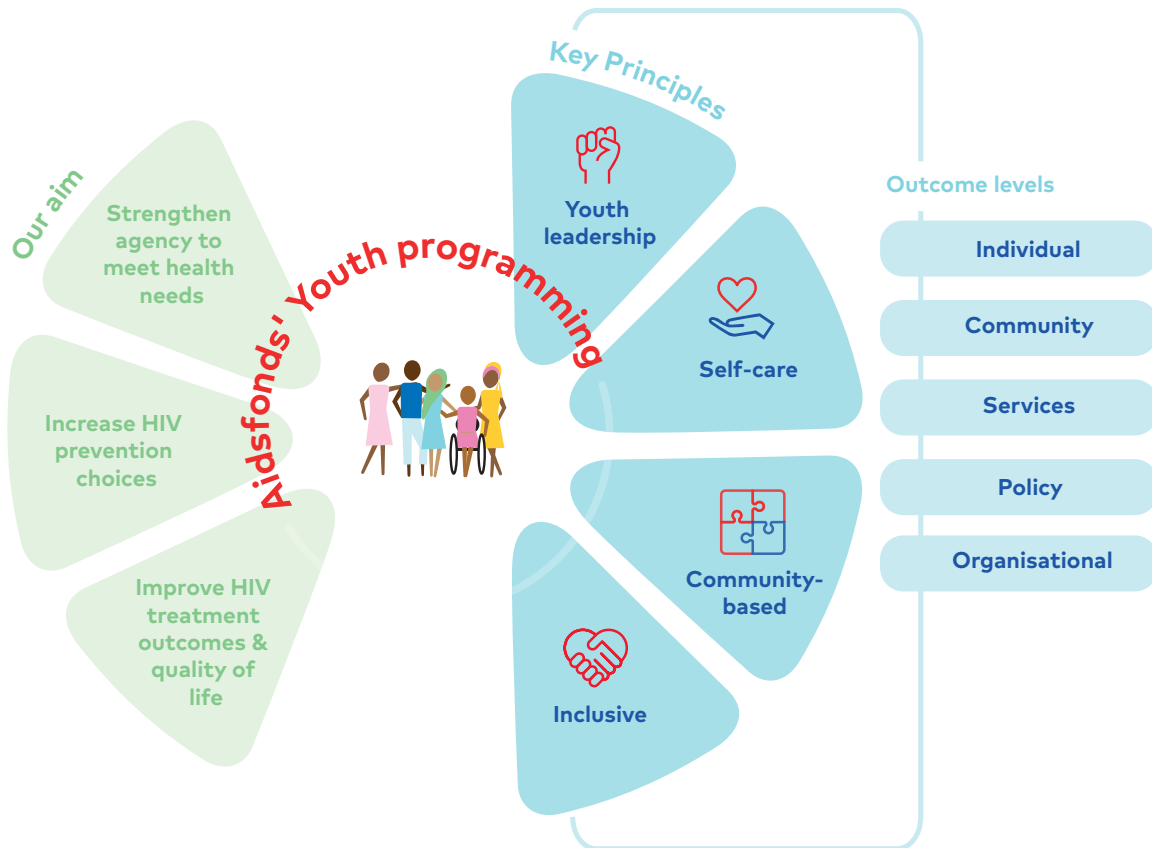


Aidsfonds' Youth Programming

Aidsfonds' vision is a world without AIDS. We strive for a world where there are no longer any deaths from AIDS and where people enjoy good sexual health. A world where everyone can love freely and fearlessly. Working with communities¹ as equals is at the heart of our work. We amplify their voice and support them with information, expertise and funding. For all that is love.



Our aim

With youth partners in the lead and capacitated to influence policies, implement quality interventions and become sustainable, we aim to reach 500,000 young people in sub-Saharan Africa between 2022 and 2025². We do so through activities that:

- Strengthen the agency of young people to meet their own health needs
- Increase HIV prevention choices for adolescent girls and young women
- Improve treatment outcomes and quality of life for adolescents and young people living with HIV

We do this in our role as involved fundraiser and funder, advocate and expert.

The [life-course approach](#), which recognizes the complex dynamics of the HIV epidemic, is the cornerstone of our youth projects. It ensures tailor-made strategies for adolescents and young people at each stage of their life.

