



## **Robert Carr Fund RFP 2018**

### **Annex 1: Overview of the Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning (MEL) Framework**

The Robert Carr Fund provides core funding to strengthen the institutional and advocacy capacity of regional and global networks and consortia that work with Inadequately Served Populations (ISPs).<sup>1</sup> It believes that if these networks – through which ISPs can find legitimate representation for decisions that affect them – are stronger, it will enable ISP groups to have more influence over the human rights and HIV issues that affect them.

Sustained influence from ISPs with regards to HIV and human rights issues at global, regional and national levels will result in a more enabling and rights-affirming social, policy and legal environment for ISPs, along with more accessible and appropriate quality HIV services and programs, and the corresponding available resources to create better conditions for ISPs with regards to HIV.

If the human rights of ISPs are realized, and they have access to better HIV services, and there is appropriate resourcing to underpin the necessary services, it is believed that ISPs across the globe can have better health, inclusion and social wellbeing.

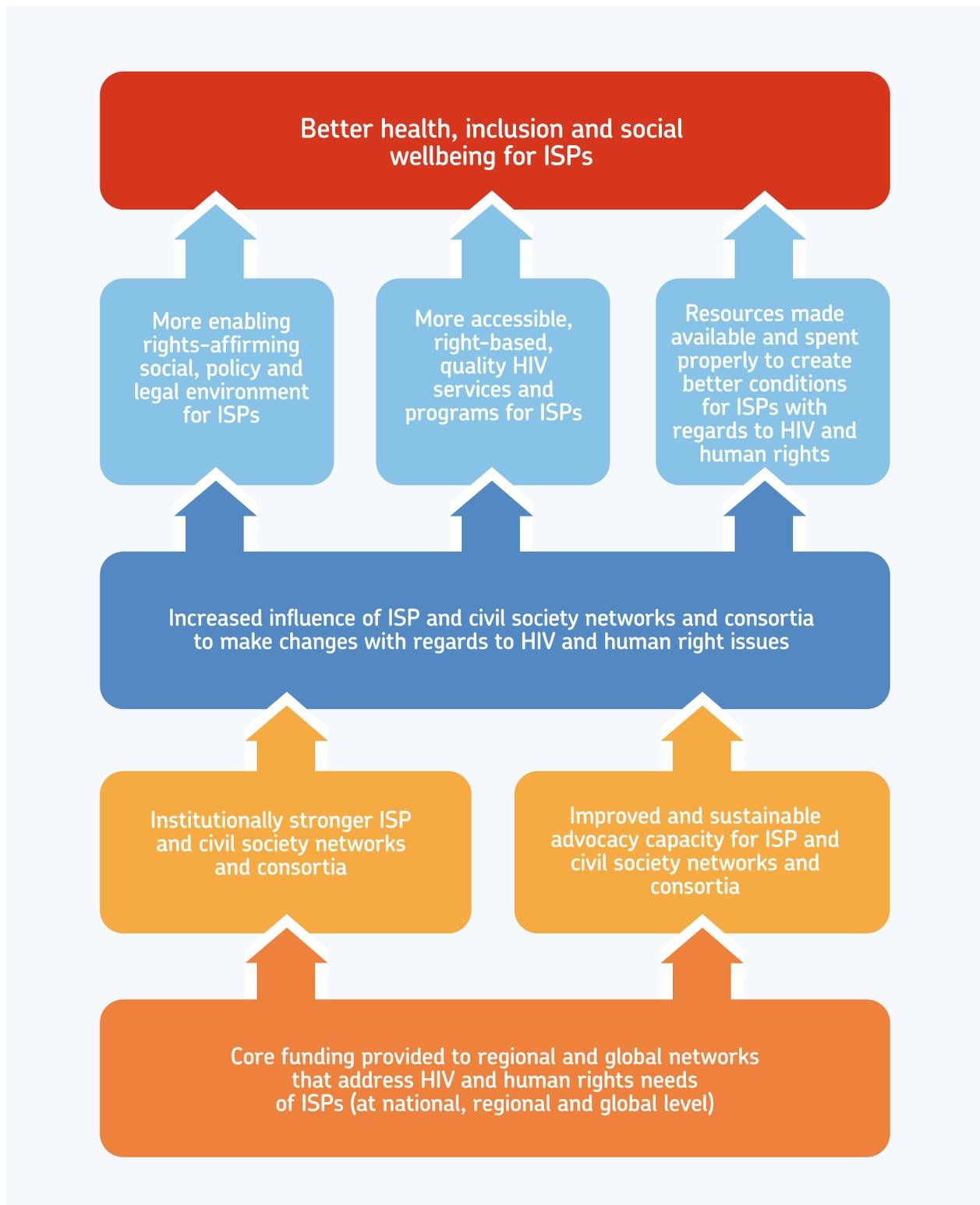
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<sup>1</sup> ISPs are groups or persons that face a higher HIV risk, mortality and/or morbidity when compared to the general population, and have, at the same time, less access to information and services. They include people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, prisoners, sex workers and transgender persons, but depending on the dynamic of the epidemic and the legal status of these populations may also include women and girls, youth, migrants, and people living in rural areas.



