



- CIRW 2024 -

Weaving knowledge for collective learning

Continuous Learning and Adaptation of ISP-led
Networks in the HIV Response Globally

PRACTICAL
RESOURCE

ISP-LED MOVEMENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Practical Resource

ISP-LED MOVEMENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is impacting ISP health and rights and these impacts are only expected to grow. There is a **growing need for ISP to be meaningfully involved** in preparing for and responding to climate change and there will likely be more opportunities for them to do so. The UNAIDS and UNDP policy brief entitled [The Climate Crisis and its Impact on HIV](#), published in November 2024, calls for “Community involvement, leadership, and cross-movement building” recommending ISP involvement in policy making, preparedness and response. Climate Change is one of RCF’s thematic areas of focus. Of RCF’s thematic areas, Climate change is the one least mentioned in the RCF Partners’ Submitted Significant Stories, suggesting a **potential gap in network capacity** around climate change.

Some RCF partners are being affected by climate change and some have actively addressed it in their work. During the 2024 CIRW, in sessions on Risk and Mitigation participants noted that climate change had already begun to affect housing, food supply, availability and quality of water, and electricity especially in the regions of Latin American the Caribbean and MENA. Climate change is affecting their **ability to work** and also affecting **access to and continuity of HIV services**. Participants acknowledged that they need to be better prepared, highlighting that many lessons and innovations that came from their responses to COVID 19 would be relevant. They welcomed opportunities to exchange knowledge, tools and experiences. They acknowledged that they need to do more to **build coalitions** and **cross movement solidarity** with activists engaged in other social justice issues including climate change work.

Though rarely mentioned in the submitted Significant Stories, there were some actions that directly addressed climate change. Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) supported the United Caribbean Trans Network (UC-Trans) to generate evidence, to advocate and to communicate about the interconnections between health and justice for trans and gender diverse people and climate change in the Caribbean, a region already heavily affected by climate change. The UCTrans Climate Change study which highlighted the vulnerabilities of trans and gender diverse people and provides evidence of decreased accessibility of hormone treatment and HIV treatment in weather related emergencies. The findings were shared with government officials and stakeholders and a social media campaign was based on its findings. The research is also being used in intra-movement capacity building efforts. The project enabled trans-led organizations in the Caribbean region to engage with the climate justice movement and take a more active role in climate justice advocacy. As the project was ongoing, UCTrans cooperated with national partner organizations to provide emergency support to its community during hurricanes.

The International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) worked to amplify community voices in high-level decision-making processes. They produced a report, [Community-led Action is the Crucial Countermeasure](#), showing evidence of the impact of community led responses to crises and providing a roadmap and advocacy tool for advocacy for access to health. They also developed a white paper ahead of the UN Summit, From the Ground Up: How Community-led action Redefines Global Crisis Management: Key Considerations ahead of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future. ITPC amplified community in global health and climate debates, bringing together the Health ImPACT Coalition which unites over 350 organizations to address intersecting crises including climate change. Their advocacy work contributed to inclusion of health in the Pact of the Future, Global Digital Health Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, both leading up to and during the UN Summit of the Future on September 22-23, 2024. ITPC advocated for the Pact of the Future to reference to health, SRHR and civil society. They learned that coordinating efforts across sectors (health, climate, finance) made them stronger and that it is important to frame health “not as a competing priority but as fundamental to addressing other crises”.

Self Reflection Questions

Have we contemplated how climate change might affect the well-being of the ISPs that we serve and/or represent and our work in that regard?

Have we brainstormed or strategized about how we will respond to climate change?

Do we address climate change in all of our grant proposals?

Do we cooperate with local NGOs or initiative groups who address Climate change?

Do we have an emergency plan addressing how we would take action to protect staff/members/clients in the case of an emergency (flood, drought, evacuation etc.)?

REFLECT
ON...

Do we have a contingency fund for use in emergencies? And how could we start developing one?

In our Strategic Plan, have we included strategies and activities to adapt to climate change in our communities?

Do national emergency plans in our region address the needs of ISPs? Hint: in 2025 and 2030, countries will submit Nationally Determined Contributions (national climate action plans) under the Paris Agreement and UNAIDS recommends that these address HIV and vulnerable populations.

Resources & Further Readings

This resource provides an overview of the ways that climate change can impact ISP as well as examples of how community-led groups have responded to climate change.

