won gains that have been made in demanding accountability of governments. This calls for strong coalitions of key population groups, in country and across regions.

*Our final year: continuing to advocate, investing in sustainability and scaling up gender-transformative approaches*
The wide array of results achieved by PITCH partners over the last four years has created a momentum that has put marginalised populations at the forefront of advocating for increased funding and for an HIV response that meets the needs of those who are most affected. Their unrelenting commitment has proven to be a source of inspiration, from which an ambitious agenda for 2020 has been set.

This year, PITCH partners will continue fighting for laws and policies that are grounded in health and human rights, taking on issues such as the criminalisation of sex work and of people who use drugs and the age of consent for young people accessing HIV services, as well as facing down alarming new legislative proposals in Indonesia and Uganda. The development of more focussed national and local advocacy strategies on domestic resource mobilisation and UHC will enable partners to engage early on in the development of national
UHC packages, health budgets and community-friendly health policies.

Sustaining the advocacy work of PITCH partners will be high on the agenda in 2020. We will build new partnerships and coalitions beyond the HIV response, both as a strategy for achieving change and in order to build constituencies of support for PITCH priorities that will endure beyond the end of the programme. Through training and peer-to-peer approaches, we will strengthen the capacity of partners to respond strategically to their changing contexts and use public communications as an integrated part of their advocacy.

Having intensified our focus on gender in 2019, in 2020 PITCH will continue building partners’ capacity to implement gender-transformative approaches and pursue advocacy asks that advance women’s rights and health, from advocating on the sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of women who use drugs to campaign on gender-based violence.

In some countries, the vision we had in 2015 is coming to fruition. In others, we still face many obstacles and in some cases increased pushback. However, at all levels, PITCH partners have put the stakes in the ground for sustained and successful community advocacy beyond the lifespan of the programme. Together with partners we will seize every opportunity in 2020 and beyond.

Christine Stegling  Mark Vermeulen
Executive Director  Director
Frontline AIDS  Aidsfonds
1. Introduction

We are pleased to share the 2020 PITCH annual plan, which provides a high-level overview of the programme’s ambitions and aims for the coming year. PITCH is entering its fifth and final year full of energy and committed to make sure every last opportunity is seized. PITCH continues to have a strong focus on capacity and movement building, which will help to ensure what PITCH partners have achieved over the last few years is sustained, and they are well placed to continue advocating at all levels in the future. The challenging context in which this is happening is set forth in the next section. In the third section, PITCH partners’ priorities for 2020 and beyond are shared. Finally, the fourth section examines evidence building, learning and partnership.
“As a transgender women, you live with many challenges. I am HIV+. My husband doesn’t work and without opportuni-
ties as a MSM, I work as a sex worker to support us. We live in a community with other sex workers but there are no health clinics which I can go to close to where I live in order for me to get my medication and SRHR support. There is one clinic close to me but I won’t go to it because of how they treat me. The government hospitals are even worse. You queue for hours, even if you were the first to arrive - because of who are. The doctors won’t even examine us, just prescribing the treatment without checking us over. Because of this, I rely on an NGO for services - that’s where I first tested - I knew what the results would be. The thing that scares me most is that my husband will leave me and I will have to do this alone.” MSM and sex workers affected by HIV often face souble discrimination. The are a hidden group, often isolated from their communities and families. MSM and sex worker are human who have the right to health services too. Friendly HIV and SRHR services which provide long-term health care plan must be provided.

Photo credit: © EMK 2018 | PhotoVoice | Frontline AIDS | ‘PITCH’ | Myanmar
2. Context analysis

According to UNAIDS’ 2019 Global Report the pace of progress in reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to treatment and ending AIDS-related deaths is slowing down.1 Some countries are making impressive gains while others are experiencing rises in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. Every week, around 6,200 young women aged 15 to 24 become infected with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa, four out of five new infections among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years occur among girls. Young women aged 15 to 24 are twice as likely to be living with HIV as men. Gender-based violence continues to be a barrier in many PITCH countries. Experiencing gender and/or sexual-based violence increases the likelihood of women acquiring HIV. In 2019, PITCH intensified its focus on bringing a gender-transformative approach to PITCH activities, leading to an increased demand from many implementing partners for capacity strengthening and technical support on gender. The 2020 Association of Women in Development (AWID) Forum in October 2020 will be an important event for PITCH to continue to build its feminist approach to HIV.

The UNAIDS’ report shows that key populations and their sexual partners now account for more than half (54%) of new HIV infections globally. In 2018, key populations – including people who inject drugs, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and prisoners – accounted for around 95% of new HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 78% in Asia and the Pacific, 64% in Western and Central Africa and 25% in Eastern and Southern Africa. The report also shows that fewer than half of those belonging to a key population were reached with combination HIV prevention services in more than half of the countries that reported. This highlights that key populations are still being marginalised and are being left behind in the response to HIV. Disconcertingly, UNAIDS’ findings show a widening gap between resource needs and resource availability.

The UNAIDS’ report also highlights how communities are central to ending AIDS. Across all sectors of the HIV response, community empowerment and ownership has resulted in a greater uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services, a reduction in stigma and discrimination and the protection of human rights. However, insufficient funding for community-led responses and negative policy environments stop these successes from reaching full scale and generating maximum impact.

The Global Fund Replenishment in 2019 successfully mobilised more than USD 14 billion, making it the largest ever replenishment of a global health initiative. However, in 2020 reliable funding sources are likely to become increasingly scarce, while several PITCH countries will undergo a transition in their funding-eligibility status. For some PITCH countries, their transition to middle-income status represents a double-edged sword. The recognition of these country’s strong economic performance and newfound access to a diversity of financing options beyond direct aid is something to be celebrated. However, there is also a significant risk that long-term donors will cut their budgets on the assumption that these countries can access enough funding to finance their own HIV service delivery and advocacy programmes. For countries transitioning away from Global Fund financing by 2025, including

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Ukraine, the move towards domestic funding is challenging. Furthermore, even where domestic funds are available, governments are not always willing or able to invest these in key populations. For instance, in contexts where key populations are criminalised the law can prevent domestic funds to be allocated towards them.

