

International AIDS Society

Annual report

2025 - 2026

iasociety.org

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Opening letter

The past year was defined by both crisis and clarity – it has stress-tested the architecture of the global response to HIV like never before.

The sudden funding freeze and geopolitical realignment sheared across the world, leaving clinics closed, workforces cut back, supply chains stalling, trials halted, and surveillance and data systems dark. HIV prevention systems, including testing and services for key and vulnerable populations, have been particularly affected.

It also exposed serious structural faults – how much the HIV response, built over decades on the assumption of political continuity, had been designed largely around a single, powerful external funder.

Adaptation and resilience

From that clarity came adaptation as a necessity to sustain essential services – the restructuring of delivery models, priorities and resource allocation – and a move towards greater domestic ownership. Communities and countries drive this process, and it is born from the resilience that has been part of the HIV response from the very beginning.

IAS – the International AIDS Society – plays a central role in this adaptation, bringing together the scientists, policy makers and activists who make up the global HIV response to have the important conversations and determine action.

A new strategy for 2026 onwards

The IAS has adapted, too. In the review period, the organization undertook a deep introspection on how best to support the HIV response at this challenging time. The result is the *IAS Strategy 2026 onwards*, dated as such because the world is not on track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Our new strategy organizes our work around four priority areas:

- **Sustainability of an evidence-based HIV response**
- **Prevention at scale**
- **People-first and stigma-free services**
- **Continuous scientific innovation**

Each area reflects where the greatest needs are, and where the IAS can most effectively convene, enable, advocate and empower.

Providing platforms

In July 2025, even as the funding crisis dug deeper, almost 4,000 people gathered for IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science, in Kigali, Rwanda, and virtually.

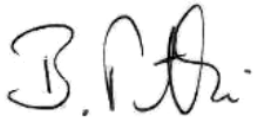
Delegates celebrated scientific breakthroughs – including the astounding success of long-acting prevention options, weighed up what the new playing field actually meant in real-world settings, and considered how they would adapt and move forward together.

IAS 2025 was where the response, under acute pressure, sent out a message from African soil, loud and clear – we will not go back; we will not give up our gains.

Thank you

We extend our deep gratitude to our 11,255 IAS Members across more than 170 countries, our partners and our allies for your science, your advocacy and your strength in adapting to protect gains and to advance the response.

Rethink. Rebuild. Rise. The theme for AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference, taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is a direct response to where we are. Together, we will rethink what an adaptable and resilient HIV response requires, rebuild on stronger foundations, and rise to meet the moment – as we always have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Poniatowski'.

Birgit Poniatowski
Executive Director

Who we are

IAS – the International AIDS Society – unites the global HIV response because progress happens when science, policy and activism come together.

We do this by hosting the world’s most significant HIV conferences and through our programmes, which focus on the sustainability of an evidence-based HIV response, prevention at scale, people-first and stigma-free services, and continuous scientific innovation.

These all contribute to realizing our vision: a world in which HIV no longer presents a threat to public health and individual well-being.



Our core values

Put people first

- We are independent and ultimately accountable to people living with and affected by HIV.
- We weigh and measure our actions against their impact on people's lives.
- We champion an environment that empowers all to be part of the conversation.
- We respect the lived experiences of all and foster a diversity of perspectives.

Be evidence-based & open-minded

- We follow the science and promote evidence-based dialogue.
- We intentionally seek out data to inform our attitudes, decisions and actions.
- We evolve by challenging our biases and encouraging curiosity.

Build bridges & collaborate

- We unite disciplines, sectors and people at all levels to drive progress in the HIV response.
- We build trust by sharing knowledge and being transparent.
- We hold ourselves individually responsible for the collective excellence of our work.

How we work

The *IAS Strategy 2026 onwards* is our roadmap to accelerate an evidence- and human rights-based HIV response to ensure equity, reduce new HIV acquisitions, prevent HIV-related deaths, and sustain efforts until everyone living with HIV or vulnerable to HIV acquisition achieves optimal quality of life.

- **We convene leading minds** to accelerate scientific discovery.
- **We enable access** to the latest knowledge for everyone.
- **We advocate for policies** grounded in evidence and human rights.
- **We empower people** to ensure the global HIV response follows the science and centres communities.



We follow a two-pronged approach to work towards our strategic objective:

1. We provide platforms for all stakeholders in the HIV response to raise, discuss and address scientific advances, improvements in service delivery, and structural issues and determinants of health that increase vulnerability to HIV and limit access to HIV services and products.
2. We use our convening power, partnerships and voice to address the most critical issues based on evidence and human rights.



Advocacy in the HIV response

The IAS continues to unite the HIV response through its conferences, programmes and membership base. It brings together scientists, policy makers and communities to develop shared solutions that sustain and strengthen the global response. This includes charting a path forward amid widening funding gaps and providing countries with tools to support prioritization and their transition to more sustainable HIV programmes.



We advocate on many issues to advance the HIV response, and we express many of our positions in our statements. Here is a snapshot of our advocacy efforts this year:

- 16 July 2025** The IAS released a statement, "[IAS welcomes US bipartisan move to protect PEPFAR](#)".
- 11 May 2026** The IAS was a signatory to "[Europe's unfinished epidemics: Sustaining community-led HIV response in times of crisis](#)", a joint statement of the Coalition for a European HIV Response (C4EHR).
- 12 March 2026** The IAS contributed to "[Advocating for integrated HIV, NCD, and mental health responses: A toolkit for the 2026 UN High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS](#)". This toolkit was developed by the NCD Alliance in consultation with the IAS, GNP+, the UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation, STOPAIDS, Global United for Mental Health, Youth LEAD and NCD Alliance partners.
- 12 May 2026** At the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79), the IAS organized a high-level advocacy side event, "National integration of HIV services: Sustaining quality, equity and community leadership in an era of funding transition", with Coalition PLUS, GNP+, NCD Alliance and IPPF.