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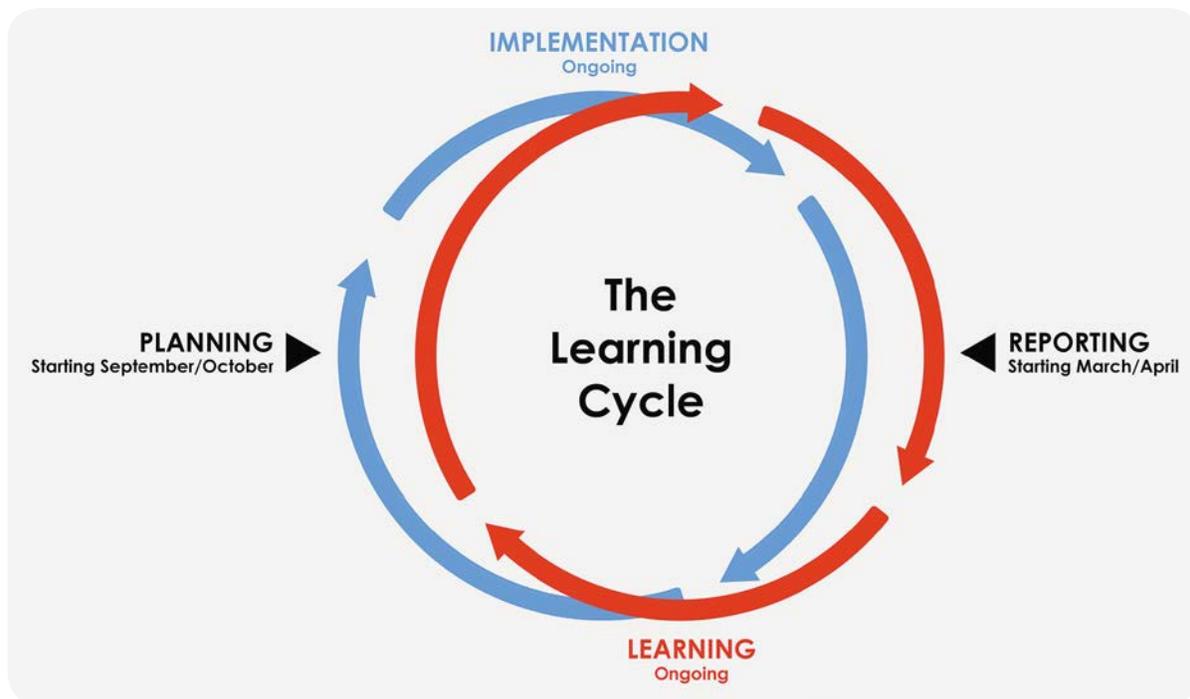
**Figure1: The Robert Carr Fund Theory of Change**



Based on its unique role as a funding mechanism for regional and global networks, and based on the grantees' unique contributions to movement-building and influencing the access of ISPs to health, justice and resources, the Robert Carr Fund requires a tailored approach to measuring its own results and the progress, results and lessons learnt of its grantees.

### The Learning Cycle

Of particular importance is the ability to reflect on and use information to continually improve both the way the Fund functions and supports the grantees in their strengthening to achieve their objectives. For this reason, the Fund has chosen to take a *monitoring and evaluation for learning* (MEL) approach, in which monitoring and evaluation processes are integrated with a continuous learning process. Learning is actively encouraged by the Robert Carr Fund, through regular collective impact reflections and promotion of cross-grantee exchange and collaboration.



**Figure 2: The Learning Cycle**

2018 applicants, who will become the Fund's grantees, will be recommended to use the scales by which the indicators are measured to discuss and contextualize their achievement and needs on an annual basis (or quarterly throughout the year), particularly during planning and reporting processes.

## Monitoring Both Environment and Outcomes

The Robert Carr Fund's grantees operate in complex and challenging environments which are often not supportive of their efforts to improve the health and well-being of ISPs. These environments can critically impact their ability to achieve outcomes, and it is important for the Fund and its funding partners to understand and monitor grantee experiences in these environments. Therefore, alongside the quantitative monitoring of grantee outcome indicators (OI), the Monitoring, Evaluation for Learning (MEL) process calls for grantees to reflect on changes to a set of environmental indicators (EI).

Monitoring of environmental indicators focuses on elements, which may be beyond grantee control or influence, but which strongly influence grantee activities and are critical to determining success. Keeping track of the baseline and changes in grantee environmental indicators allows the Fund to better contextualize program outcomes, and to conduct deeper learning and evaluative work during reflection processes. On a more practical level, the information collected as part of the indicators below will feed directly into the grantee annual reporting template, allowing for an easy and more standardized context section to be included in each grantee's report.

Monitoring outcome indicators, on the other hand, focuses on the results of grantee activities, and corresponds to more traditional programmatic monitoring. This allows for the quantification of results sought after by many funding partners, and also provides grantees with a framework for self-reflection and learning.