In Indonesia, for example, it is anticipated that international funding for HIV programming in 2020 will fall if the country is re-categorised from lower middle-income to upper middle-income status in 2019. Meanwhile, local government authorities in Indonesia, who are responsible for HIV programming, are not yet equipped to adopt this funding responsibility as their own.

In 2020 the combination of ultra-conservatism and conditionality under the global gag rule will continue to hamper civil society resource mobilisation efforts in several PITCH countries. In Vietnam, PITCH partners receiving US funding expect to see a reduction in financial support from both the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Department of Health in 2020, considered to be a consequence of Donald Trump’s presidency. This will be a significant loss in a country where US funding has had a demonstrably positive impact on HIV service provision, research and training.

Restricted opportunities for political lobbying and advocacy, as well as limited space for civil society advocacy and for human rights advocates, represent an important concern for PITCH partners in 2020. A PITCH and CIVICUS research on civic space (currently being finalised) demonstrates how, formally and informally, civic space is shrinking. It also highlights a common trend; namely, the targeting of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Depending on the country context, other groups such as people who use drugs and sex workers are also being targeted by ultra-conservative and far-right groups. This research shows how such restrictions and violations are negatively affecting, not only the efforts of key populations and civil society organisations to undertake effective HIV work, but the public health system itself.

In Indonesia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Ukraine, elections held in 2019 are likely to cause ongoing uncertainty around the content of emerging HIV legislation as well as a lack of clarity concerning the priorities of new ministerial and legislative appointments. In Myanmar, upcoming elections in 2020 are likely to undermine partners’ advocacy strategies and commitments to key populations. Ukraine will also have local elections and a cabinet reshuffle; both are likely to disturb PITCH partners’ plans to advocate for key populations in 2020. Although a change of key government decision-makers risks undermining the progress made by advocates, this also raises hope in some countries that new appointments will be more sympathetic than their predecessors to PITCH partners’ advocacy asks.

In both Uganda and Zimbabwe, it is anticipated that civil society organisations will continue to face intimidation and government restrictions on their advocacy activities in 2020. Politicians in Uganda continue to make highly stigmatising
statements about LGBT people, including threats from some to bring back the notorious Anti-Homosexuality Bill which makes homosexual acts punishable by death, and partners on the ground argue that this environment fuels violence against LGBT people. A common strategy deployed by both governments and elsewhere is to withdraw formal registration from civil society organisations as well as demanding that legitimately registered organisations re-register; tactics that are likely to continue in 2020. At the same time there are some positive developments. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) recently approved the SADC Parliamentary Forum Key Population Minimum Standards. This shows a clear commitment across all member states to close the gap for key populations within national HIV responses. The purpose of the minimum standards is to provide guidance and support for parliamentarians across SADC in their role to make interventions at parliamentary and constituency levels for the protection of the sexual and reproductive health of key populations and for ensuring that all individuals in member states achieve their right to health. PITCH will seek to make full use of this opportunity.

AIDS2020, the International AIDS Conference, is coming up in July 2020. This is an important event for the HIV response, however many of our partners will not be able to attend AIDS2020 because of travel restrictions for sex workers, people who use drugs and people who have ever been arrested. Because of this, PITCH will focus most of its efforts on HIV2020, an alternative conference to AIDS2020 that will be held in Mexico City from 5 to 7 July 2020, at the same time as the International AIDS Conference. HIV2020 will be an inclusive, international, community-led event that focusses on the communities who have been most disproportionately impacted by the HIV and AIDS pandemic. It will provide a safe alternative for individuals who cannot enter the US. The theme of HIV2020 is ‘Community Reclaiming the Global Response’, and will centre on issues of equity, parity and inclusion. PITCH sees HIV2020 as an important opportunity to reaffirm the leading role communities play in the global HIV response. Although 2020 holds many challenges, PITCH partners have shown they are up to the task. At the same time there are many opportunities, as well as results previously achieved by change, on which we can act and where progress is a real possibility. The following sections show how PITCH intends to do this.
3. Priorities and highlights

3.1 Investing in community advocacy

3.1.1. Movement building between and within communities

PITCH has helped to strengthen relationships between advocates and communities, building partnerships and coalitions capable of bringing about change in ways that would not have been possible had they operated individually.

In 2020, PITCH will continue to create opportunities at the country, regional and global levels for movement building.

PITCH will contribute to enabling young people, in particular adolescent girls and young women, to engage in HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programming and strengthen peer-to-peer approaches to the HIV response. In Uganda, with the leadership of the youth-led organisation the Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV and AIDS (UNYPA), PITCH partners will organise the Y+ Summit. This will bring together over 350 people, including young people living with HIV, all PITCH partners, and representatives from partnerships such as Bridging the Gaps, Right Here Right Now, Get Up Speak Out and READY (Resilient and Empowered Adolescents and Young People). Representatives from the Ugandan Ministry of Health, civil society organisations, health workers, ministers and AIDS development partners will also participate. The Y+ Summit will inspire young people living with HIV, adolescent girls and young women from diverse backgrounds and peer supporters to showcase peer-led contributions and strategies, highlighting how this work is both critical and complementary to the HIV response for children and adolescents.

In Mozambique, through Pathfinder International, PITCH will continue to strengthen the Platform for the Rights of Sex Workers, which is comprised of cis-women sex workers and trans-women sex workers. At both the national and provincial level, the platform has a good integration of implementing partners and sex workers, and this is enabling the movement of sex workers in Mozambique to be strengthened.