IAS 2025

Our conferences

IAS 2025



IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science, took place in Kigali, Rwanda, and virtually from 13 to 17 July 2025. Despite challenges created by sudden funding cuts, almost 4,000 people came together in Kigali and virtually, showing the resilience that defines the HIV response and a commitment to protecting gains made in over 40 years of this pandemic.

IAS 2025 provided a forum for participants to review the early impact of US funding cuts and debate how the HIV response can adapt to shrinking donor support. Scientific innovation in prevention was also at the forefront during IAS 2025, with the release of new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines recommending the use of long-acting injectable lenacapavir as a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) option and promising data on the experimental monthly oral PrEP agent, MK-8527.

IAS 2025 showcased the central role of African science in shaping the global HIV response. The conference also highlighted the host country's achievement in reaching the 95-95-95 targets for HIV diagnosis, treatment and viral suppression and its success in tackling a Marburg virus outbreak in 2024.

A total of 5,257 abstracts were submitted to IAS 2025, and 2,016 were accepted, an acceptance rate of 38%. The conference featured 31 oral abstract sessions in five tracks and 30 invited-speaker sessions, including three plenaries, 22 symposia and two special sessions. Alongside these conference sessions, 36 satellites and seven pre-conferences offered delegates focused insights into a wide variety of topics.



IAS 2025 at a glance



IAS 2025 had **3,986** participants from **124** countries.



46% of IAS participants came from central, eastern, southern and western Africa.



84% of IAS 2025 delegates attended in person.



IAS 2025 awarded **247** in-person and virtual scholarships to delegates from **56** countries, with **62% of recipients** from central, eastern, southern and western Africa.



59% of IAS 2025 participants were **under 46 years**.



Out of the total of 197 news media articles (compared with 312 original pieces for IAS 2023), 32 articles were featured in top-tier media outlets (compared with 16 for IAS 2023), including Associated Press, BBC, The Economist, The Guardian and The Telegraph.

Headlines

AP

The UN warns millions will die by 2029 if US funding for HIV programs isn't replaced

POLITICO

Filling the void left by PEPFAR

BBC

South Africans fear spike in HIV infections as US aid cuts bite

Forbes

The First Generation Without AIDS Is Within Reach If We Refuse To Settle

Scholarships

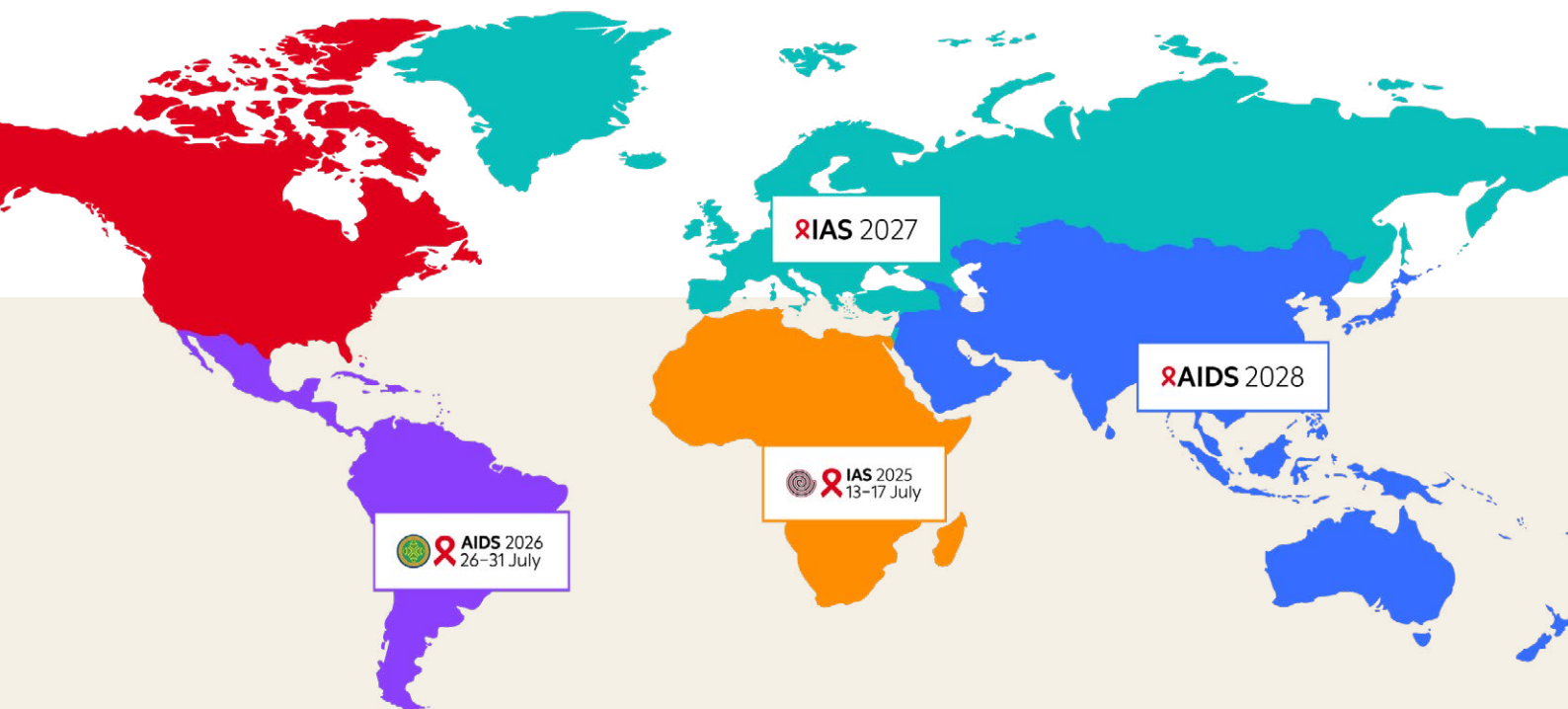
IAS 2025 awarded 247 scholarships to delegates, mainly first-time recipients, 226 of whom attended in person and 21 virtually: 62% were awarded to people from central, eastern, southern and western Africa (Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa were the top three countries), 11% to people from South and Southeast Asia, 8% to people from Latin America, 7% to people from North America, and 4% to people from western and central Europe.

