



ROBERT CARR FUND

for civil society
networks

ACCOMPLISH- MENTS AND RESULTS

Civil Society Networks
Making a Difference with
Dedicated Funding



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The Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF) was launched in 2012, and two rounds of grants have concluded. **Already there are numerous examples of RCNF-supported accomplishments that have had demonstrable impact on the lives of inadequately served populations (ISPs) and the HIV responses in their countries.**

Such impact will only increase as the grant making programs continue and the supported networks expand their activities. The accomplishments to date indicate what global and regional networks can achieve – and on a much larger scale, with even greater impacts – with added funding that covers the unmet need.

Early results across four main outcome areas

The RCNF provides both programmatic and core funding to network grantees. Recipients are expected to undertake and document the results of activities within four main outcome areas (or objectives):

- Network capacity building.
- Scaling up the HIV response through service delivery and advocacy.
- Human rights protection.
- Resource mobilization and accountability.

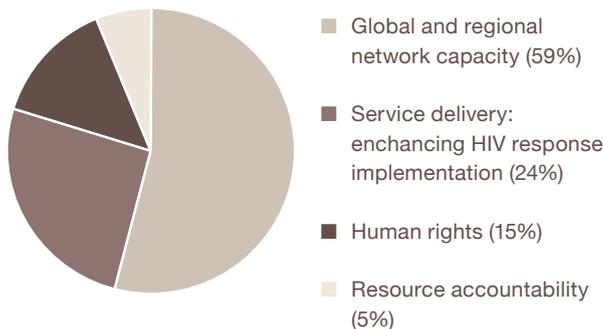
ABOUT THE FUND AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

The Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund is the primary mechanism providing funding to HIV civil society global and regional networks supporting inadequately served populations (ISPs).

ISPs face a higher HIV risk, mortality and/or morbidity, yet have less access to information and services. Populations categorized as such include people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM), people who use drugs, prisoners, sex workers and transgender people. In some localities, ISPs also include women and girls, youth, migrants and people living in rural areas.

Figure 1 provides information about how funds were allocated by outcome area in the first round of funding. This data is from an independent 2014 Mid-Term Review. Nearly two-thirds of networks (59%) reported results under the first outcome: global and regional network capacity. Such initial results are expected, given that at the time, most networks were experiencing severe capacity shortfalls due to insufficient financial and human resources. In both the second funding round and in the proposals received in 2015, grantees are allocating funding across all four outcome areas, indicating success in the initial focus on strengthening capacity.

Figure 1. Early results from RCNF funding
(% of grantees reporting activities in each of the four main outcomes areas)



Growing influence and strength: impact and achievements made possible by the RCNF

Below are examples of what grantees have accomplished with RCNF funding to date. **Additional and sustained resources would allow the networks to expand many of their ongoing activities and carry out new ones that improve the health and well-being of ISPs around the world.**

OUTCOME AREA 1: NETWORK CAPACITY BUILDING

Grantee: Consortium – International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD) and Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD)

- **Population(s) served:** People who use drugs.
- **Sample activities:** Joint conference in Bangkok organized by ANPUD and paid for by INPUD at which network members identified good practices in harm reduction and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for those at high risk for contracting HIV.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** Greater understanding and awareness of critical HIV prevention strategies for people who use drugs.

Grantee: Regional network – Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTAN)

- **Population(s) served:** Transgender people.
- **Sample activities:** Improving infrastructure at APTAN's secretariat; formally registering as an organization.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** Effectively implementing its work plan enabled APTAN to identify transgender networks in six countries – Malaysia,

Thailand, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Pakistan – and to support their advocacy work. Once formally registered, APTAN participated directly in the preparation of a regional proposal to the Global Fund in collaboration with three other networks: the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), the Asia Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD) and the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+). A newly strengthened APTAN secretariat means the network is now prepared to be a successful sub-recipient of Global Fund grants.

Grantee: People Living with HIV Networks Consortium (PNC+)

- **Population(s) served:** People living with HIV.
- **Sample activities:** PNC+ used core funding from RCNF to strengthen advocacy around HIV co-morbidities (e.g., hepatitis C) and resource mobilization.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** One consortia member, the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+), supported trainings on hepatitis C around the region resulting in several community-based organizations in Northeast India integrating hepatitis C services into the HIV services they provide. In Pakistan, a hepatitis C training led to the development of a community-led surveillance program on HIV/hepatitis C co-infection to fill in the gap in data and to advocate for better access for treatment. Advocacy is focused on the registration of sofosbuvir (a new drug that in combination with another represents a major breakthrough in hepatitis C treatment effectiveness and acceptability).

Grantee: Harm Reduction Consortium

- **Population(s) served:** People who use drugs, people living with HIV, prisoners.

Strengthening and sustaining sex work projects at country level: RCNF support enables sharing of best practices and local innovation.

A representative from the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) gave the following account of how national members in Kenya have been strengthened through RCNF support:

“ We heard from sex worker groups in India about how they organized and set up an academy to increase knowledge and advocacy among network members. We then adapted it to take on an ‘African’ approach. We set up our own academy and trained people who then went back to their countries and villages to build capacity there.