In 2020, PITCH partners in Indonesia will continue to advocate against Penal Code reform and monitor the work of parliament. The movement against the reform of the Penal Code has grown exponentially in 2019. What started in 2016, as a PITCH initiative with partner the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform to sensitize all PITCH partners on the proposed reform of the Penal Code, has now turned into a national movement that goes beyond the PITCH partnership.

As well as this exciting national-level work, PITCH also includes a strong component in building movements that have advocacy reach from the national to the regional and global levels. In January 2020, PITCH will begin the year by organising the
third PITCH Policy Summit, which will take place in Uganda. The Policy Summit will bring together implementing partners from the nine PITCH countries, the regional programme and the global partners. Peer-to-peer learning between all levels will take place and partners will be directly involved in development of the summit. At the summit, partners will develop strategies on how to achieve the key advocacy priorities for the programme’s last year and beyond.

A key event for movement building at the global level will be the HIV2020 conference in July. The conference will be organised by PITCH partners and members of the Free Space Process; namely, the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the International Network of People who Use Drugs, MPact: Global Action for Gay Men’s Health and Rights and the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP). PITCH country and regional partners will also be supported to attend the conference. HIV2020 will provide an important opportunity to strengthen the global movement of key populations and communities, as well as their advocacy strategies, in response to the global HIV epidemic.

In 2020, PITCH will continue to align and coordinate with existing partnerships, coalitions and movements to ensure universal health coverage (UHC) works for key and marginalised populations. This will be supported through specific UHC PITCH flexible-investment funding, with approaches made both at the regional and country level. At the global level, PITCH will strengthen networking with the broader health movement in the context of UHC. This includes engaging with the UHC civil society mechanism to ensure a rights-based approach and finding ways to insure inclusiveness. PITCH global policy advocacy will seek to strengthen relations with the social justice movement. For example, PITCH will work closely with CIVICUS, the EU human rights movement, the Global Fund Advocates Network and others to ensure funding and political support for community engagement and responses.

Through its coordination of the African Network of Networks coalition, the International Drug Policy Consortium will also be working regionally in 2020 to support movement-building efforts. This loose coalition brings together the various African sub-regional networks and coalitions to discuss pan-African activities and opportunities for movement strengthening around harm reduction and drug policy reform.

3.1.2 Building advocacy skills and knowledge

In January 2019 the PITCH Capacity Strengthening Task Force was formed and carried out a strategic review of the capacity strengthening needs of PITCH partners across the programme’s nine countries. This identified four priority areas for capacity building; namely, strategic advocacy, communications for advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and gender. Strategies have been developed in order to respond to these needs in 2020. To support the programme’s sustainability in the final year of implementation, the ‘training of trainers’ approach and peer-to-peer coaching will be key strategies to achieve our goals.

In 2020 PITCH will build the capacity of partners to use communication for advocacy. In recent years, social movements have played out on social media in an expression of active digital citizenship.
The working group will aim to increase the capacity of partners to use strategic communications methods to capitalise on the opportunities presented to them, both by social media and other avenues for public advocacy. Driven by partners’ advocacy priorities as defined in their 2020 work plans, PITCH will organise a series of trainings in all nine countries on a range of topics, including abstract writing, social media strategy and tools, and developing communication materials.

Complementing this work, flexible-investment funding will be used to train partners in Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria on domestic resource mobilisation for HIV and UHC. This will include training on budget advocacy, including finance tracking at the national and regional levels. Bespoke curriculums will be developed, and trainings will take place at the beginning of the year, allowing trained advocates to share their acquired skills with other PITCH advocates and stakeholders. In 2020, tailored advocacy workshops will be implemented in all five PITCH countries in Africa on the topic of UHC as a follow-up to a regional workshop held in Johannesburg in November 2019. Partners will also continue to be mentored to engage in national-level advocacy for resource mobilisation when engaging both the Global Fund and PEPFAR mechanisms. This will be part of a specific project aimed at strengthening the advocacy capacities of organisations working with adolescent girls and young women in Southern Africa.

As part of the programme’s final evaluation, PITCH partners will actively participate in country reflection meetings organised in June and July 2020. Outcome harvesting methodology will be applied as a way to measure the contributions of PITCH to observable, significant changes. This will help to strengthen the capacity of partners to effectively measure and evaluate their contributions to change.

A crosscutting priority for PITCH partners in 2020 will be to strengthen activities that focus on gender by developing skills such as gender analysis and an understanding of, and confidence to apply, gender-transformative programming approaches. Gender analysis can help identify important data gaps which, once addressed, can support the advocacy work of PITCH partners, help to address and challenge harmful gender norms, and advance a comprehensive SRHR agenda. A key focus will be to identify and address gendered barriers to accessing services, for example, by working with law enforcement agents to reduce arbitrary arrests and violence against sex workers, women who use drugs, and LGBT people. In response to a request from PITCH partners in Kenya and Zimbabwe, a consortium-wide training on gender-transformative approaches is being organised in order to bring an inclusive and intersectional gender analysis and perspective to their work with all four focus populations.

3.2 Changing laws and policies

In 2020 a number of countries will be reviewing existing HIV policies or drafting new national HIV strategies. PITCH country partners have increasingly gained access to policy-makers and regulatory bodies. In some cases, country partners are now formally involved in the development and review of HIV policies.

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regulatory bodies. In some cases, PITCH partners are now formally involved in the development and review of HIV policies. For example, in Zimbabwe, PITCH partner the Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) will participate in the review of the National Gender and HIV Implementation Plan. SRC will push for a broader and more inclusive definition of gender; one that addresses issues relating to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and approaches to gender programming.

