

Call for Proposals: Lobby and advocacy to expand HIV combination prevention in Southern Africa

PITCH regional program Southern Africa



1. Invitation

Aidsfonds and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance are pleased to announce this Call for Proposals on regional activities for the **PITCH program** in Southern Africa: To strengthen lobby and advocacy aimed at expanding HIV combination prevention in Southern Africa.

With this call, PITCH aims to support civil society organizations and networks to effectively engage in and shape the regional HIV prevention agenda in Southern Africa¹. Organizations that meet the definitions and criteria set by this call for proposals are invited to apply for a grant to support the proposed activities for three years (2018-2020).

The deadline for submission of proposals is 8 January 2018. Proposals should be submitted through the [online application form](#). For more information please contact grants@aidsfonds.nl

2. PITCH

PITCH is a strategic partnership between Aidsfonds, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs working with those most affected by HIV (People living with HIV, adolescent girls and young women, LGBTI, sex workers, people who use drugs, youth) in enabling these groups to transform (inter)national HIV responses by strengthening their advocacy skills and capacities and promoting innovative evidence-informed practice. This will durably enable them to advocate for a more effective response to ensure all people have equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV-related services. From 2016-2020, these partners will jointly work towards ending the AIDS epidemic in the regions and countries most affected by HIV through an inclusive, in-country, in-depth approach to international lobby and advocacy. PITCH currently operates in two countries in Southern Africa: Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

3. Introduction

Since 2010, the annual number of new HIV infections has declined by 16% to 1.8 million. The pace of decline in new HIV infections, however, is far too slow to reach the Fast-Track Target of fewer than 500 000 new infections per year by 2020. The HIV response needs a coordinated civil society to step and shape up prevention activities to reach Fast-Track goals. In order to be successful, HIV prevention needs to contain a range of behavioural, biomedical and structural components, including decriminalisation, a human rights approach and community involvement².

Although the steepest declines in new infections between 2010 and 2016 were achieved in eastern and southern Africa (29% decline), modelling shows that in the coming years there will be a huge funding shortfall on HIV prevention, while most governments are not committed to step in.

In high-prevalence settings, adolescent girls and young women remain at unacceptably high risk of HIV infection. In Eastern and Southern Africa, for example, adolescent girls and young women (aged 15–24 years) accounted for 26% of new HIV infections in 2016 despite making up just 10% of the population. Globally, gay men and other men who have sex with men accounted for 12% of new infections in 2015, while sex workers and people who inject drugs accounted for 5% and 8% of new infections, respectively. Furthermore, data reported by countries across the world show that HIV prevalence among key populations often is substantially higher than it is among the general population

Currently, existing regional and continental coordination platforms on HIV/AIDS have limited civil society participation. The Pan Africa Civil Society Platform on HIV Combination Prevention, for example, is very nascent and there is weak representation of KPs in the ESA Civil Society Platform. The African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and other regional and continental bodies have a mandate to enhance collaboration and create more inclusive platforms, notably in the context of the Catalytic framework to control and end AIDS, TB and malaria in Africa by 2030. The Catalytic framework recognises that civil society plays an important role in supporting the implementation of policies

¹ [Southern African Development Community](#)

² [HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map, Accelerating HIV prevention to reduce new infections by 75%](#)

accountability, community mobilisation, strategic information, capacity development and resource mobilisation to address the three diseases. The AUC and RECs should therefore be key advocacy targets and allies to create more inclusive platforms.

4. Long term objective & strategies

The proposed regional program should contribute to the following objective: Civil Society is more effective and coordinated in accelerating and shaping the HIV prevention agenda in Southern Africa, and should cater to one or more of five of the key populations that are the focus of the PITCH program: Adolescent girls and young women, LGBTI, sex workers, people who use drugs, youth. PITCH strongly supports self-led organisations to apply.

Organisations submitting a proposal are expected to pursue one or more of the following strategies in the proposed regional program:

- Organisations already engaging in regional HIV prevention processes will mobilise and support relevant stakeholders to inform and shape HIV prevention priorities, targets and budgets at regional and national level. This will involve sharing information, sub granting and building capacity about regional HIV prevention data, tools or best practices.
- Organisations will influence the regional and national prevention agendas, based on strategic opportunities. For instance by advocating for a renewed SADC HIV and AIDS strategic framework which would translate the AU catalytic framework and the Prevention Roadmap into regional policy.
- The regional program will improve coordination of identified processes, exchange knowledge at local, national and regional level, and improve inclusiveness and leadership of civil society.
- The regional program will lobby and advocate for increased (domestic) funding for (and consensus building on) HIV-prevention; the expansion of community based programs and; increased domestication of current donor-driven programs.
- The regional program will link the national level to regional and global policy, and vice versa.