Why focusing on young people

Young people (10-24), adolescent girls and young women in particular, are disproportionately affected by HIV:

- Every day, 1,100 young people become infected with HIV
- Only 1 in 3 young people have the correct knowledge of how to prevent HIV
- Adolescent girls and young women comprise an estimated 10% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa but account for 59% of new HIV infections
- HIV is among the leading causes of death for adolescents and young people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our key principles

Youth leadership

Aidsfonds funds strategic partnerships, where youth(-led) partners are in the lead. All projects strengthen the agency of young people throughout to make sure they can advocate for their own health needs, influence policies, implement quality interventions and increase prevention choices. This improves health outcomes and quality of life for themselves and their peers.

Self-care

All youth projects are centered around self-care. Self-care is powerful for young people and a crucial step to achieve Universal Health Coverage. Especially for adolescent girls and young women, who face challenges in accessing health services, because of poverty, distance, lack of privacy and fear of stigma. Self-care increases young people's autonomy and agency over their health, and enables them to access services, when, where and how they need them.

Inclusive

Aidsfonds' youth programs seek to engage and reach young people in all their diversity and with an intersectionality lens.

Community-based

The communities we work with are at the center of all we do. Aidsfonds' youth projects are implemented in-country, in collaboration with local partners and governments at different outcome levels.

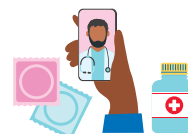
Outcome levels:

- **Individual:** young people have increased their knowledge on HIV and their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and strengthened their agency to claim their rights. Young people are trained as peer supporters and youth advocates and are linked to health facilities and relevant advocacy spaces.
- **Community:** social norms, beliefs and attitudes are shifted and stigma reduced by working with parents/ caregivers, community and religious leaders, police, teachers, men, boys and journalists.
- **Health services:** improved access to affordable quality HIV- and SRHR services and commodities, provided by trained service providers, community health volunteers and peer supporters.
- **Policy:** policies and laws that have a detrimental impact on young people's SRHR are improved. Together with partners we work for example on lowering the age of consent to access HIV and SRHR services, increased SRHR budgets and meaningful youth participation in policy development.
- **Organisational:** organisational capacity of project partners is strengthened, and youth(-led) partners lead project development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Aidsfonds' Self-care Approach

Self-care enables young people to take power over their own health, by choosing products and HIV/SRHR (digital) services they want, whenever they want it, wherever they want it.

Young people have the power and agency to make informed health choices and to advocate for:



Availability of health products and information the way young people prefer



Accessibility of new self-care products, such as the vaginal ring for HIV prevention, and injectable PrEP