In Uganda, UNYPA, a youth-led HIV network, has been funded through a PITCH flexible investment to support the Uganda AIDS Commission to draft a five-year key population programming framework and action plan, to run between 2019 and 2025. In Vietnam, the Revised Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention will be submitted to the National Assembly at the end of 2020. The objective of PITCH partners is for the role of community networks and community-based organisations within service provision to be recognised by the government and in the text of the law. This is critical because service provision should not only happen through government facilities; services should also be delivered by community-based organisations as they have added value in reaching key populations. Indeed, the Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control has acknowledged the important role of community-based organisations and civil society organisations in prevention activities.

Ukraine is also expecting a new national HIV strategy. At the moment the country does not have a current National Strategic Plan on HIV or on tuberculosis (TB). PITCH partners will work to ensure that a multiyear plan is agreed and implemented, underpinned by clear goals and
priorities. This is of particular importance, considering the recent change in government. Previously-approved decisions made by the country coordinating mechanism (CCM) on Ukraine's National Strategy on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis and the accompanying Operational Plan, which are set to run until 2030, were taken with the previous government in place. At the moment, it is unclear who will be the new chair of the CCM and when the next meeting will be organised. Within the PITCH regional Eastern Europe and Central Asia programme, the ambition is for St. Petersburg in Russia to sign the Paris Declaration and become part of the Fast Track City Initiative. The initiative provides cities with a platform to address social inclusion and public health in order to deliver on the commitments made in the Paris Declaration to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. An experience-exchange will be organised between PITCH partner AFEW Kazakhstan and partners in St. Petersburg on how to create enabling conditions for signing the Paris Declaration. For Bishkek, the goal in 2020 will be to sign the Zero TB Declaration.

In 2020 the criminalisation of key populations remains one of the biggest challenges to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 and enabling people from key populations to enjoy basic human rights. In Zimbabwe, partners will try to influence the development of the country's drug control master plan, which is being devised by a government inter-ministerial committee to take a public health approach to drug use. In Nigeria, partners are trying to move policy-makers and law enforcement to take an evidence-based policy approach to drug use. In Mozambique, it is expected that the Central Cabinet for Drugs Prevention and Combat will revise Law 3/97, which would decriminalise drug use by December 2020. Previously, PITCH partners provided input to the central cabinet by organising workshops on the draft law for civil society organisations. In addition, workshops were organised where harm reduction and the human rights of people who use drugs were discussed and experiences shared from Uganda and Kenya. Alongside following the passage of the law, in 2020 PITCH will contribute by advocating for the development of a harm reduction policy with the Mozambique Ministry of Health. In addition, evidence will be

The goal of PITCH partner Legalife Ukraine, a sex worker organisation, is to achieve decriminalisation not legalisation. Legalife Ukraine will continue to advocate for this goal in 2020 and will work with the national inter-agency working group, which consists of community service organisations and government officials, to amend the draft law. Advocacy in Myanmar in 2020 will work towards prison reforms, including increasing access to harm reduction services in prisons. A specific advocacy target will be to review the recently developed standing operating procedure on prison health, the Jail Manual and Penal Code, which are outdated and vague. Unless this is revised, access to health services in prisons will continue to be a challenge. Similarly in Zimbabwe, partners will try to influence the development of the country’s drug control master plan, which is being devised by a government inter-ministerial committee to take a public health approach to drug use. In Mozambique, it is expected that the Central Cabinet for Drugs Prevention and Combat will revise Law 3/97, which would decriminalise drug use by December 2020. Previously, PITCH partners provided input to the central cabinet by organising workshops on the draft law for civil society organisations. In addition, workshops were organised where harm reduction and the human rights of people who use drugs were discussed and experiences shared from Uganda and Kenya. Alongside following the passage of the law, in 2020 PITCH will contribute by advocating for the development of a harm reduction policy with the Mozambique Ministry of Health. In addition, evidence will be
produced based on the results of a pilot harm reduction project, which was implemented by the government, Médecins Sans Frontières and Unidos.

A downward spiral is occurring in several countries where there is a push for further criminalisation of key populations and a chipping-away at sexual and reproductive rights. In Indonesia, the parliament is keen to pass a new Penal Code. Out of the 18 problematic articles in the proposed code, the ban on extra-marital sex is one of the most controversial. If passed, it would lead to the criminalisation of homosexuality and cohabitation. The proposed bill also sets out new laws relating to sex education and contraception and includes a four-year jail term for unauthorised abortions. PITCH partners are part of a broad coalition of communities trying to halt the process and change the draft bill, work that will continue in 2020. In Uganda, a similar situation is occurring with the Sexual Offences Bill, which has been re-tabled for discussion in parliament. Clauses 16 and 17 of the Sexual Offences Bill almost mirror sections 145 and 146 of Indonesia’s Penal Code Act, which makes it an offence for an adult to engage in same-sex relations. The Ugandan bill also seeks to incriminate women who engage in same-sex relations. If passed, these clauses will have the same, if not worse, implications as the Anti Homosexuality Act that was annulled in 2014 for procedural reasons. There are also threats from various members of the Ugandan
parliament that some offences in the bill will carry the death penalty. The passing of the Sexual Offences Bill in its current form will mean LGBT people and people living with HIV will be targeted, framed and arrested. However, it does offer an opportunity for the decriminalisation of sex work.

For adolescent girls and young women, one of the major barriers to accessing youth-friendly services is the age of consent. In Indonesia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, PITCH partners are aiming to change regulations that prohibit young people below the age of 18 from independently accessing SRH services, including HIV tests. These services are only available for under-18s if they have consent from a parent or guardian.

In Mozambique, PITCH partners are working to include an article in the proposed HIV Law Revision to determine the maximum age of disclosure of HIV status to adolescents. This article will ensure that parents have to inform their child of his or her HIV status. At the moment children and adolescents do not always know their HIV status because their parents and caretakers keep it a secret from them, which takes away the possibility of that child or young person making informed decisions. The age of consent is also of relevance in regards to child and early marriage. In Mozambique, the success of establishing the Law to Combat and Fight Against Early Marriages and Family will be followed up in 2020 with a strategy to ensure the law, which prohibits marriage of children younger than 18 years old, is implemented.