Ultimately, the nexus of the environment and grantee outcomes is where the Robert Carr Fund's added value lies: the final step of the grantee reporting process each year will be to evaluate these two parallel elements together and describe how Robert Carr Fund's funding uniquely allows grantees to respond to and influence the environment in which civil society networks function to contribute to the HIV response at global, regional and national levels.

2018 applicants who are accepted and will go on to become the Fund's grantees, will use the Environmental and Outcome Indicator Reporting Tool during the grant implementation, which contains indicators as described below and detailed guidance on how to report against these indicators. It should be noted that within the Tool, each indicator allows grantees to provide evidence to support the outcome or change they are claiming, and also provide space for noting any exceptional context or lessons learned which should be taken into account.

The Robert Carr Fund aspires to fund a portfolio of grants in 2019-2021 that would achieve the results, as articulated in our results framework (See figure 3 below).

The Fund's results framework includes a set of required outcome areas that indicate **institutional and advocacy capacity strengthening of grantees due to the provision of core funding by the Robert Carr Fund:**

- Institutionally stronger ISP and civil society networks and consortia
- Improved and sustainable advocacy capacity for ISP and civil society networks and consortia
- Increased influence of ISP and civil society networks and consortia to make changes with regards to HIV and human rights issues

The Framework also includes a set of optional outcome areas that indicate **grantees’ influence on access of inadequately served populations to justice, health and resources**:

- More enabling and rights-affirming social, policy and legal environment for ISPs
- More accessible, rights-based, quality HIV services and programs for ISPs
- Resources made available and spent properly to create better conditions for ISPs with regards to HIV and human rights
- Better health, inclusion and social wellbeing of the ISPs

**Figure 3: The Robert Carr Fund Results Framework Linked to Environmental and Outcome Indicators (EI and OI)**

<b>Outcomes:</b>		<b>Environmental Indicators</b>	<b>Outcome Indicators</b>
<b>Institutional and advocacy capacity strengthening of grantees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Institutionally stronger ISP and civil society networks and consortia</b></li> </ul>	<b>EI 1:</b> The legal and policy framework allows for freedom of association for ISP/civil society networks, including their right to establish/register and operate as non-profit/non-governmental entities without discrimination.	<b>OI 1:</b> Number of networks with improved basic organizational status.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved and sustainable advocacy capacity for ISP and civil society networks and consortia</b></li> </ul>		<b>OI 2:</b> Number of networks showing increased fiscal capacity and sustainability.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased influence of ISP and civil society networks and consortia to make changes with regards to HIV and human rights issues</b></li> </ul>	<b>EI 2:</b> ISP/civil society networks experience freedom of expression without harassment by government and other influential entities.	<b>OI 3:</b> Number of networks more representative of their constituencies and more democratically governed.  <b>OI 4:</b> Number of networks showing increased influence and capacity to unite and mobilize movements.
<b>Grantees’ influence on access of inadequately served populations to justice, health and resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More enabling and rights-affirming social, policy and legal environment for ISPs</b></li> </ul>	<b>EI 3:</b> ISP rights are protected by policy and/or legislation, which is enforced and allows for effective redress of violations.	<b>OI 5:</b> Number of networks contributing to an improved human rights environment for at least one ISP.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More accessible, rights-based, quality HIV services and programs for ISPs</b></li> </ul>	<b>EI 4:</b> ISP experience full access to rights-based, quality HIV services.	<b>OI 6:</b> Number of networks contributing to increased access to HIV services and programs.  <b>OI 7:</b> Number of networks contributing to increased quality of HIV programs and services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Resources made available and spent properly to create better conditions for ISPs with regards to HIV and human rights</b></li> </ul>	<b>EI 5:</b> The funding environment allows for sufficient allocation of resources for HIV prevention, testing, care, and treatment.	<b>OI 8:</b> Number of networks contributing to increased and sustainable financing of HIV response including ISP programs.
		<b>EI 6:</b> The funding environment allows for sufficient allocation of resources for advocacy and other supportive enabling environment programming for ISPs.	<b>OI 9:</b> Number of networks contributing to improved HIV-related fiscal accountability.
<b>Impact:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Better health, inclusion and social wellbeing of the ISPs</b></li> </ul>	

Progress and results within each of the outcome areas is measured by sets of linked environmental and outcome indicators as described above:

- Environmental Indicators**

The Environmental Indicators are designed to help all grantees to assess measurable change in their operating environment, in order to (1) support learning by providing a framework for the impact reflection process; (2) track changes from year to year; and (3) systematically account for the context where they operate on an annual basis.

Changes in each Environmental Indicator are measured using a scale, as shown below:

<b>Environmental Monitoring Scale</b>				
Major Progress	Minor Progress	No Change	Minor Regress	Major Regress

- Outcome Indicators**

The Outcome Indicators are designed to help all grantees to assess measurable change in outcomes resulting from their activities, in order to (1) support learning by providing a framework for the impact reflection process; (2) track changes from year to year; and (3) systematically account for their cumulative results/progress/regress that they influence.