
EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE FUNDING SUPPORTING MARGINALISED POPULATIONS

AIDS FONDS

Global Forum on MSM & HIV and the MSM Initiative

One of Aids Fonds' key funding areas centres on prevention, treatment, care, and advocacy for populations that are greatly affected by HIV/AIDS but receive the least support, such as men who have sex with men (MSM). Aids Fonds has been a long-time funder of the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), an organisation that advocates for equal access to HIV services for MSM, and promotes the health and rights of MSM worldwide.

Recent advocacy activities by MSMGF include a letter campaign denouncing the anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda, sent to President Museveni and the U.S. Ambassador to Uganda; a collaboration with WHO to develop guidelines for the prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among MSM and transgender people in low- and middle-income countries; and engaging with officials at U.S. government-funded global programmes (PEPFAR and the Global Health Initiative) via an MSM Policy Working Group to ensure those programmes support MSM.

In addition, MSMGF gathers and presents news, reports, and other information relating to MSM in the form of newsletters and digests (its Eblast, for example, shares innovative projects and funding opportunities); provides discussion forums in seven languages; hosts a biennial pre-conference on MSM-related issues before each International AIDS Conference; conducts survey research on HIV prevention strategies among MSM and MSM service providers; and provides technical assistance and capacity building services for MSM and advocates worldwide.

Aids Fonds also supports the MSM Initiative, established in 2007 by amFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) to reduce rates of HIV infection and transmission among MSM in resource-limited countries. The MSM Initiative supports and empowers grassroots MSM organisations, builds knowledge and awareness of HIV epidemics among MSM, and advocates for effective policies and increased funding. The two major components of the initiative are the Community Awards Program, which provides small, targeted awards to grassroots groups in resource-limited countries to provide prevention, treatment, care, and support services to MSM; and the Advocacy Program, which promotes and supports global advocacy efforts aimed at increasing funding for HIV prevention, treatment, and support services for MSM, and advances policy efforts aimed at ending the stigma, discrimination, and violence that threaten the lives of MSM and fuel the spread of HIV.



**Africa Peer Review Meeting in Johannesburg,
South Africa for the MSM Initiative**