3.3 Improving access to affordable, high-quality health products and services

3.3.1. Equitable access to services and prevention

Information and access to SRHR services remain a challenge for young people, especially adolescent girls and young women. PITCH partners will continue to advocate for the lifting of structural barriers that impede access to crucial SRHR services through the development of sexuality education frameworks, to be implemented in and outside of schools, and the promotion of prevention services in the community. Campaigns against stigma and discrimination, which involve the promotion of testing and prevention targeting young people, will also be developed across the partnership.

PITCH partners are aiming to change regulations that prohibit young people below the age of 18 from independently accessing SRH services, including HIV tests

A key initiative, funded through PITCH flexible investments, will focus on defeating the paediatric HIV epidemic. There is new momentum and commitment from donors, pharmaceutical organisations and other stakeholders to scale up paediatric HIV diagnosis and treatment. Examples include the Vatican’s initiative on paediatric HIV and the upcoming Strategic Framework to Change the Pace of Paediatric Treatment and Care, which is being led by UNICEF, UNAIDS and World Health Organization (WHO). PITCH will support civil society coalitions in Mozambique and Uganda to develop and implement evidence-based advocacy campaigns to secure rapid adoption and rollout of optimised HIV treatment for children and timely point-of-care early infant diagnosis. Advocates will work to identify and
advocate for the removal of context-specific bottlenecks that are stopping children and their adolescent/young mothers with HIV from being identified and kept in care. Alongside this, PITCH will launch a global campaign that illuminates the public health crisis being caused by untreated and undetected HIV among children and their adolescent/young mothers, and demand greater action and accountability to find those children, adolescents and young mothers currently missing from treatment and care.

To support the monitoring of structural barriers to HIV prevention in Africa, the AIDS Rights Alliance for Southern Africa, a regional Southern Africa programme partner, will develop a training and leadership programme, as well as online modules on advocacy, for civil society to utilise. Moreover, in the context of the Global HIV Prevention coalition, which consists of UN member states, donors, civil society organisations and implementers to accelerate HIV prevention in 28 countries, six PITCH countries will compile shadow reports on the 10 indicators defined in the UNAIDS’ Prevention Road Map. These reports will be disseminated and used as advocacy tools at the national level and will be compiled for use at the global level.

In 2019, the antiretroviral drug Dolutegravir (DTG) was adopted by national Ministries of Health in Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar and Uganda as the preferred first-line and second-line treatment for all women. PITCH advocacy contributed to DTG being made available to these communities, in line with WHO guidelines on first- and second-line antiretroviral regimens. In 2020, PITCH partners in these countries will continue to advocate for their
Ministries of Health to ensure the implementation of WHO’s recommendations at the community level. To complement this work, PITCH partners will also engage in dialogues with national and local DTG providers on the subject of HIV response budgeting. This will help to manage the risk of DTG stocks running out, while also working to further reduce the price of DTG for communities.

In Indonesia, Kenya, and Uganda in 2020 partners will continue advocating for memoranda of understanding to be documented with health clinics for the provision of key population-friendly services. To support ongoing advocacy to make health services more welcoming and accessible for key populations, PITCH advocates will work to challenge stigma and discrimination in the media towards LGBT communities. For example, Safe City, an outdoor advertising campaign, will be launched in Ukraine to promote tolerance and reduce homophobia in society.

In Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam, the criminalisation of drug use remains a key barrier that prevents people who use drugs from accessing harm reduction services. In these countries, the increase in use of amphetamine-type stimulants has led to tougher national drug policies. In 2020, PITCH partners working with people who use drugs will implement advocacy strategies that call for the establishment of voluntary rehabilitation centres. Partners in Indonesia, Kenya, Uganda and Vietnam will provide technical assistance to government stakeholders to support the effective provision of harm reduction services in 2020. Meanwhile, in Nigeria and Uganda harm reduction services will be piloted in selected areas. With the support of the Global Fund and PEPFAR, medication assisted treatment will be offered in government hospitals. PITCH partners will sensitise communities on their right to health and treatment and monitor the implementation of these services to support their scale up.

3.3.2 The role of civil society in universal health coverage: a key stakeholder

UHC is a key advocacy priority within PITCH. Important decisions and choices are being made in each country regarding how HIV treatment and prevention services will continue to be funded. In September 2019, at the first UN High-Level Meeting on UHC, member states signed a political declaration that pledged to achieve UHC and included three commitments on HIV and AIDS, including recognition of the need to support people living with HIV and AIDS, as well as mentions of the additional barriers faced by marginalised and vulnerable groups.

To support ongoing advocacy to make health services more welcoming and accessible for key populations, PITCH advocates will work to challenge stigma and discrimination in the media towards LGBT communities. PITCH’s work on UHC aims to ensure UHC builds on the lessons learnt from the HIV response, ensure comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care services, make UHC work for key and vulnerable populations, and ensure the sustainability of the community response. In 2020, PITCH will focus on the implementation of UHC in countries and ensure UHC works for key and vulnerable populations.

In 2020, PITCH will work to build a strategic understanding of UHC among PITCH partners and will advocate for its effective implementation with national governments. This will be done through regional and national UHC workshops,
national roundtables and participation in multi-sectoral national and global meetings. It will include the implementation of action points agreed at a PITCH regional workshop for African countries, which took place in November 2019. In 2020, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe will invite government representatives to national workshops to share their perspectives with relevant agencies, and to look for entry points to influence the implementation of UHC.

In each of these countries, national or social health insurance will be the mechanisms through which it is anticipated UHC will be achieved. Social protection programmes will contribute to filling some gaps and could be a game changer for many key populations that remain uncovered. In Vietnam, PITCH partners will continue to engage in the review of the ‘health insurance law’ in 2020. This is an entry point to ensure the inclusion of key populations. In Indonesia, PITCH partners will advocate with the government on the country’s social assistance policy, pushing for an amendment to Decree 136 in the hope of ensuring that key populations are reflected in the updated law.