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Global rotation

To ensure that people from around the world have an opportunity to participate in our conferences in person, IAS conferences rotate among five world regions – Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States and Canada. Conferences do not take place consecutively in any region.



[Learn more](#) about the conference rotation, Organizing Committees and the host city selection process.

Improving access to the latest knowledge

HIV science evolves rapidly, requiring constant interpretation, translation and knowledge exchange. The IAS promotes greater understanding of HIV science and policy to build the skills and provide the resources needed to realize a world where the HIV pandemic no longer poses a threat to public health and individual well-being – retaining a global perspective that is relevant at a local level.

As part of this commitment, the IAS published the 10th edition of the IAS knowledge toolkits series for IAS Members. The toolkits highlight important scientific advancements and innovative research presented at IAS conferences.

The [IAS 2025 Knowledge Toolkit](#) offers adaptable PowerPoint presentations with an easy-to-use navigation system covering thematic areas presented at conferences.

This series will continue with the AIDS 2026 Knowledge Toolkit. For open-access toolkits from previous AIDS and IAS conferences, visit [IAS+](#).

Our programmes

Beyond our conferences, the IAS develops a range of programmatic activities across key priority areas set out in our new strategy: sustainability of an evidence-based response; prevention at scale; people-first and stigma-free services; and continuous scientific innovation. The IAS Governing Council identifies these topics and reviews them on an ongoing basis.



Sustainability of an evidence-based HIV response

Global HIV funding has declined sharply, reaching a crisis point in 2025 and leaving many low- and middle-income countries facing hard choices about sustaining their responses. To safeguard a sustainable, evidence- and rights-based HIV response, the IAS: works to mobilize key actors in shaping the sustainability of the global HIV response; works with partners to support data-based advocacy and amplify calls for action; and empowers advocates at global, regional and local levels to call for renewed political commitment and funding.



Prevention at scale

New HIV acquisitions remain far above global targets, with effective prevention options available but out of reach in the most HIV-affected areas due to inequities, domestic funding limitations and foreign aid suspensions. To close this gap, the IAS aims to: support policy makers and programme implementers to act fast on latest evidence on prevention technologies and their rollout; equip health service providers with knowledge and tools to support informed prevention choice; and work with communities and policy makers to advocate for improvements in affordable access to, and create demand for, diverse HIV prevention options.



People-first and stigma-free services

Service delivery in resource-constrained areas continues to face major challenges, including persistent stigma and criminalization, that keep services inaccessible for many people, making differentiation and thoughtful integration essential. To advance people-first and stigma-free services, the IAS aims to: promote the adoption of the latest evidence and good practices for differentiated and integrated service delivery by policy makers, funders and service providers; support tailored approaches that meet people's needs; and utilize its convening platforms to drive evidence-based policy change.



Continuous scientific innovation

Ending the HIV pandemic will require continuous scientific innovation, including the development of both a cure and a vaccine. To protect scientific advancement, the IAS aims to: strengthen research capacity and leadership in lower-resource settings; disseminate the latest HIV research; convene researchers and partners to foster innovation; and support the development of research agendas in key areas.



Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research

The IAS aims to accelerate an evidence-informed, human rights-based and integrated HIV response for infants, children, adolescents and young people living with and affected by HIV.

In 2025, the Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) awarded two research grants of USD 140,000 each over two years to support early-career researchers from low- and middle-income countries. These grants enable recipients to become principal investigators for the first time, generate new evidence to address key gaps in paediatric and adolescent HIV, and build the experience and track record needed to compete for larger funding in the future. In addition, CIPHER awarded one Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship, valued at USD 70,000 over two years. The fellowship is designed to strengthen the next generation of leaders in paediatric and adolescent HIV research by pairing emerging investigators with internationally recognized mentors to develop their technical expertise, strengthen academic skills and prepare them for research leadership and independent funding.

The [11th Symposium on Children and Adolescents with Perinatal HIV Exposure](#) was held as a pre-conference at IAS 2025, with the theme, *Taking action to ensure that children and adolescents with perinatal exposure thrive*. The event gathered more than 130 participants and highlighted current research, effective interventions and policy priorities to improve health and well-being among children and adolescents with perinatal HIV exposure. CIPHER then convened a roundtable, titled "[Informing the agenda: A dialogue with mothers and caregivers on the priorities for children with perinatal HIV exposure](#)", in collaboration with the Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV, Rwanda Biomedical Center, UNICEF, International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa and members of the Organizing Committee for the 11th Symposium on Children and Adolescents with Perinatal HIV Exposure. The roundtable provided a platform for mothers and caregivers to share lived experiences and articulate the support needs of children and adolescents with perinatal HIV exposure. Key insights from the roundtable will inform, and be presented at, the 12th Symposium on Children and Adolescents with Perinatal HIV Exposure at AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference.

At the 23rd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2025), CIPHER organized three sessions in the series, "[Rising to the challenge: Enhancing efforts to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B](#)". The sessions focused on accelerating progress towards the elimination of vertical transmission by drawing on country experiences, identifying opportunities to strengthen health systems in support of triple elimination goals, and addressing social and structural barriers that hinder access to vertical transmission prevention services.



Participants of the 11th Symposium on Children and Adolescents with Perinatal HIV Exposure, IAS 2025, Kigali, Rwanda, July 2025



Corporate Partnership Programme

The IAS continued to strengthen collaboration between industry, researchers, policy makers and communities to advance innovation across the HIV prevention, treatment, cure and vaccine continuum. Through trusted, neutral convening and cross-sector dialogue, the Corporate Partnership Programme (CPP) fostered strategic engagement on some of the most pressing scientific and operational challenges facing the global HIV response during a period of significant funding uncertainty and transition.

