



The COVID Response Fund

Community support first in the global COVID-19 response

Aidsfonds is launching a new COVID Response Fund for our current partners to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on people living with or vulnerable to HIV

About the Fund

Aidsfonds is very concerned about the possible impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the continuation of life-saving prevention and treatment services for people living with or vulnerable to HIV. When such services get interrupted, HIV might spread further, and drug resistance may increase. At the moment there is no full picture yet on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the HIV response. However it is clear that our partners, who provide critical HIV and sexual and reproductive health services to their communities face increased difficulties to reach people in need, due to COVID-19 related health and safety measures. This is particularly the case for people who are already experiencing barriers in accessing services and human rights violations due to HIV-related stigma, discrimination and exclusion.

The COVID Response Fund has been set up **to support existing Aidsfonds grantees and partners with flexible, rapid and short-term funding for activities that mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on people living with or vulnerable to HIV**. It will remain open depending on available funding and needs.

The COVID Response Fund will address the following needs:

1. Enabling community solutions and innovations to keep people living with HIV (PLHIV) healthy and continue their **access to essential HIV and AIDS services**, including life-saving ARVs
2. Enabling innovative solutions focussing on the **HIV prevention among vulnerable groups** during the COVID-19 crisis.
3. Provision of accurate **information** on COVID-19 to people living with or vulnerable to HIV
4. Support for PLHIV, women, young people, children and key populations who suffer increased **violence and/or human rights violations** due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The overall objective of the fund is to continue contributing to the Aidsfonds strategic goals during this pandemic:

- Less than 200,000 new HIV infections globally
- Everyone living with HIV worldwide receives treatment
- Awareness and support in society, and full funding of the HIV response

How can you apply

- Before you apply, please check first with your Aidsfonds contact whether your proposed activities can be accommodated under your existing contract.
- To submit to the COVID Response Fund, applicants can fill in an [online Application Form](#). Please note we will not be able to accept applications by email.
- The Application Form consists of two parts. The first part covers the proposed intervention(s), the second part consists of organizational and banking details. Both parts have to be completed to submit an application.
- Applicants are allowed to submit more than one application. Applicants can receive a maximum of three grants.

In case of any problems or questions, please contact covidresponsefund@aidsfonds.nl.

Assessment of Applications

Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be scored based on the selection criteria. Applications will be assessed every week on an ongoing basis. Decisions will be made within 3 working days after which a notice of approval will be sent by email. We aim to initiate transfer of the funds within 7 days of a positive decision. Due to the emergency nature of the fund and the fast turnover it will NOT be possible to appeal decisions on grants.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria for the applicant

- The applicant is a current grantee or partner of Aidsfonds. This means you are currently receiving funds directly from Aidsfonds, or you have received funds directly from Aidsfonds up to three months prior to your application.
- Proposals of individuals will not be taken into consideration for funding.

Eligibility criteria for the application

- The proposal is aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on people living with or vulnerable to HIV.
- The proposal contributes to one or more of the focus areas of the COVID Response Fund:
 - Enabling community solutions and innovations to keep people living with HIV (PLHIV) healthy and continue their **access to essential HIV and AIDS services**, including life-saving ARVs
 - Enabling innovative solutions focussing on the **HIV prevention among vulnerable groups** during the COVID-19 crisis.
 - Provision of accurate **information** on COVID-19 to people living with or vulnerable to HIV
 - Support for PLHIV, women, young people, children and key populations who suffer increased **violence and/or human rights violations** due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The proposal is in line with the strategic goals of [Aidsfonds](#) (see page 1)
- The activities will be immediately implemented and will last no longer than 6 months.
- The proposed activities cannot be accommodated by your current Aidsfonds grant/project
- The proposal is submitted in English
- The proposal is submitted through the [online application form](#).
- The funding request does not exceed € 10,000.
- Applicants are allowed a maximum of five grants per organisation.

Organizational information is collected with care and delicacy. Information will be stored in a secured database.

Assessment Criteria

After an application is found to be eligible, the application will be assessed by the Operational Team based on the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the proposal mitigates the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on PLHIV and other vulnerable communities
2. The extent to which the proposal is in line with the priorities of the COVID Response Fund and Aidsfonds overall goals
3. The budget is clear and reasonable and reflects the proposed activities
4. The applicant shows the capacity to implement the proposed activities

Each criterion is scored from 1 to 5, in relation to each other. Only applications with an average score higher than 3.5 will be considered for funding.

When reviewing the applications, we will keep the following in mind:

- We will prioritise activities which are not (easily) fundable through current Aidsfonds funding streams.
- We may prioritise activities that can support our advocacy, communications or fundraising work aimed at benefitting our communities.

Due diligence

Existing documents will be reviewed for completeness.

What is not funded?

- Compensation of losses of livelihoods of beneficiaries
- Staff costs not directly related to the proposed activities. Only in exception we will fund staff costs that are directly related to the COVID activities and that cannot be funded by other resources. We will review this case by case.
- PPE for community members, we only fund PPE for staff members, outreach workers and healthcare workers
- Nutritional support not related to ARV adherence
- IT equipment or support (to be covered by existing grants¹)
- Organisational support (to be covered by existing grants)
- Activities or commodities that can be covered by existing programmes

¹ If this is not the case it may be considered on a case by case basis