PITCH will also work to utilise community-level, research-based evidence to support UHC advocacy in 2020. In 2020, PITCH will take forward the findings of 2018 research on the integration of the global HIV response into UHC in relation to HIV responses in Indonesia, Kenya, Uganda and Ukraine, and learn more about the challenges and opportunities faced by those advocating for UHC in-country. For example, in Kenya, PITCH will gather evidence on the pilot implementation of UHC in four counties. This could inform the full implementation of UHC in the country as well as other countries in the region. In 2020 PITCH advocacy at the global policy level will continue to work to create space at relevant international events for PITCH country partners to advocate on behalf of key populations. These forums will include the World Health Assembly, EU-related fora and mechanisms, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Another priority is the practical implementation of the UHC declaration and to influence inclusiveness at all levels. Following the Political Declaration on UHC, and from PITCH country evidence, one of the main concerns is the absence of inclusive civil society engagement mechanisms for UHC. PITCH will work to push for strong mechanisms to include civil society in UHC, building on its experiences of advocating for key populations at the country level. For example, in Indonesia, PITCH partners will advocate for the Ministry of Health to establish a high-level, multi-sectoral coordinating forum for UHC and multi-sector working groups on key priority programmes for UHC. In Zimbabwe, partners will engage in the UHC discussion to shape national packages and push for an accountability framework. At the global level, PITCH will work with GNP+, UNAIDS and WHO, among others, to ensure community engagement and HIV- and key population-specific targets are part of any UHC accountability framework. PITCH global policy staff from Aidsfonds and Frontline AIDS, together with Free Space Process members, will contribute to translate the Political Declaration on UHC into an advocacy tool. They will work to bring together civil society delegations at the UN level to advocate for the inclusion of key and vulnerable populations in UHC debates and plans.
3.4 Improving funding for community responses to HIV

International donors are crucial funders for the HIV response in PITCH countries. PITCH partners will work to influence the Global Fund and PEPFAR’s funding allocation processes with a view to maximising funding for key populations. At the same time, PITCH partners will advocate with their national governments to increase domestic funding for community responses to HIV.

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PITCH will continue their engagement with PEPFAR’s country operational processes and the Global Fund’s CCMs. Both processes are highly sophisticated and significant levels of expertise are required to engage. PITCH will continue to invest in capacity building so that implementing partners can be meaningfully involved in funding decisions and can contribute to national funding applications to both donors. This includes the development of a methodology to track Global Fund and PEPFAR funding for key populations. PITCH will monitor donor-exit from middle-income countries and its impact on the

Baby Rivona, PITCH Country Focal Point, at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019, New York © Marielle Hart
HIV response. PITCH will continue to engage with the Global Fund secretariat in Geneva and PEPFAR staff to ensure information sharing and opportunities for collaboration and alignment when possible.

PITCH partners in Myanmar, Nigeria and Uganda will be cooperating with their national governments and, respectively, UNAIDS, PEPFAR and the Global Fund, to pilot harm reduction services for people who inject drugs, including needle and syringe programmes and opioid substitution therapy. The objective of these pilots is to demonstrate to governments the financial, social and health benefits of a public health approach to drugs, compared to pursuing a punitive policy. In Vietnam, local partners will continue to advocate for the government to invest in voluntary drug treatment instead of incarceration and compulsory treatment.

PITCH will engage in advocacy to ensure the sustainability of HIV responses by influencing funding allocation to health and HIV. At the African Union (AU) level, PITCH will monitor the implementation of the AU catalytic framework through the development of a shadow report and will sensitise the AU Commission about the critical role of community responses in the context of HIV. This will be amplified through our networks and political processes in Geneva, Brussels and Washington DC to contribute to on-going discussions around funding mechanisms for communities. At the global level, including the High Level Political Forum, HIV2020 and other relevant gatherings, PITCH partners will continue to campaign for ongoing and increased funding to support the HIV response.

Where countries have increased domestic funding to help fill the gaps created by international donors transitioning out, including Ukraine, PITCH partners will advocate for social contracting. Social contracting would see civil society organisations contracted by governments to deliver HIV services, including prevention, treatment, care and support, and is a new territory for many of our partners. As part of our regional programme in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, we will support civil society organisations in identifying social contracting opportunities and submitting applications.

3.5 Putting human rights legislation to work

PITCH will continue to advocate for a human rights-based approach to health. In 2020, PITCH will focus on five main areas of work when promoting and protecting the human rights of key and vulnerable populations: a) litigation; b) sensitisation and training of law enforcement agencies; c) documentation of human rights violations; d) engagement with human rights and accountability mechanisms; e) contributing to the broadening of space for civil society.

In Kenya, despite the high court’s judgment in May 2019 that criminalising same-sex sexual
conduct is not in breach of the Constitution, the petition to repeal Sections 162 and 165 of the country’s Penal Code will continue to shape human rights advocacy in the country in 2020. This petition has contributed significantly to the decision to file for the decriminalisation of sex work in Kenya. In 2020, PITCH partners, led by Health Options for Young Men on HIV/AIDS/STI, will continue to support the on-going litigation process to decriminalise the gay community. The Kenya Sex Workers Alliance will aim to file a case at the high court for the decriminalisation of sex work through litigation for the declassification of the Petty Offences Act.

In 2019, country partners achieved positive results by engaging with law enforcement agencies to improve the treatment of sex workers, LGBT people and people who use drugs. This work will continue in 2020. For example, in Vietnam partners will continue to work with the Ministry of Public Security to train police to handle cases that involve key populations. In Myanmar, PITCH partners will organise meetings with police, lawyers and judges to advocate for equal access to justice for sex workers.