Throughout 2025, the programme convened high-level discussions and technical exchanges on emerging priorities in HIV research and access. The HIV Vaccine Industry Partnership Group explored the growing role of artificial intelligence in accelerating HIV vaccine discovery and development, culminating in a [satellite session](#) at IAS 2025, examining AI-driven approaches to immunogen design, clinical trial optimization and data analysis. The programme also advanced dialogue on the future of HIV cure research through discussions on translational science, adaptive clinical trial design, gene therapy and diagnostic innovation.

The Industry Liaison Forum convened further strategic discussions on the impact of global funding instability on HIV research and implementation, reinforcing the importance of sustainable partnership models and cross-sector coordination. In November 2025, the Forum hosted a [session](#) on accelerating equitable access to long-acting HIV prevention technologies, using lenacapavir for PrEP as a case study. Presentations from the European Medicines Agency, WHO and Gilead Sciences highlighted how collaborative regulatory pathways, reliance mechanisms and coordinated access planning can significantly shorten timelines from scientific breakthrough to client access.

These activities reinforced the CPP's role as a unique platform where industry and non-industry stakeholders can jointly examine barriers, share expertise and advance practical solutions to strengthen the global HIV response.

In parallel, the CPP initiated a strategic review of its structure and long-term positioning to ensure that the programme remains responsive to the evolving HIV landscape. This work will inform a refreshed model aimed at strengthening integration across scientific areas, deepening stakeholder engagement and supporting more action-oriented collaboration in the lead up to AIDS 2026.



Differentiated Service Delivery

The IAS supports countries and partners to strengthen evidence-based and sustainable HIV services through policy support, implementation tools, research dissemination and strategic convening. During the reporting period, the Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) programme supported countries to navigate funding uncertainty and shifting HIV service delivery priorities. Regionally and globally, the IAS supported ministries of health, WHO, PEPFAR, the Global Fund and civil society partners on service delivery prioritization, integration and sustainability discussions. At IAS 2025, DSD convened the session, "[Building forward: Differentiated service delivery as a catalyst for sustained and integrated HIV services amid funding uncertainty](#)", which highlighted country experiences of resilience, innovation and leadership in a rapidly changing funding landscape.

In 2025, DSD developed the TIER tool (Tool for Intervention Evaluation and Ranking), which was utilized by more than 20 countries across eastern, southern, western and central Africa and adapted by civil society to support country-level discussions on HIV intervention prioritization. In 2026, with modellers at Boston University, DSD is [developing and piloting TIER-Plus](#), an interactive decision-making support tool designed to help countries assess the impact and trade-offs of different prioritization decisions. The [PATHS 2026](#) (Planning and Action Toolbox for HIV Sustainability) compendium was also launched and updated, guiding users to existing tools and resources to support prioritization, service integration and the transition to more sustainable national HIV programmes.

In South Africa, the IAS provided technical support for the national scale-up of six-month multi-month dispensing (6MMD), including provincial training materials, [clinician job aids](#), [multilingual client resources](#) and innovative [WhatsApp-based microlearning for healthcare workers](#), [reaching more than 2,000 providers](#).

The [JIAS supplement on differentiated service delivery beyond HIV treatment](#) was published and [launched at IAS 2025](#), and the DSD programme coordinated activities of the Global DSD Research Collaborative.



HIV Vaccine Research Network

The IAS strengthens African leadership in HIV vaccine research by supporting early- to mid-career researchers and advocates through training, mentorship and targeted capacity building. It fosters collaboration across researchers, policy makers, advocates and community leaders, and ensures that African perspectives help shape the global HIV vaccine agenda.

The HIV Vaccine Research Network, with IAVI, organized a four-part advocacy webinar series to explore sustainable financing, equitable partnerships and political commitment for African-led HIV vaccine research. This initiative built on the [earlier webinar](#) for 2025 HIV Vaccine Awareness Day and the pre-conference on [African-led HIV vaccine research](#) at IAS 2025. To date, the series has engaged 563 unique participants, including researchers, advocates, policy makers, funders, civil society representatives and community leaders globally.

The [first session](#) provided a public platform for the global HIV community to assess African-led assets, gaps and opportunities amid global funding cuts. Country case studies illustrated the impact of recent policy and funding shifts on HIV vaccine research on the continent while highlighting locally led strategies to sustain critical work. [The second webinar](#) focused on African-led and Africa-centred partnerships, highlighting strategies to reinforce local leadership and promote equitable collaboration. The third session will shift from analysis to action through a closed-door meeting with stakeholders from the previous sessions, focusing on domestic financing as a politically navigable priority rooted in existing African frameworks. Participants will identify concrete next steps to continue advocating for HIV vaccine R&D funding on the African continent. The series aims to mobilize global and regional stakeholders to help secure sustainable, diversified investment and political commitment for African-led HIV vaccine research and development.

To support the next generation of early- to mid-career HIV vaccine researchers across central, eastern, southern and western Africa, the HIV Vaccine Research Network convened the fifth edition of the [HIV Vaccine Science Academy](#) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 10 to 12 March 2026. The academy brought together 14 investigators from across the African continent for advanced training, mentorship and networking with leading scientists, helping strengthen African-led HIV vaccine R&D capacity and foster long-term research leadership and collaboration. Fellows also participated in a site visit to the Ifakara Health Institute in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, where they toured laboratory and clinical trial facilities and attended a presentation on ongoing HIV vaccine research.