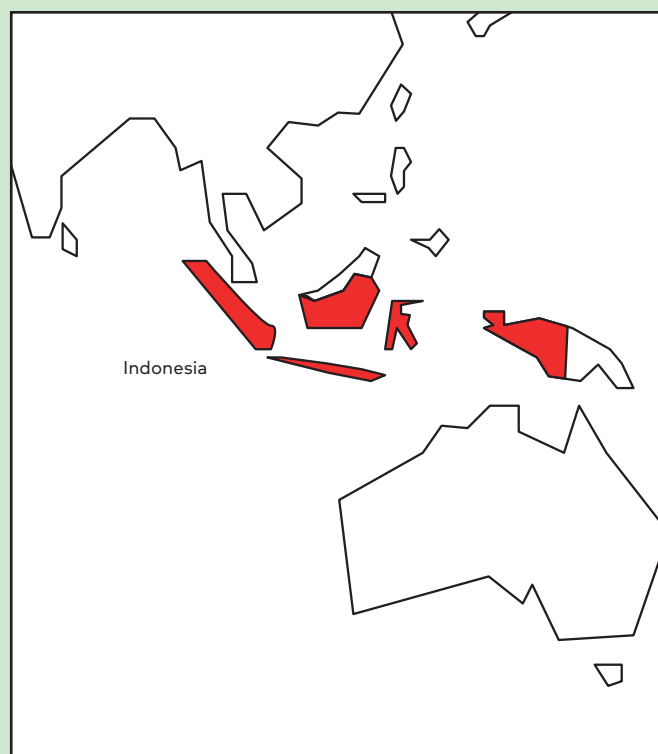
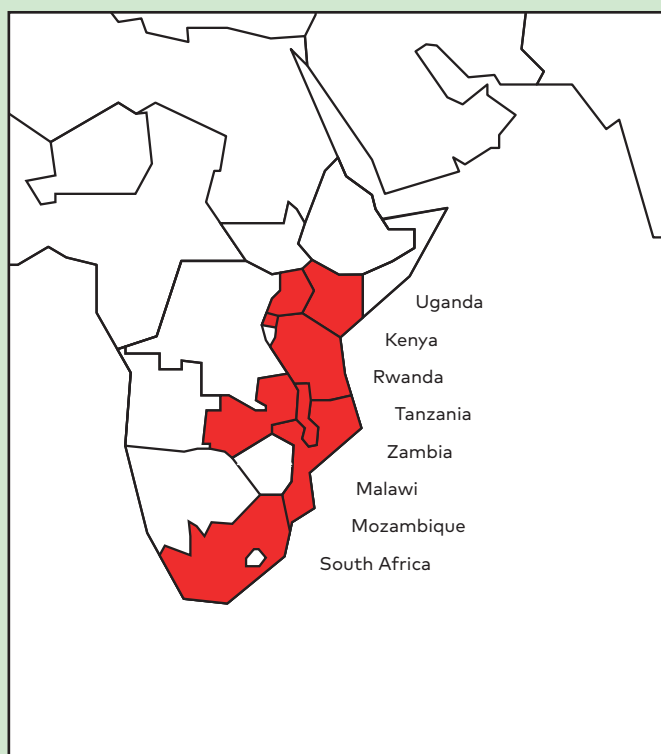
Improved quality of youth-friendly health services

Budget

For the strategy period of 2022-2025 'For all that is Love', Aidsfonds' budget for youth programmes is close to € 7 million.

Projects

- ✓ **You(th) Care** enables adolescents and young people in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia to advocate for and practice self-care for their SRHR needs, and increases access to (digital) self-care services and commodities.
- ✓ **YouthWise** amplifies the voices of adolescents and young people living with HIV in Kenya and Malawi to enable them to practice self-care and fulfil their sexual and reproductive health and rights' needs, in a supportive and respectful environment.
- ✓ **EmpoweRing**: Prevention by Choice advocates for accelerated approval and uptake of the Dapivirine vaginal ring as an HIV prevention tool for women and girls in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.
- ✓ **Stepped Care** connects young people to the off- and online services that directly meet their sexual and reproductive health needs. When their needs change, the services change with them, optimizing efficiency and quality of healthcare and increasing health outcomes.
- ✓ **Thandizo** supports young people living with HIV in Malawi to adhere to treatment. The approach combines support groups with a mobile app. Community health workers and peer educators use the app in their consultations with young people. The app provides insight in the needs and challenges of young people living with HIV and links them to services and information.



Partner with us to multiply impact

Strategic partnerships

We engage in strong partnerships to support joint advocacy, sustainability and linking & learning in order to make the biggest impact. Examples of partners we work with are:

- Global Network of Young People living with HIV (Y+ Global)
- International Community of Women living with HIV – Eastern Africa (ICWEA)
- Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF)
- AVAC Global advocacy for HIV prevention
- Self-Care Trailblazer Group (SCTG)

Partner with us

Aidsfonds is interested in working together to further strengthen youth leadership, increase HIV prevention choices, and improve treatment outcomes and quality of life of young people. We would like to talk to anyone who shares our dream and wants to join an inspiring movement. Get in touch with us to discuss collaboration, strategic partnerships and innovative solutions to end AIDS by 2030. Please contact [Lewis Smith](#), Partnerships Lead at Aidsfonds.

¹By communities we mean organisations, members of a community, target groups or individuals. The focus is on people living with HIV and groups at higher risk of HIV and STIs, such as sex workers, LGBT people, people who use drugs, children, young women, adolescent girls and their (male) partners, young people, people living in poverty, people in prisons and migrants

²Aidsfonds strategy 2022-2025 'For All that is Love'