Documenting human rights violations has become an important strategy, which is supported by systems such as Ona and Rights Evidence Action (REAct). In 2019, PITCH sex work partners in Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe were trained to use the Ona system to document and manage human rights violations. In the final months of 2019, LGBT partners in Mozambique will be trained to use REAct. These countries will document and report human rights violations through hotline systems and paralegal outreach. This data will be used to advocate for equal access to justice for key populations and to link victims to human rights lawyers. Nigeria and Ukraine, for example, will implement documentation training with partners and paralegals.

PITCH is increasingly making use of international human rights and accountability mechanisms. PITCH will be supporting the engagement of partners from Kenya and Myanmar in the universal periodic review (UPR) process, both in-country and in Geneva, with the aim of securing recommendations focused on HIV and human rights. Partners in Vietnam will work closely with the government to push for the implementation of UPR recommendations relating to the rights of key populations. Free Space Process partners have done important work to ensure HIV is included in SDG accountability frameworks. To support this, Free Space Process partners and PITCH global policy colleagues contributed to building the capacity of key populations to advocate for the inclusion of HIV and key populations’ issues in their countries’ voluntary national reports. Ukraine will present its national voluntary report in 2020, and the Nigerian government has committed to develop its voluntary national report for 2020. PITCH partners will engage in the process with a focus on education, gender equality and health.

Finally, PITCH will contribute to broadening the space for civil society in the context of HIV.
In 2019, PITCH worked with CIVICUS to generate evidence on the way in which space for civil society is closing and the impact this is having on the HIV response. This report will be launched in December 2019 in Geneva and Brussels with the aim of informing and sensitising key actors about the need to support, invest and remove policies and laws that are against civil society participation and that violate freedoms of association, assembly and speech. In 2020, PITCH will work with global and country partners to mitigate the impact of the shrinking space for civil society and of anti-equality movements on the HIV response.

This includes working closely with UNAIDS to ensure member states position this theme at the top of the Programme Coordinating Board agenda, working closely with the Global Fund to ensure increased funding on human rights programming, and working with WHO to ensure civil society engagement with the organisation at all levels.

### 3.6 Gender transformative programming

In 2019, the programme intensified its focus on bringing a gender-transformative approach to PITCH activities, leading to an increased demand from many implementing partners for capacity strengthening and technical support on gender. In 2020, PITCH will continue to build its work on gender in the same three areas as 2019; namely, capacity building on gender-transformative approaches, the inclusion of gender-transformative advocacy asks in policy-advocacy spaces, and further collaboration with both the Monitoring and Evaluation and Communications working groups to document and raise visibility of the work being done to address harmful gender norms.

In **Myanmar, Nigeria, Uganda** and **Zimbabwe** harm reduction partners and networks of people who use drugs are incorporating a stronger gender focus into their drug policy advocacy work. This includes understanding and advocating for the often-neglected SRHR needs of women who use drugs as well as taking action to prevent and address violence against women who use drugs. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage South-to-South learning, where partners in **Indonesia**, **Kenya** and **Ukraine** have already successfully mainstreamed a gender-responsive approach in their harm reduction advocacy.

Gender-based violence is emerging as a crosscutting theme across all four populations that PITCH works with. This is reflected in a number of advocacy asks as well as planned events in policy spaces and processes. **Ugandan** partners are planning a joint advocacy campaign on gender-based violence, while **Nigerian** harm reduction partners will use International Women’s Day to raise awareness of harmful gender norms affecting women who use drugs.

Partners in **Indonesia**, **Uganda** and **Zimbabwe** will undertake participatory action research, looking into the links between sexual and gender-based violence among lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer women. This work will contribute to expanding the understanding and definition of sexual and gender-based violence and how these issues affect HIV prevention, treatment and care.
while also creating a platform for trans rights, visibility and leadership.

Young women’s leadership and movement organising is the backbone of adolescent girls’ and young women’s advocacy in all PITCH countries, and in 2020 PITCH partners will continue to support the voice and visibility of adolescent girls and young women in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. In Uganda and Zimbabwe, young people will implement community scorecards to monitor harmful gender norms and gender-based violence.

In Mozambique, advocacy led by young women will challenge the policy that excludes adolescent girls who become pregnant from secondary school. In Vietnam, workshops will be held with young women to address harmful gender norms that prevent them from speaking out about sexual abuse.

In 2020, in addition to maintaining a strong presence in HIV policy spaces, PITCH partners will also be raising the visibility of women most affected by HIV in traditional gender, women’s rights and SRHR spaces, where HIV is increasingly being sidelined as a women’s rights issue.

Building on PITCH partners’ participation in the ICPD+25 Summit in 2019, in 2020 PITCH partners will engage in the Commission on the Status of Women to ensure that, 25 years on from the Beijing Platform of Action, HIV prevention, treatment and care is retained as a core component of a comprehensive SRHR agenda.

Sex worker partners in Myanmar and Zimbabwe will produce shadow country reports on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and work together with NSWP to challenge the conflation of sex work and trafficking in the application of CEDAW.

In addition, the Gender Working Group is planning to coordinate a strong PITCH presence at the AWID Forum. By bringing a coherent feminist-activist framing to the work of PITCH, at AWID this will raise the visibility of women most affected by HIV, including transgender women and women who use drugs.
“I lost a friend who was a drug user and pregnant. She went into labour but because of the fear and shame she felt through stigma, she didn't feel she could go to a clinic and so instead she went to traditional birth attendant in the community. She had complications. She lost a lot of blood. During child birth, she died.” Stigma and discrimination in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights services are a barrier to many women accessing quality healthcare. For female drug users, these barriers can be impossible to overcome. Women should not be defined by who they are or what they do. The Nigerian constitution guarantees the right to health for every citizen - Make healthcare accessible for ALL women.

