

Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations in the EECA region

A Comprehensive Response to Emergencies Threatening HIV Service Provision for Key Populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

About the Fund

The Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) strives for a comprehensive response to emergencies threatening HIV service provision for key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The HIV epidemic in EECA, particularly in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, remains the fastest growing in the world. Access to prevention and treatment in EECA is a crucial need, in particular for key populations most at risk. Figures show that less than 25% of people living with HIV in EECA have access to treatment. In the same time, the accurate numbers are missing. Real numbers of access to treatment are expected to be substantially lower. Influencing factors such as stigma and discrimination form barriers in access to prevention, treatment and care. Tailored (outreach) activities are needed to reach key populations most at risk. NGOs and CBOs are the main actors who have the ability to reach these groups with effective programs, but they suffer from toughened legal environments and funding cuts, especially in Russia. They often deal with emergency situations due to poor basic healthcare, funding uncertainties and changing policies.

The Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations in EECA is aiming to contribute to the following goals:

Goal 1. Decline in annual number of new HIV infections in the EECA region.

Goal 2. Everyone living with HIV in the EECA region receives treatment.

Goal 3. Full funding of the AIDS response in EECA.

Through small grants to registered and non-registered NGOs and CBOs, working in the area of HIV and human rights, with activities ranging from advocacy and prevention, to treatment and care in terms of HIV and co-infections, based in countries of the EECA region, *AFEW International* and *Aidsfonds* respond to fast-growing HIV epidemic in this region.

The overall goal of the Fund is improved HIV prevention, treatment and care for key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Funding available

In order to reach the overall goal, the Fund aims at supporting 80-100 organisations in the EECA with small grants in the period of 2019-2020. The maximum amount per grant is € 5 000. In exceptional cases, a maximum of € 10 000 can be requested.

In total, there is the EUR equivalent of GBP 750.000 available. The Fund will be operational until this amount has been exhausted.

Assessment of Applications

Call for application to promote the Emergency Fund will be distributed through associated partners in the region. Applications can be submitted through an online application system for the duration of the Emergency Fund.

Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be scored based on the selection criteria. Applications will be assessed every week on an ongoing basis. Decisions will be made within 10 days. We aim to initiate transfer of the funds within 10 days of a positive decision.

How can NGOs and CBOs apply

To submit to the Emergency Support Fund, applicants can fill in an [online Application Form](#).

The Application Form consists of two parts. Part 1 has to be completed to submit an application. Only applicants that will be awarded with a grant will be asked to fill in part 2, providing organizational and banking details.

Applicants are allowed to submit more than one application. Applicants can receive more than one grant.

Eligibility Criteria for Emergency Grants

Eligibility criteria for the applicant

- Applicant is a Community based organization (CBO) or represents the interests and needs of the following groups:
 - Sex workers
 - LGBTQI
 - Men who have sex with men (MSM)
 - (Ex) Prisoners
 - Women vulnerable to HIV
 - Migrants
 - Adolescents and/or youth
 - People using drugs
 - People living with HIV (PLHIV)
- Applicant is based in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine or Uzbekistan.
- Applicant is a registered NGO/CBO or - if not registered - provides references from partner organisations. Emergency Support Fund operational team shall be able to receive sufficient information about an applicant and can request information about applicant's capacities from mentioned partners. Proposals by individuals will not be taken into consideration for funding.

Eligibility criteria for the application

- Projects ensure access to HIV prevention, treatment and /or services for key populations, or projects protect the human rights of key populations and contribute to one of the three objectives of the Fund.
- Activities respond to a situation that threatens the health, and/or the physical or juridical safety of one or more people from the above target groups or threatens the financial and/or legal situation of an NGO/CBO.
- The activity will be used as a tool for local, national and/or international advocacy for preventing similar emergencies occurring in the future.
- The activities to relieve an emergency will be immediately implemented and will last no longer than 12 months.
- The proposal is submitted in English or Russian.
- The proposal is submitted through the online application form.

Organizational information is collected with care and delicacy. Information will be stored in a secured database.

Selection Criteria for Emergency Grants

After an application is found to be eligible, the application will be assessed by the Operational Team based on the selection criteria for Emergency Grants.

Selection criteria

1. Short and long-term effect of the proposed activities.
2. Expected impact of the proposed activities: the emergency situation is likely to be improved after the grants ends.
3. Budget is clear and reasonable and the demonstrated need for items is clearly indicated.
4. Capacity to implement the proposed activities.
5. Reach of the proposed activities.

Each criterion is scored from 1 to 5, in relation to each other. Only applications with an average score higher than 3.5 will be considered for funding.

Reviewing the applications, we will keep the following in mind:

- We will prioritize activities which are not (easily) fundable through other means.
- We will prioritize activities that will also be used as a means for advocacy and/or publicity, addressing the causes of and striving to find more structural solutions for an emergency, and thus benefiting larger target groups.
- In the portfolio of grants, we strive to have all mentioned key populations represented and all countries represented.

For selected grantees, a short organizational assessment will be conducted. This will assess governance and accountability structures; (financial) management and leadership; capacity to implement the proposed activities; and the meaningful involvement of key populations. This means that a sufficient level of organizational capacity is expected.

Emergency situations

Examples of emergencies are mentioned below. This is to give the applicant an idea of possible situations. Emergencies may include, yet are not limited to:

Possible Emergency Situations
<p>I. Medical life-threatening situations for key populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock out of anti-retroviral therapy (ARV) • Stock out of HIV tests • Interruptions in provision of CD4 cell count tests • Stock out of Genexpert tests • Interruptions in provision of viral load tests • Interruptions in or no access for positively tested with the CD count eligible for treatment to ARV • Disruption of prevention services, e.g. stock-out of harm reduction commodities (syringes, cleansing materials, condoms etc.) • Stock out of post exposure prophylaxis medicines
<p>II. Violation of human rights of key populations as a result stigma, discrimination and criminalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge of an employee as a result of disclosure of his/her HIV status • Denial or hampered access to prevention, treatment and/or other HIV/TB related services as a result of stigma attached to a particular key population group • Unauthorised disclosure of HIV status • Denial of access to HIV/TB treatment for patients in prisons
<p>III. Juridical life-threatening situations for key populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution of or/and threat of physical violence against (banned) activists • Denial of access to treatment as a result of lost documents or due to legal status (e.g. migrants)
<p>IV. Situation threatening organizational capacity and continuity of work of NGOs and CBOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent need in the essential equipment on which the service provision depends • Emergent repairs (leakages, roof, basement, cellar, heating) and alike • Short-term gaps in the staff salaries for periods between regular funding • Legal prosecution threatening existence of the organisation

Possible interventions

Possible interventions could be, but are not limited to:

- direct service provision
- buying equipment and commodities to enable services provision
- buying medicines and test systems
- transportation costs to medical facilities
- collecting cases and developing reports to be used for urgent advocacy for access to treatment and lifesaving commodities
- meeting costs for emergency gatherings of key stakeholders for decisions as part of the activities to solve/prevent life threatening situations or when an unexpected opportunity to negotiate with governmental structures and decision makers appears
- salaries to the staff members in between grants, or for service provision
- costs involved with usage of shelters
- providing financial support to key populations in life threatening situations directly linked to HIV/AIDS
- payment to the lawyers
- translation costs