

Making a difference and moving forward

Making a difference:

The AIDS movement has made history in the fields of global health and international development. By placing those most affected at the centre of development practice – and by engaging individuals from all walks of life – the AIDS response has revolutionized expectations of what is achievable in resource-limited settings. AIDS has generated the first-ever widespread introduction of chronic-disease treatment in low-income countries, attracted unprecedented levels of financial resources, and resulted in a worldwide commitment to achieve universal access to essential HIV services.

Partnerships have been central to these historic achievements. No disease in history has benefited from the kind of grassroots mobilization that is apparent for AIDS. The AIDS response is unique in the way it has brought together scientific evidence, human rights, activism, and included those living with HIV and some of the most marginalized communities in society in the decision making process. AIDS is not just a disease, but a social justice issue and the GIPA principle is central to the success of the response. For no other development priority is the partnership between the public and private sectors as evident as it is for AIDS.

However, as the end of the third decade of AIDS approaches, there are worrying signs of fatigue and fragmentation in the response. The global agenda is confronting a number of difficult challenges, and the financial and economic crisis has generated anxiety regarding the future of AIDS funding. Despite momentous gains, the majority of people who need antiretroviral therapy still lack access to treatment services, and the number of new HIV infections continues to outpace treatment scale-up.

Moving forward- new areas for partnership:

- Building on the demands for access to treatment and human rights for people living with HIV and key populations
- Building closer alliances between networks of people living with HIV and key populations with Human Rights groups
- Building closer alliances between networks of people living with HIV and key populations with religious leaders, FBOs, care providers and organizations working with children
- Documenting human rights abuses, stigma and discrimination for advocacy and action
- Building the leadership from the south including: south-south partnerships, developing young leaders mentorship hubs and buddy programmes