Photo credit: Jonah 2018 | PhotoVoice | Frontline AIDS | 'PITCH' | Nigeria
4. Learning and reflection

4.1 Evidence is key for successful advocacy

The final evaluation of PITCH in 2020 represents a crucial opportunity to document evidence of the programme’s impact and its contribution to significant changes in partners’ advocacy contexts. Examples of these changes will include changes in policy, access to services for key populations and adolescent girls and young women, as well as observable changes in PITCH partners’ advocacy capacity. This evidence will serve to identify important lessons about the effectiveness of the advocacy strategies implemented through the programme.

The PITCH Research Working Group will finalise several country research studies by the end of 2019 and will disseminate the evidence and knowledge from these studies in 2020, in support of PITCH partners’ advocacy. A series of webinars and online discussions will be carried out, enabling partners to exchange knowledge and share experiences. One of these studies concerns the work of the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Uganda. The study focuses on the impact of the legal and policy environment on transgender people’s access to justice in Uganda. The aim of this research is to inform government HIV programming, counter the effects of discriminatory laws and policies, and increase transgender people’s access to, and uptake of, legal services.

In Indonesia, through flexible-investment funding, PITCH partners will soon finish and disseminate the findings from a study entitled ‘Empowering the Voiceless’. This study serves as a pilot project on facilitating sex worker-inclusive harm reduction services in two Indonesian cities. The study’s target groups are female, male and transgender sex workers who use amphetamine-type stimulants. The purpose of the pilot project has been to explore barriers and opportunities for sex workers to access harm reduction services and to identify means of addressing service provision disparities beyond the project sites. It is anticipated that this study will provide valuable insight into drug use patterns among sex workers across the archipelago.

At the regional level, project specialists in Eastern Europe and Central Asia will conduct an analysis of research, monitoring data and conference abstracts. The aim of this work will be to generate evidence that can inform PITCH advocacy with the healthcare policy-makers in Russia who are responsible for HIV prevention among key populations and adolescent girls and young women. Key populations and adolescent girls and young women will organise forums to discuss existing evidence and data on the involvement of these communities in budget advocacy. Analysis will also been done on the barriers that particularly prevent young people from seeking support. A report will be produced as a result of this analysis, including a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening the HIV prevention work of the Russian government with key populations and adolescent girls and young women.

The government of Kenya is committed to rollout UHC by 2020. A pilot project in four counties is being implemented in 2019, and this will inform the full implementation of UHC at country level.
PITCH will gather evidences on the implementation of UHC in the four counties, looking particularly at community engagement and how HIV services are included in UHC.

4.2 Partnership and collaboration: the cornerstones of PITCH

In light of the considerable decline in global funding and attention given to the HIV response, there is a need to build partnerships beyond the usual organisations working on HIV. PITCH has recognised that the programme can play a key role in raising awareness about HIV and its intersections with other issues. In 2019 strategic, flexible investments were used to build new partnerships and connections beyond the ‘usual suspects’ at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa and the Law Enforcement and HIV Network Conference. In 2020, the AWID International Forum, which is happening in Indonesia in October, will provide further opportunities to build new connections. The AWID Forum is the world’s largest feminist gathering. It presents a key space to bring female-focussed HIV issues to various women’s movements. At the same time, it will build PITCH partners understanding of, and engagement with, gender transformation and feminist activism.

PITCH partnerships at country level are crucial to ensure sustainability of results after 2020, not only between PITCH partners but also with other partnerships and stakeholders within the country. In several countries, partners have joined their...
efforts through the establishment of key population platforms and consortia. Further strengthening these platforms will enable them to continue after 2020. In other cases, partners collaborate and undertake joint action based on a shared issue, such as in Indonesia where PITCH, Get Up Speak Out and Right Here Right Now worked together to advocate for comprehensive sexual education to be included in the formal school curriculum. In Mozambique, PITCH has joined hands with READY in the debate on the age of consent. PITCH is also using data and evidence collected through READY in its advocacy work. On the issues of gender-based violence affecting sex workers and people who use drugs and the inclusion of transgender people in sexual rights and health policy, the partnership between Bridging the Gaps and PITCH remains important in 2020.

Strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its embassies will continue to contribute to the results of PITCH in 2020. In Indonesia, Kenya and Ukraine PITCH partners are involved in the tripartite initiative with the Dutch Embassy and UNAIDS. In Indonesia, meetings are held twice a year for which a theme is jointly decided. PITCH partners are hoping to address the Human Right Action Plan 2020-2024 within the 2020 tripartite meetings. The Dutch Embassy in Indonesia has committed to continue to support this coalition and to provide free space for coalition meetings on specific issues, such as SRHR. In Zimbabwe, the Dutch Embassy has expressed the will to support the dissemination of the results of the National Key Populations Stigma Index. In Mozambique, PITCH will benefit from the Dutch Embassy’s support towards law revision, specifically Law 3/97 (on drugs) and Law 19/2014 (on HIV). In Uganda, the Head of Cooperation at the Dutch Embassy is working with the PITCH country focal point when human rights of key populations are violated. When needed, the Head of Cooperation will share PITCH partners’ concerns and alert the rest of the European embassies in Kampala.

PITCH partnerships at country level are crucial to ensure sustainability of results after 2020, not only between PITCH partners but also with other partnerships and stakeholders within the country.

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be participating in the study tour on municipal social contracting in Amsterdam, organised for municipal and financial staff from St. Petersburg and Bishkek. This study tour is part of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional programme. Participants will be able to exchange experiences and strategies. Key decision-makers from the Bishkek City Kenesh (the parliament), Bishkek City Mayors’ office and St-Petersburg City government, including the health and financial departments, will be present. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Ministry of Health, the Amsterdam Municipal Office and other cities municipalities and non-government organisations from the Netherlands, Kyrgyzstan and Russia will host and participate in the meetings with the Russian and Kyrgyz officials.