



Intersections





Broadening the Impact: HIV and Beyond

RCF works alongside major global health funders to invest in community-led programming. Evidence from across RCF funding cycles show that when networks are supported by core funding from RCF, they can better participate in larger programs. RCF covers the core costs that other funding streams do not regularly cover - like staff salaries, office expenses, and strengthening of institutional systems - which allows networks to engage meaningfully with major donors.

RCF-Global Fund Partnership: The Foundation

The RCF-Global Fund partnership represents the strongest example of this complementarity. In 2024, 65% of RCF networks worked with Global Fund programs, and 45% received direct Global Fund money while using RCF funding to cover their basic operations. Nearly half said RCF funding was essential for their Global Fund work. This partnership enabled significant wins: a South Africa Regional partner network's engagement contributed to a 43% funding increase worth \$7.2 million in additional harm reduction resources, while International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific (ICWAP) assessed women's engagement in Global Fund processes across eight countries, revealing systematic barriers to meaningful participation and building evidence for increased allocations to women-focused programming, among others.

Partnerships with Other Major Funders

RCF networks leverage core funding to engage meaningfully across the entire global health funding landscape and beyond, creating multiplier effects that extend far beyond individual grants. Mpact Global's sustained four-year engagement with PEPFAR leadership exemplifies this approach, contributing to PEPFAR's 7% funding requirement for KPs across all countries - a policy victory worth millions annually. Similarly, networks engage strategically with UNAIDS processes, as demonstrated by Y+ Global's participation in high-level funding priority discussions and ICWEA's involvement in UNAIDS High Level Panel deliberations on agency sustainability. Networks also build relationships with philanthropic foundations, with International Treatment Preparedness Coalition Global engaging the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support their community-led monitoring cost analysis work across South Africa and Malawi, among various other efforts across the RCF 2022-2024 partner cohort.

Domestic Government Partnerships

Networks also build critical relationships with national and sub-national governments, with 38% of resource accountability networks engaging directly with domestic funding institutions. Women in Response to HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction (WRADA)'s collaboration with Kenya's National Syndemic Diseases Control Council illustrates how networks position themselves as technical partners in domestic budget advocacy, while local government victories in the Philippines and Nepal show how strategic engagement creates sustainable funding commitments at community levels.

The Multiplier Effect

This partnership ecosystem enables billions in global health investments to be informed by community priorities and accountable to community oversight.



As MENA Rosa explained:

Most grants, including Global Fund, do not cover all the core costs. The long-term core support provided by RCF is essential in subsidizing our core expenditures."

Core funding creates the infrastructure that enables meaningful participation across all major funding mechanisms, ensuring community voices shape the entire global HIV response rather than remaining excluded from critical resource allocation decisions.

[Read more on Partnerships for Global Health](#)



Multiplying Impact: How Core Funding Creates Bigger Changes

RCF's strategic investment approach enabled networks to secure resources and commitments far beyond the original grants, from global policy wins like PEPFAR's KP funding requirements to national budget increases such as South Africa's \$7.2 million Global Fund allocation increase. Networks and national partners also achieved service expansions like Nigeria's needle program growth and secured local government commitments in countries like the Philippines and Nepal that reduce dependence on international donors.

Cross-Cutting Development Benefits

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender Equality

Networks made significant contributions to women's health and gender equality through systematic documentation and service improvements. MENA Rosa's healthcare provider training across Egypt and Tunisia reduced discrimination against women living with HIV, while Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA) documented obstetric violence in 13 countries, revealing widespread abuse that contributed to UN policy recommendations. The Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global) advanced mental health integration within HIV care, creating new referral systems that address the complex needs of young people across multiple African countries, among many more partner efforts across the 2022-2024 grant cycle.

Building on this community-led work, RCF launched the SAGE (Sustaining Action for Gender Equality) program⁴ in 2024 with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. SAGE reflects RCF's deepening commitment to increasingly adopt Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) while learning from networks' existing gender-responsive strategies. SAGE seeks to systematically mainstream gender across RCF's portfolio, strengthening networks' capacity to integrate gender analysis into their HIV advocacy and drawing on their lived experiences to develop more effective interventions for women, girls, and gender-diverse populations within ISP communities.

LGBTQI+ Rights and Equality

Community-led advocacy created legal precedents and crisis response mechanisms that benefit LGBTQI+ equality movements far beyond HIV-specific programming. HIV Legal Network's support to Minority Rights Dominica (MiRiDom)'s efforts for constitutional challenges in Dominica established precedents across the Caribbean, while Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE)'s emergency response to Uganda's criminalization built replicable models for supporting communities under attack.



Members of the International Community of Women Living with HIV in Asia Pacific bring the campaign *Why HIV Is A Feminist Issue* to the 15th AWID International Forum in Bangkok in 2024.

⁴Read more on SAGE on the RCF website: [SAGE – Sustaining Action for Gender Equality Project](#)

Drug Policy Reform and Criminal Justice

Networks achieved breakthrough policy changes that advance broader criminal justice reform and legitimate health-centered approaches to drug policy. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)'s work contributed to abolishing forced treatment systems in Kyrgyzstan, while coordinated advocacy by various RCF partners sustained advocacy helped achieve the first-ever inclusion of "harm reduction" in UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions, creating precedents that national advocates worldwide can reference in domestic policy work.



ITPC's White Coat Campaign, which we support, is redefining what it means to be an expert in global health. Here, White Coat campaigners stage a protest at the International AIDS Conference in Munich in 2024.



A migrant community in Sri Lanka signs a petition calling for migrant workers to access HIV services during a 2024 advocacy campaign organized by CARAM Asia member and project implementation partner, Community Development Services (CDS); supported by RCF.

Migrant Rights and Mobility Justice

Regional networks created sustainable support systems for mobile populations that extend beyond HIV programming. Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility in Asia (CARAM Asia) secured government commitments for HIV screening and healthcare access across five countries, while their partner SPEAK Trust's work in Pakistan created sustainable, government-supported services that benefit broader migrant health programming.

Building Sustainable Democratic Systems

The 2022-2024 cycle created lasting systems that enable community participation in policy processes affecting their lives. With 65% of networks (N=69) securing formal decision-making roles and 84% participating in broader coalitions, RCF investments supported the establishment permanent platforms for community voice in global governance. This infrastructure proved essential during multiple crises, as networks maintained harm reduction services during Lebanon's bombing, maintained transgender healthcare services during Uganda's criminalization, and provided humanitarian support during conflicts - demonstrating capacity that protects ISPs no matter how challenging the landscape.