5. Eligible countries

The applicant should be based in one or more countries Southern Africa³. Its activities should have a regional focus on Southern Africa, including SADC and/or other regional and continental bodies that have a mandate to enhance collaboration on HIV policy.

6. Budget

Budgets should be submitted in Euros. The total available budget for this Call for proposals is € 650.000. PITCH aims to support 2 to 3 programs. For each proposal, a total grant of minimum €100.000 and maximum €400.000 is available, for the duration of three years. Organisations are encouraged to submit a full proposal, but are kindly requested to think about ways in which a proposed program could be narrowed down in case a smaller amount than requested can be made available (see online application form).

Eligibility criteria for proposals

- The proposal is submitted before the deadline of 8 January, 12 noon CET;
- The proposal is submitted in English through the online form:
<https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/pitch>
- The application should describe objectives, outcomes, indicators, activities and the budget for three years (2018-2019-2020);
- The proposed program builds towards the long-term objective of this call: Civil Society is more effective and coordinated in accelerating and shaping the HIV prevention agenda in Southern Africa;
- The proposed program prioritises behavioural and structural components of combination prevention, with a focus on decriminalisation, human rights and community involvement;
- The proposed program uses one or more of the strategies mentioned under 4;

³ [Southern African Development Community](#)

- The proposal caters to one or more of the 5 aforementioned key populations that are the focus of the PITCH program (Adolescent girls and young women, LGBTI, sex workers, people who use drugs, youth);
- The proposed program should have a regional focus on Southern Africa, including SADC or other regional and continental bodies that have a mandate to enhance collaboration on HIV policy;
- The proposal is supported by the latest available annual narrative and financial report of the applicant.

Eligibility criteria for applicants

- The applicant is a registered organisation or network but they can work in partnership with non-registered organisations. Proposals by individuals will not be taken into consideration for funding;
- The applicant is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation or network;
- The applicant is based in one or more countries in sub-Saharan Africa;
- The applicant has a track record on catering for and meaningfully involving one or more of the following key populations: Adolescent girls & young women, LGBTI, sex workers, people who use drugs and/or youth;
- The applicant has access to regional platforms and the ability to influence regional policies.

7. Quality review

The PITCH regional program working group will select the most relevant proposals and those will be reviewed by external reviewers. Not only quality, but also the needs identified and the linkages with other actors are weighed. Based on the review scores, a funding advice will be formulated. The PITCH Board will take a final funding decision before 28 February 2018.

Review criteria for proposals

- Overall quality of the proposal;
- Expected impact of the proposed activities on HIV prevention in Southern Africa;
- Coherence and feasibility of the proposed 3-year strategy working towards the long term outcome
- SMART formulation of objectives and results;
- Clear explanation on how activities will contribute to these results and on the underlying assumptions;
- Appropriateness of the budget compared to proposed activities and expected results;
- Realistically planned implementation;
- Complementarity with existing lobby and advocacy activities on HIV prevention by the applicant or other organisations in context;
- Innovativeness of the proposed activities, such as in creating new partnerships and collaborations, generating new evidence and new communications messaging, or approaches to recruiting, mentoring and supporting new advocates;
- Sustainability of the proposed program: links with other stakeholders and other sources of funding;
- Meaningful involvement and leadership of key populations.

Review criteria for applicants

- Track record;
- Appropriate governance and accountability structures;
- Appropriate (financial) management and leadership;
- Capacity to implement the proposed activities;
- Capacity to monitor outcomes of the proposed activities.
- Track record of experience with regards to the key populations of the PITCH program.

8. Timeline

8 January	Deadline for submitting proposals, 12 noon CET
2 February	Most relevant proposals selected by PITCH regional working group and reviewed by external reviewers
14 February	Funding advice to PITCH Board
28 February	Decision by the PITCH Board, acknowledgements immediately afterwards



Ministry of Foreign Affairs