



WORLD  
AIDS DAY

1 DECEMBER 2019

COMMUNITIES

*make the difference*

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## COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS

*are led by the people who they serve and are primarily accountable to them. In the AIDS response, this includes organizations by and for people living with HIV or tuberculosis and organizations by and for people affected by HIV, including gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, prisoners, sex workers, transgender people, women and young people.*

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World AIDS Day 2019

# COMMUNITIES *make the difference*

Communities make an invaluable contribution to the AIDS response. Communities of people living with HIV, of key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, prisoners, transgender people and prisoners—and of women and young people lead and support the delivery of HIV services, defend human rights, support their peers. Communities are the lifeblood of an effective AIDS response and an important pillar of support.

Communities of people living with and affected by HIV, along with peer educators, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations and grass-roots activists, are leading and campaigning to ensure that the AIDS response remains relevant. They are fighting to keep people at the centre of decision-making and programme implementation and help to ensure that no one is left behind.

Communities are making the difference and are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but far too often are lacking the resources and recognition they deserve and need.

To recognize the role played by communities and community-led organizations, UNAIDS and its partners are highlighting the role of communities this World AIDS Day.

At a time when reduced funding is putting the sustainability of HIV services in jeopardy, community activism is vital. A greater mobilization of communities is urgently needed and the barriers that stop communities from delivering services need to be overcome.

Today more than ever communities are needed to ensure that HIV remains on the political agenda, that human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled, and that decision-makers and implementers are held accountable.



# COMMUNITIES NEED YOUR SUPPORT

**Communities are delivering incredibly important services and support to contribute to the response to HIV. Providing access to treatment, ensuring that confidential HIV testing services are available, making sure that people have the prevention services they need, community organizations are often the sole means of support in some of the most hostile environments.**

**Whether helping sex workers access condoms, gay men receive pre-exposure prophylaxis or people who inject drugs take HIV tests safely and confidentially, life-saving services are often only available from peers, joining together to help themselves and the wider community keep HIV-free or stay healthy while living with HIV.**

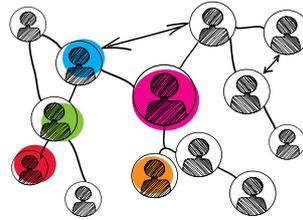
**But communities need support—financial, legal and political support—to carry on and scale up the vital work they do to keep people safe.**

## COUNTRIES SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

As funders and enablers, governments are hugely important for investing in and creating the right enabling environment for communities to work in. Governments are urged to:

### 1 INVEST IN COMMUNITIES

With United Nations Member States committing to ensure that at least 30% of all service delivery is led by communities by 2030, governments need to invest now in order to meet their pledges. Currently, communities are not being funded adequately, with international resources for community-led organizations shrinking and domestic funding mechanisms often inadequate.



### 2 PAY VOLUNTEERS

Ensuring that people who work as community workers are compensated is a valuable investment, helping to keep volunteers engaged and continuing with their valuable work.

### 3 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

From the highest levels of government, politicians must lead efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV. Through leading by example, political leaders should engage communities and demonstrate to the public the value of their contribution. And politicians should work with the leaders selected by the communities themselves as their representatives, rather than selecting representatives without meaningfully and transparently consulting with the communities in question.

### 4 INCLUDE COMMUNITIES

By committing to the meaningful engagement of communities of

people living with and affected by HIV in health decision-making bodies—for example for HIV planning, budgeting and implementation and universal health coverage—countries can include communities in decision-making. Helping to make decisions on the issues that affect them, communities are better able to reflect the real needs of the people they represent, lead programmes and ensure that the call of “Nothing about us without us” is heard.

### 5 REMOVE BAD LAWS

Communities need to be able to communicate unhindered, to be vocal advocates and contribute to shaping public policy. In many countries, regulations still stop community-led organizations of people living with or affected by HIV, such as gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, prisoners, sex workers and transgender people, registering and receiving funding or providing services legally. Governments must actively remove laws that hinder the rights of organizations of people living with or affected by HIV.

