An effective community-based approach for paediatric HIV prevention and care

Kids to Care!

One of the Sustainable Development Goal targets is to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. It includes the super-fast-track target of providing 1.4 million children (0–14 years) with lifelong HIV treatment by 2020, increased efforts in children. The Aidsfonds Kids to Care approach comprises five components that mutually reinforce each other.

Children (0-14) are left behind in HIV care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;400</td>
<td>become HIV-infected each day</td>
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<tr>
<td>273</td>
<td>die of AIDS each day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>million live with HIV Worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46%</td>
<td>are not on treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>of children receiving treatment are on adult formulations</td>
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This is unacceptable.

Our goals

1. All children living with HIV have started treatment, are supported to continue their treatment and live healthy lives.
2. Child-friendly HIV treatment is available, accessible and affordable for all children and their caregivers.
3. All pregnant women living with HIV receive treatment and their children are born and remain HIV free.

Where we work
Community-based HIV programmes

Aidsfonds works in collaboration with governments and local partners, to test and scale up community-based HIV programmes. These are based on our ‘Kids to Care’ model which:

- Empowers communities to find and support pregnant women and children living with HIV
- Strengthens the links between communities and health facilities.

Community health workers are a crucial link at all four stages of HIV care for children: **find, test, start and stay**. It means children can live healthily with HIV.

Partnerships

Aidsfonds puts great value on partnerships to enhance our efforts:

- Build strategic partnerships with **like-minded organisations** like Elisabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, ELMA Foundation, Global Network of People living with HIV, PATA, UNICEF and ViiV Positive Action to ensure strong programmes through alignment and co-investment
- Explore opportunities for **public-private partnerships** and new **business models** to maximise our impact
- Involve key donors to become **champions** on community intervention models at regional and global levels
- We are an active member of several **global networks** and working groups, including the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS and the AIDS Free working group

Linking and Learning

Aidsfonds has set up a paediatric HIV linking and learning initiative in which we:

- Connect our local partners in multiple countries to exchange best practices and share **challenges and solutions**
All Aidsfonds paediatric HIV programmes include research. Research is crucial to:

- Assess how **best to reach** all children living with or affected by HIV

- Assess the **impact** of the model

- Generate **evidence** on cost- and general effectiveness of community-based interventions as part of a paediatric HIV service delivery package

- Respond to **emerging** themes to improve paediatric HIV efforts and inform advocacy

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Research

Advocacy

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Aidsfonds advocates for:

- National and local **government investment** in effective community interventions for paediatric HIV care and to adopt and **scale** the model nationwide

- **Integration** of community intervention models in mainstream HIV and child health care service delivery

- Increased political and financial investments to ensure **optimal, child-friendly and affordable** paediatric HIV treatment and diagnostics are available for all children

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- Encourage partners to learn from each other to validate and further enhance **community-based intervention models**, adjusting the model to local contexts

- Jointly share lessons learned at national, regional and international levels to **influence** future programming, policies and funding of other organisations, donors and governments.
Kids to Care model

Community health workers are a crucial link at all four stages of HIV care for children:

Find

Communities know their children. Community health workers educate community members on paediatric HIV and move door-to-door to find children and pregnant women living with HIV.

Test

Community health workers are trained about paediatric HIV testing and treatment, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. They test pregnant women and children in their homes or refer them for testing in the community or health facility.

Start

Community health workers help caregivers gain access to HIV treatment for children. Traditional and religious leaders, teachers and mentor mothers act as role models and encourage access to care. Staff at health facilities are trained to offer child-friendly services and to work closely with community health workers.

Stay

Community health workers support children to stay on HIV treatment. They promote treatment support groups for caregivers and children, and income-generating activities and savings groups for caregivers.

More information

Contact us at kidstocare@aidsfonds.nl
Find useful resources at aidsfonds.org
Receive the Children & HIV e-news via aidsfonds.org/e-news for best practices, tools and research.

Aidsfonds is a Dutch non-profit organisation working towards a world without AIDS with a focus on the people and regions most affected. We aim to accelerate worldwide HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, by piloting and upscaling community-based interventions together with governments and local partners. We believe that investment in communities is crucial in ending AIDS.