Event: 2026 HIV Vaccine Science Academy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Photo credit: Ifakara Health Institute, Bagamoyo



IAS Educational Fund

The IAS provides inclusive educational opportunities for key stakeholders in the HIV response to bridge the gap between science, policy and action. Through its regional meetings and partnerships, the IAS Educational Fund encourages healthcare workers, researchers, community actors and policy makers to collaborate and catalyse action at global, regional, country and community levels on key recommendations presented and discussed during the meetings.

Over the past year, the IAS Educational Fund, through its in-person regional meetings, reached 905 HIV professionals.

Togo

7-8 October 2025:

[Science, policy and communities: Together for an efficient HIV response in Togo](#)

Partner organization: Espoir Vie-Togo (EVT)

Watch the [video of the meeting](#) on IAS+ to learn more.

Thailand

4-5 November 2025:

[Science and communities in the HIV response in Southeast Asia & PrEPARING ASIA 2025](#)

Partner organizations: Institute of HIV Research and Innovation; APCOM

Ecuador

17-19 November 2025:

[Community and science united to eliminate the HIV epidemic in Latin America](#)

Collaborators: PAHO; UNAIDS; GCTH; AHF; Ministry of Health of Ecuador

Albania

20-21 November 2025:

[Science, policy and communities: Towards a sustainable HIV response in the Balkans](#)

Partner organization: Albanian Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (AAPLWHA)

Belize

29-30 April 2026:

[Uniting science and community for an accelerated HIV response in Belize](#)

Partner organization: Go Joven Belize

Collaborators: Ministry of Health and Wellness; National AIDS Commission

Armenia

19-20 May 2026:

[Evidence, communities and policy: The way forward for the HIV response and harm reduction in Armenia and Georgia](#)

Partner organizations: Real World, Real People; Médecins du Monde France; Network TBPeople



IAS Educational Fund symposium participants, Quito, Ecuador, November 2025

IAS Educational Fund activities with local partners over the past year included the following:

- In the Philippines, Community and Family Services International focused on strengthening adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights outcomes in Pasay City by documenting and popularizing a youth-driven, city-wide policy model that advanced HIV prevention, promoted community-based support, and served as a scalable good practice for other local governments in the Philippines.
- In Moldova, the Union for Equity and Health developed educational materials and implemented a training of trainers to strengthen the capacities of the Association of Medical Students and Residents in addressing and reducing stigma and discrimination in the medical system toward people living with HIV.
- In the Caribbean region, the Trinidad and Tobago Community for Positive Women implemented a counselling programme to train and support women living with HIV in addressing internalized stigma, trauma and emotional challenges, as well as knowledge sharing through social media content across the Caribbean.
- In Albania, the Albanian Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS started developing a regional advocacy snapshot on HIV financing and sustainability in the Balkan region, which will be used to strengthen political accountability and encourage increased domestic investment in the HIV response across the Balkans.

For IAS 2025, the Educational Fund provided support to 106 recipients from 36 resource-limited countries (including 85 clinicians and HIV service providers and 21 advocates). In addition, 20 mentors and mentees from 15 countries were selected for the fifth edition of the IAS Mentorship Programme in 2025. Read more about the [English](#) and [French](#) cohorts.



IAS Educational Fund scholarship recipients speed networking, IAS 2025

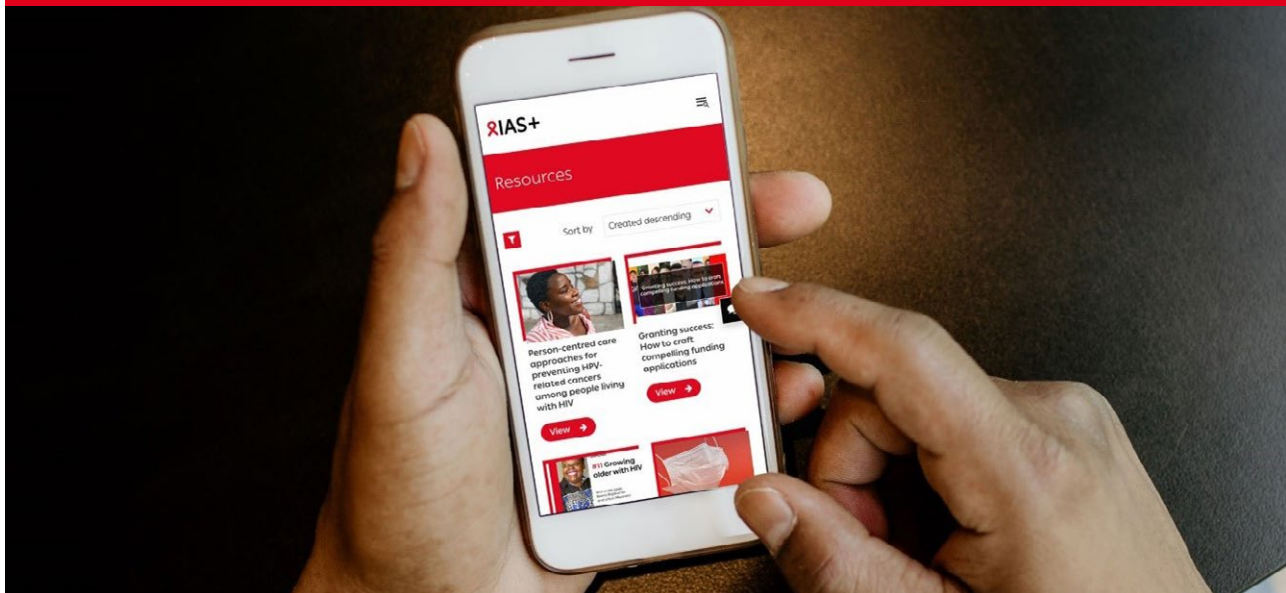


IAS+

IAS+ is an award-winning, interactive digital platform that provides free HIV-related educational resources and virtual live events to scientists, policy makers and community activists. In 2025, more than 40,000 unique users from 197 countries accessed the platform. HIV professionals now have access to more than 5,200 educational resources in 13 languages on the platform. These resources include self-paced courses, conference sessions, podcasts, webinar and meeting records, policy documents, reports and toolkits.