### 6 MAKE COMMUNITY DATA COUNT

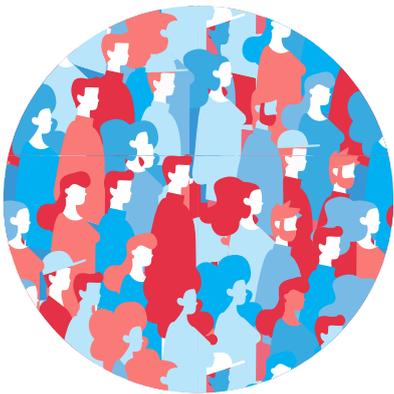
Communities are often best placed to report on the realities of service delivery and use. Community-led monitoring of the delivery of health programmes, services and systems, and ensuring that community-generated data are included in national data systems and are used in planning and implementation, makes community data count.



## 7 PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITIES

From reporting discrimination to bringing attention to stock-outs and the quality of service delivery, communities can ensure that resources are utilized properly and that people have timely access to quality health and social services.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES



By using their political influence and financial resources, international partners and civil society organizations can support communities in many ways. They can:

### 1 GIVE COMMUNITIES A VOICE

Partners and civil society organizations can organize parliamentary briefings, facilitate the representation of communities in meetings and increase the profile of communities through organizing visits of high-level officials to community sites and programmes.

### 2 SUPPORT THE ENGAGEMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Partners and civil society organizations can support the



engagement of communities by ensuring that communities are represented in planning, decision-making and implementation bodies, for example by vacating their seats in favour of representation by communities.

### 3 FUND COMMUNITY-LED WORK

Communities need funding. Internationally supported development projects and programmes must make provision for the funding of community-led organizations. Investments must also be made for enabling communities to monitor, evaluate and generate community-led data for action.

### 4 PUSH FOR POLICY REFORM

Civil society organizations and partners should push for policy reforms and changes in laws and regulations that make it easy for community-led organizations to exist and operate.

### 5 STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITIES

Communities need support in strengthening their capacity in order to function as effective advocates and implementors.

### 6 RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY WORK

Community workers and community-led work must be supported, and their work recognized.



# SHOW YOU CARE FOR COMMUNITIES ON WORLD AIDS DAY

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**To show your support for  
communities on World AIDS Day:**



## SHOW SOLIDARITY

**Attend a World AIDS Day event led by your community-led organization or networks of people living with or affected by HIV, such as gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, prisoners and/or transgender people.**

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## LEARN

**Find out about your local community, learn from them and show your support.**

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## DONATE

**Organize a fundraiser for World AIDS Day, donate time, money or goods such as books or food to support a community-led network of people living with or affected by HIV near you.**

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## TELL YOUR STORY

**Write a letter or short opinion piece for your local newspaper on how community organizations are transforming societies. Call your local radio station and tell your story of community work.**



## BE COUNTED

*If you belong to an organized community-led network providing HIV and other health and social services locally, send a short description of your work to [communications@unaids.org](mailto:communications@unaids.org) so that others can find and support your work.*

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## SPREAD THE WORD

*Write to your local and national leaders asking them to commit to supporting community organizations for the AIDS response.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGE LOCAL HEROES

*Recognize community work publicly with your peers and, for example, in social media.*

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## CONNECT

*If you are living with or affected by HIV, create or join a local network.*

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## BE THERE FOR OTHERS

*Support other community members with your capacity to love and show compassion.*

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## COMMEMORATE WORLD AIDS DAY

*Wear a red ribbon and support your community.*





# UNAIDS AND COMMUNITIES

***Meaningful partnerships with communities are at the centre of UNAIDS' work. The United Nations General Assembly recognizes the role of communities, including in the 2016 United Nations Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, through commitments to:***

- Ensuring that at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2030.
- Ensuring that at least 6% of HIV resources are allocated for social enabling activities, including advocacy, community and political mobilization, community-led monitoring, public communication and outreach programmes for rapid HIV tests and diagnosis, as well as for human rights programmes such as law and policy reform and stigma and discrimination reduction.

UNAIDS engages with communities to improve policies and programmes. It supports civil society to be partners of national AIDS responses and to hold governments to account and in providing services to people living with and affected by HIV on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

UNAIDS engages with civil society, especially people living with HIV, and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who use drugs, transgender people and prisoners—and women's groups, in advocacy to promote and protect human rights and gender equality.

UNAIDS is inspired and guided by the passion and experience of communities to generate a new, integrated movement that situates the AIDS response within the broader context of health, development, human rights and gender equality.

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# COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSES MATTER

***because it is communities who face adversities and know how to overcome them. People want to be part of the change. And when they lead the change, it is more effective and sustainable.***

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Rico Gustav, Global Network of People  
Living with HIV (GNP+)



20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

+41 22 791 3666

[unaids.org](http://unaids.org)