We were then able to increase funding from new donors by showing them our improved systems, strategic planning, manual development, and more. The RCNF was the seed that allowed us to leverage more funding and improved working methods.

We’ve now moved from Kenya to Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and other countries as sex worker groups in those countries can organize and grow. Our approaches have improved and become more sophisticated and this has led to increased government support and respect.”

- **Sample activities:** Youth RISE, a member of the consortium, organized four two-day drug policy and advocacy skills workshops, one each in Mexico, Portugal, Nigeria and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** Engaged a total of 80 young people who identified their priorities and policy recommendations for improved drug policy; development of advocacy strategies for each country. They are now implementing these recommendations, influencing national policy makers.

OUTCOME AREA 2: SERVICE DELIVERY AND ADVOCACY

Grantee: Regional network – Red Latino Americana y del Caribe de Personas Trans (REDLACTRANS)

- **Population(s) served:** Transgender people.
- **Sample activities:** Provision of free rapid HIV testing to hundreds of transgender women and the establishment of a Transgender Community Centre in Argentina that provides condoms, lubricants and information to over 400 transgender people.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** Critical HIV prevention, information, referral and support services provided to members of an extremely stigmatized and vulnerable population.

Grantee: Consortium – International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD) and Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD)

- **Population(s) served:** People who use drugs.
- **Sample activities:** ANPUD provided financial and technical support to one of its national-level members, the Viet Nam Network for People Who Use Drugs (VNPUD), to gather evidence about the impacts of a new decree that allows authorities to force people who use drugs into compulsory drug treatment centres.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** VNPUD has brought national and global attention to the new policy, which it opposes, by taking part in meetings with government agencies and various communications efforts. While also trying to overturn the policy, the national network is also advocating to improve access to critical services – e.g., antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment for hepatitis C – within the compulsory centres.

OUTCOME AREA 3: HUMAN RIGHTS

Grantee: Regional network – Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM), which is active in eastern and southern Africa

- **Population(s) served:** People living with HIV and sexual minorities at high risk (i.e., LGBTI populations).
- **Sample activities:** Organized six dialogue forum events across eastern and southern Africa attended by a total of 130 clergy members and theological students. The forums focused on sexual minorities, HIV and human rights.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** Directly addressed ignorance, intolerance and stigma among current and future faith leaders regarding people living with HIV and LGBTI. A total of 35 clergy members claimed to have changed their thinking and attitudes after participating in the forums. In addition, the building of mutual respect and understanding was exemplified by the development of functional links and promises of open dialogue between faith leaders and LGBTI leaders.

Grantee: Regional network – Africa Capacity Alliance (ACA), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), National Organization of Peer Educators (NOPE)

- **Population(s) served:** People living with HIV, men who have sex with men, sex workers and youth (primarily).
- **Sample activities:** Identifying and providing training on human rights issues regarding key populations to 18 lawyers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** Working on a pro bono basis, the lawyers are documenting human rights violations and representing clients whose rights have been violated.

Grantee: Consortium of MSM Networks

- **Population(s) served:** Gay men and other men who have sex with men.
- **Sample activities:** A consortium member regional network, the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), assisted its Estonian member to undertake targeted advocacy in support of a bill recognizing same-sex partnerships.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** The Estonian Parliament approved the bill in October 2014 and it became law. Estonia became the first country in the former Soviet Union to formally recognize same-sex partnerships and offer equal civil rights to same-sex couples. The new law is considered significant given developments in Russia, the region's most populous and dominant nation, where several anti-gay laws have recently been put in place.

OUTCOME AREA 4: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Grantee: Regional network – International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS Eastern Africa (ICWEA)

- **Population(s) served:** Women living with HIV.
- **Sample activities:** Organized two consultative meetings for women living with HIV in Uganda and Kenya to identify and set priorities for country concept notes (funding requests) to the Global Fund.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** More than 50 women living with HIV were able to use their newly acquired knowledge about the Global Fund's funding model and processes to actively participate in and influence the development of concept notes. Issue papers prepared by meeting attendees were submitted to country coordinating mechanisms (CCMs), proposal writing teams and National AIDS Councils in both countries.

Grantee: Regional network – African Men for Sexual health and Rights (AMSHeR)

- **Population(s) served:** Gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM), people living with HIV.
- **Sample activities:** AMSHeR gave a package of support – including small grants, mentoring and capacity building – to organizations in countries including Burundi, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Zambia.
- **Accomplishments and impact:** The support has enabled the local partners to engage more effectively with donors and to better understand and advocate on national and regional funding processes and mechanisms of relevance to MSM. For example, after receiving training on the Global Fund's new priorities and processes, the organizations were able to more meaningfully influence the programming and budgeting decisions that affect MSM and other key populations.



**Aids Fonds Fund Management Agent (FMA) of
the Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund**

Keizersgracht 392
1016 GB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
+31 20 626 2669
www.robertcarrfund.org
secretariat@robertcarrfund.org

Bank account information:

Account No.: 020019858
IBAN: NL75 INGB 0020 0198 58
BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A
Accountname: Stichting Aids Fonds –
Stop Aids Now! – Soa Aids Nederland
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