"IAS+ didn't just build my knowledge – it gave me the tools and confidence to lead change on the ground, even with limited resources. IAS+ has made that easier by offering clear, well-structured content that's relevant to real-world situations. IAS+ is more than just a learning tool; it's become a part of my strategy for advocacy, training and strengthening community-led HIV responses."

– **Basson Haakuria, programme support officer and IAS+ learner, Namibia**



Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme

The Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme launched calls for applications in three regions in January 2026: Africa for the ninth consecutive year; Asia and the Pacific for the second time; and Latin America and the Caribbean for the first time. Three fellows per region were awarded, making a total of nine. In Africa, they come from Guinea, Mozambique and Nigeria; in Asia and the Pacific, from India, Indonesia and the Philippines; and in Latin America and the Caribbean, from Brazil, Costa Rica and Jamaica. With this expansion, the programme reached its widest scope, aiming to improve HIV service delivery in different contexts by tailoring the fellowship experience to each region's needs and to individual fellows.

Another key achievement was the scholarship programme, which supported six Mark Wainberg Alumni to attend IAS 2025 in Kigali. This created valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and meaningful discussions between current and past cohorts.



The Mark Wainberg Fellowship 2018, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025 Africa cohorts and the 2023 Asia and the Pacific cohort, with IAS President-Elect and Award Committee Chair Kenneth Ngure and IAS Secretariat members

The Evidence to Action Forum, co-organized by CIPHER and the Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme at IAS 2025, strengthened the impact of early-career HIV research by equipping participants to translate evidence into policy and practice. By bringing together over 40 stakeholders across research, policy and community sectors, the forum fostered collaboration, amplified community-led approaches, and catalysed partnerships that extend beyond the event to drive real-world impact.

To strengthen person-centred care practices, the Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme team, in collaboration with the IAS+ team, developed the online course, "[Introduction to advocacy for HIV healthcare providers](#)", equipping healthcare providers and researchers with practical advocacy skills for their daily work.



Participants of the Evidence to Action Forum at IAS 2025



Me and My Healthcare Provider

The IAS recognizes frontline healthcare workers who deliver quality HIV prevention, treatment and care and other services to key populations, often in contexts shaped by stigma and discrimination. The IAS Me and My Healthcare Provider Campaign, established in 2016, highlights compassionate, person-centred and stigma-free healthcare practices through nominations submitted directly by clients and communities. To date, the campaign has recognized 99 Healthcare Champion pairs from 25 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2025, the IAS and Gilead partnered to implement the 10th round of the campaign in Brazil, Hong Kong, Mexico, South Africa, Taiwan and Türkiye. In collaboration with local partner organizations in South Africa and Türkiye, nine new Healthcare Champions were selected and recognized through local award ceremonies. In Brazil, Hong Kong, Mexico and Taiwan, partner organizations also convened focus group discussions and assessment activities with champions, healthcare providers, community members and people living with HIV from previous campaign cohorts to evaluate the longer-term impact of the initiative.

Findings across the four countries showed that the campaign has contributed to greater empathy and trust in HIV care relationships, increased visibility and validation of stigma-free healthcare practices, stronger dialogue between communities and providers, and growing awareness of the importance of person-centred HIV care. Participants also highlighted that while discrimination may have decreased, HIV-related stigma continues to persist in more subtle institutional and procedural forms. Overall, stakeholders felt the campaign has positively influenced conversations, relationships and recognition of compassionate care while emphasizing that sustainable transformation will require embedding stigma reduction and person-centred approaches more deeply within healthcare systems, institutional practices and public culture.



Prevention initiative: Road to Rio

The IAS mobilizes scientists, advocates and community leaders to sustain momentum on HIV prevention at a pivotal moment for the global HIV response. Through coordinated advocacy, accessible science communication and strategic convenings, Road to Rio builds a shared, evidence-based prevention agenda leading up to AIDS 2026. The programme ensures that diverse regional voices shape global priorities and that the urgency of equitable access to HIV prevention is reflected in national strategies, budgets and the broader global health agenda. Road to Rio has advanced coordinated, evidence-based HIV prevention advocacy through a series of targeted activities spanning science communication, community engagement and policy influence.

To strengthen African-led advocacy and advance a biomedical HIV prevention roadmap towards 2030, the IAS collaborated with WACI Health and other partners on the [8th Biomedical HIV Prevention Forum](#) as an official ICASA pre-conference.

Complementing these convenings, the IAS supported the development of the JIAS viewpoint, "[From Kigali to Rio: advancing an equitable and evidence-based HIV response](#)", informed by a global consultation that brought together perspectives from across regions and stakeholder groups to identify shared priorities for the HIV response. Published ahead of World AIDS Day to provide a shared, science-grounded framework for coordinated action, the viewpoint had received over 880 unique views by 1 June 2026.



Person-Centred Care

The IAS improves health services by prioritizing the integration of health concerns and the responsiveness of healthcare services through the Person-Centred Care (PCC) programme, established in 2021. This is to meet the changing needs, priorities and preferences of each person living with or affected by HIV. To outline a roadmap with roles and actions for different stakeholders to realize the full potential of PCC, "[A roadmap to scale up person-centred care in the HIV response: recommendations from a global consensus-building process](#)" was published at the end of December 2025 and had received 903 unique views by 11 June 2026. Over three years, 50 people contributed directly via a three-round Delphi survey, and 400 contributed indirectly to the consensus-building process through five consultation meetings.

A summary showcasing the latest evidence on person-centred care approaches for people living with and affected by HIV, presented at [IAS 2025](#), was also published, including targeted-population approaches and integration strategies across the HIV care cascade. To develop deeper understanding of the barriers, current evidence and future priorities for person-centred HIV prevention on the African continent, PCC convened an IAS 2025 satellite, "[The future of person-centred HIV prevention: Latest evidence from the African continent](#)", which attracted 251 participants from 43 countries.

