



Where is the funding for women living with HIV in MENA?

An urgent call to action

Community responses led by women living with HIV and women from key populations have been instrumental in driving progress in the HIV response in the MENA region. These grassroots movements have a deep understanding of the challenges faced by women in the region and are uniquely positioned to advocate for their rights and needs. Conflicts in the MENA region, war, humanitarian crises, natural disasters and poverty compound existing disparities and women bear the brunt of the impacts of these crises. Women in marginalized populations including women living with HIV, transwomen, sex workers, migrants, refugees are experiencing profound and dangerous inequality. Globally, women perform an estimated 76% of all unpaid healthcare activities, according to a new WHO report on gender-based discrimination in healthcare. Yet only 1% of funding worldwide goes to feminist funding.

It is crucial to ensure that our marginalized populations have access to essential healthcare services and support. Taking care of women's health is essential for the health and well-being of our families and our communities. In turn having a healthy society fuels development, growth, and our economy. Women living with HIV are productive contributors to our economies. By investing in women-led organizations (in all our diversity) and supporting women's leadership in the HIV response, we can amplify the impact of community responses and ensure that the voices of women living with HIV are heard and prioritized in decision-making processes.

Specific strategies must be implemented to increase funding to the region despite conflicts, humanitarian needs, and other competing demands. We must work together to halt women and HIV from getting lost in the face of these challenges. By increasing funding for women living with HIV and other marginalized populations in the MENA region, we can end AIDS and reduce HIV while improving women's health outcomes, well-being, and quality of life. Investments that support women-led interventions and movements are critical to the HIV response and advancing gender justice globally. Through collaboration and prioritization of funding for women-led responses, we can ensure that women living with and at risk for HIV have the resources they need to thrive. Let us seize this opportunity to include HIV in current efforts to respond to the crisis and make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of women in the region.



Our call to action

Women living with HIV in MENA call on the philanthropic community to invest in and recognize our labor and our expertise.

We call upon the global feminist movements to join in solidarity with the women of MENA.

We urge governments, multilateral organizations, and donors to prioritize funding for women living with HIV, sexual and reproductive health, migrants, transwomen, and transmen in the MENA region.

1. Multilateral organizations and donors must establish dedicated funding streams for women living with HIV and key populations, ensuring that resources are allocated specifically to address our unique needs and challenges.
2. Investments that support capacity-building for women-led organizations in the MENA region, providing women living with HIV and women from key populations with the skills, support and resources needed to effectively advocate for their human right to health.
3. Governments must take action to realize the global commitments that the countries have signed up to prioritize the integration of HIV services into existing healthcare systems, making it easier for women living with HIV to access treatment, care, and support.
4. Collaboration between stakeholders, including governments, multilateral organizations, donors, and civil society, can lead to more coordinated and effective responses to the HIV epidemic among women in the MENA region.

We call upon governments, multilateral organizations, and donors to prioritize investments in women-led organizations and support women's leadership in the HIV response. By empowering women living with HIV and key populations to lead the way in advocating for their rights and health, we can



create more inclusive and effective strategies to address the HIV epidemic in the MENA region. Let us recognize the power of community responses and commit to investing in women-led initiatives to drive positive change for women living with HIV.

By seizing these upcoming opportunities for investments and stepping up support for women living with HIV and key populations, we can make significant progress towards achieving health equity and gender justice in the MENA region. Let us work together to ensure that no woman is left behind in our efforts to effectively respond to HIV.

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