To equip advocates, healthcare providers and researchers with skills in fostering person-centred care approaches, the PCC programme convened 45 participants in October 2025 at the 3rd [PCC Advocacy Academy: HIV in Europe](#) in partnership with AIDES, AIDS Action Europe, Coalition PLUS and the European AIDS Clinical Society. In March 2026, the PCC programme convened 50 participants at the 4th [PCC Advocacy Academy: HIV in Latin America](#) in partnership with Fundación Huésped, Grupo Arco-Íris and Organización Llaves. These events, built on the successful convenings in 2024-25, focused on the [African continent](#) and the [southern United States](#). To advance context-specific PCC approaches for people living with or vulnerable to HIV acquisition, an additional 15 seed grants of USD 7.5-10,000 have been awarded to alumni of the PCC advocacy academies in four world regions.

Across these projects, common themes cluster around advancing person-centred HIV care through integration of services (HIV with NCDs, mental health, urology and ageing care), community- and peer-led models that centre the voices, autonomy and preferences of key populations (including Black gay men, trans women, sex workers, people who use drugs and justice-involved communities) and health system strengthening via training, decentralization and quality of life measurement.



The participants of the Person-Centred Care Advocacy Academy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 2026



Towards an HIV Cure

The IAS advances the HIV cure field in countries where resources are limited. The Towards an HIV Cure programme, launched in 2011, fosters interaction between HIV cure researchers and experts in other biomedical fields to mobilize resources and expertise towards this goal.

At IAS 2025, the programme hosted a pre-conference, titled "Co-infections, viral and host factors: Impact on HIV strategies", bringing together 257 delegates from 60 countries. It highlighted African-led research, including genetic diversity, and emphasized the need for diverse representation in studies to support scalable and equitable HIV cure strategies.



Advocacy-for-Cure Academy, October 2025, Lomé, Togo

To strengthen research capacity, the programme held the eighth Research-for-Cure Academy in partnership with the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand and the South African Department of Science and Innovation, convening 13 fellows from seven African countries. It further advanced community engagement by organizing the eighth Advocacy-for-Cure Academy (4-6 October in Lomé, Togo), the first in a francophone African country, with 15 participants from 12 African countries, including first-time attendees from Burundi and Togo.

In parallel, through its partnership with AVAC, the programme supported the fourth round of the Advocacy-for-Cure Grant Programme, enabling alumni to implement projects in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda focused on increasing HIV cure literacy, strengthening youth-led advocacy for equity, and enhancing engagement among communities, policy makers and funders.



Youth Hub

The IAS brought together 29 young people of 19 nationalities for a capacity-building and engagement curriculum. The virtual event series, organized by the [IAS 2025 Young Leaders Programme](#), engaged a total of 418 participants from all regions. The Youth Hub also developed two online courses hosted on IAS+: [Gender and HIV](#) and [Mental health and HIV](#).

A total of 318 young people took part in the Youth Hub regional workshops in Algeria, Brazil, Burundi, Kenya, Nepal, Poland, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Five Youth Hub Grantees implemented projects in several countries:

- In Cameroon, 15 young people were trained in storytelling as an advocacy tool and 20 as peer educators.
- The HYPE Forum 2025: Equitable Futures, a two-day, youth-led gathering for African, Caribbean and Black young people living with HIV, strengthened knowledge, connection and collective action in Canada.
- The Digital Youth Academy in Italy empowered 13 young leaders to become Sexual Health Ambassadors.
- The Through Our Eyes project collected anonymous stories from people living with HIV and turned them into illustrated comics to address stigma and misinformation in Iraq and the MENA region.
- In Nigeria, the INCLUDE project provided young people with disabilities with HIV testing and prevention services.

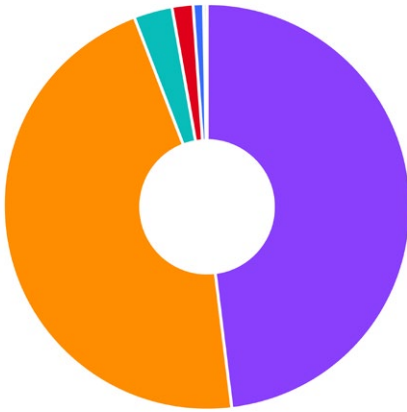


"This experience was, without doubt, one of the most beautiful and meaningful of my life. This programme offered me more than just knowledge. I'm leaving with new friends, future collaborators, and a deep excitement to attend future conferences. I've expanded my understanding, built confidence in my voice, and realized how important my story and my local context are in the global HIV response. Being heard and supported gave me the motivation to continue."

- **Edgard Mpia Lokendo, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Our members

The IAS is the world's largest association of HIV professionals, with members in over 170 countries. IAS Members work at all levels of the global HIV response, and they include researchers, clinicians, service providers, policy makers, people living with HIV and community advocates. In the year under review, the IAS counted 11,255 members.



Members by gender

	48.1%	Female
	46.2%	Male
	2.9%	Unknown
	1.8%	Non-binary or gender non-conforming
	0.7%	Prefer not to say
	0.2%	Other not listed

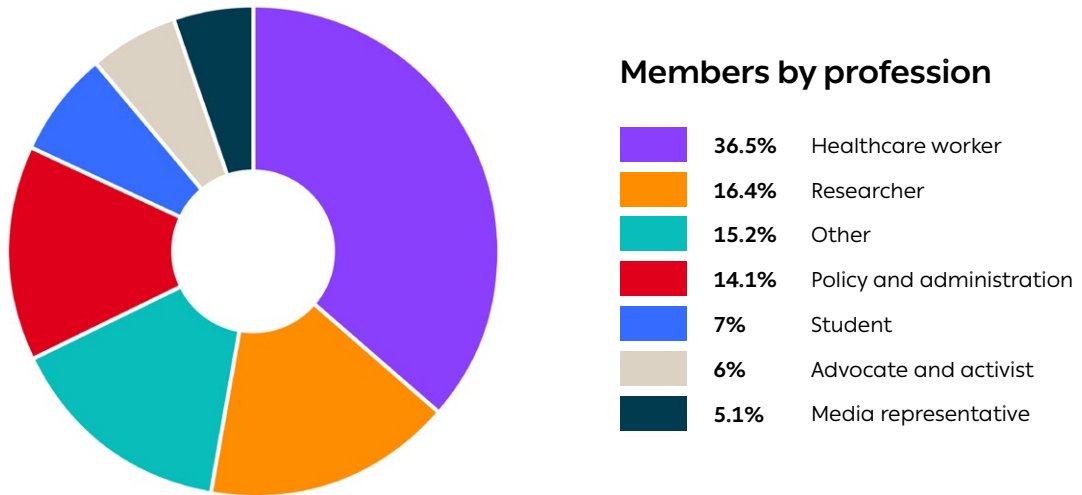


Members by region

	37%	Africa
	24.8%	United States and Canada
	14.6%	Asia and the Pacific Islands
	14.3%	Europe
	9.4%	Latin America and the Caribbean

Top 10 member countries





IAS General Members' Meeting

To build a strong, informed and connected IAS membership body, the IAS convenes the annual IAS General Members' Meeting. The meeting took place on 16 July during IAS 2025. More than 160 IAS Members attended the in-person meeting, which was chaired by IAS President Beatriz Grinsztejn and included a panel discussion with former President Linda-Gail Bekker, Immediate Past President Sharon Lewin and President-Elect Kenneth Ngunjiri. This session was also broadcast on the IAS YouTube channel, which allowed IAS Members not attending the conference to participate. The [full meeting](#) can be viewed on IAS+.

Supporting IAS change makers

[IAS change makers](#) are carefully selected HIV researchers, advocates, healthcare providers and others we support through a range of fellowship, grant, mentorship and scholarship programmes.

Our governance

IAS Governing Council

The IAS Governing Council, the thought leadership body of the IAS, guides and contributes to the thematic work of the IAS and informs strategic activities towards achieving our mission. In addition, the Governing Council ensures compliance with the IAS Bylaws, internal rules and regulations, and election procedures. It also represents the interests of IAS Members. The Nomination and Election Committee, other committees and thematic working groups support the Governing Council in its functions. The IAS Governing Council is composed of 20 elected members and three officers (the President, President-Elect and Treasurer), plus two non-voting members (the Immediate Past President and the Executive Director). IAS Governing Council elections took place between January and May 2026. The current Governing Council will remain in office until 31 July 2026, when the Governing Council for 2026-2028 will take office at the closing of AIDS 2026.

IAS officers



President

Beatriz Grinsztejn



President-Elect

Kenneth Ngure



Treasurer

Bruno Spire

Non-voting members



Immediate Past President

Sharon Lewin



Executive Director

Birgit Poniatowski

Africa



Patrick Bitangumutwenzi



Elizabeth Irungu



Mehdi Karkouri



Susan Shumba

Asia and the Pacific Islands



Ishwar Gilada



Andrew Grulich



Tetsuro Matano



Nittaya Phanuphak

Europe



Alexandra Calmy



Andriy Klepikov



Cristina Mussini



Laura Waters
(until 5 October 2025)

Latin America and the Caribbean



Claudia Cortes



Brenda Crabtree Ramirez



Omar Sued



Mónica Thormann

United States and Canada



Greg Millett



Renata Sanders



Darrell Tan



Mitchell Warren

IAS Executive Board

The IAS Executive Board acts on behalf of the IAS Governing Council and provides effective oversight and review of IAS operations, risks and finances. The Executive Board also approves the annual plan and budget and initiates the policy direction of the IAS. The Executive Board consists of the three officers (the President, President-Elect and Treasurer), two non-voting members (the Immediate Past President and the Executive Director) and three appointed individuals with specific competencies relevant for the IAS as defined in the IAS internal rules and regulations. The three appointed members for July 2024-July 2026 are Andriy Klepikov, Greg Millett and Ricardo Rubio.

The Governance and Membership Committee and the Finance Committee support the Executive Board in its functions.

With gratitude

We would like to thank our funders who contributed to IAS activities implemented between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Abbott Laboratories

Abbvie

Accelevir

Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines

Aidsfonds

ANRS Maladies infectieuses émergentes

Aurobindo

Beckman Coulter

Canton de Genève

**Centre for Infectious Disease Research
in Zambia (CIDRZ)**

Chevron Corporation

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Expertise France

Ford Foundation

**France – ANRS – Maladies infectieuses
émergentes**

Gates Foundation

Gilead Sciences

Hetero Labs Limited

Hologic

Laurus Labs

Mass General Brigham for Children

Merck Sharp & Dohme

Open Society Foundations

PATA – Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa

Paediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (PHACS)

Penta – Child Health Research

Penn Center For AIDS Research (Penn CFAR)

Roche

UNICEF

Unitaid

USA – National Institutes of Health (NIH)

ViiV Healthcare

Worcester HIV Vaccine

World Health Organization (WHO)

Financial reports

The audited statements of the IAS have been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP.

The IAS accounting policies and the format used for the presentation of its financial statements are designed to accurately present its conferences, programmes and other activities.

Read the report of the Auditor on the consolidated financial statements for 2024 and on the statements of income and expenditures for AIDS 2024 and HIVR4P 2024.

*The financial report will be publicly available following approval at the IAS General Members' Meeting in July 2026.

Become a member

Join the collective voice of policy makers, researchers, scientists and community members to shape the global HIV response. Visit iasociety.org/join-us to learn more about our work and the benefits of becoming an IAS Member.

Join the conversation



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