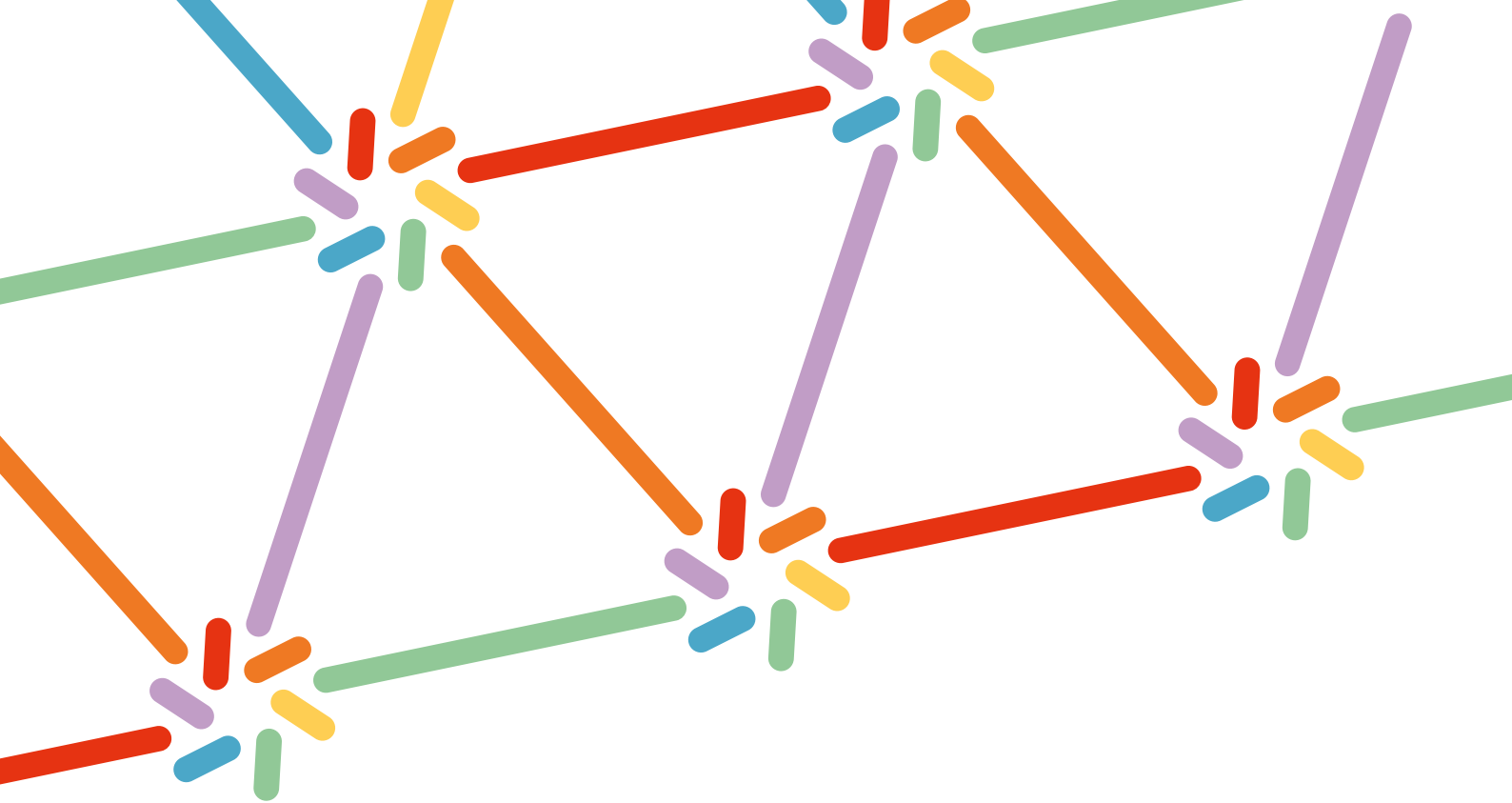
FrontlineAIDS. December 2023. [*HIV and the Climate Crisis: Safeguarding Health in a Changing World.*](#)

This resource provides an overview of how climate change impacts HIV vulnerability and responses to HIV and suggests policies for resilience. It calls for countries to “recognize the intersections between HIV, health and climate change, engaging meaningfully with vulnerable populations” in their Nationally Determined Contributions, are national climate action plans under the Paris Agreement to be submitted in 2025 and 2030.

UNAIDS, UNDP. November 2024. [*The Climate Crisis and its Impact on HIV: a Policy Brief from UNAIDS and UNDP.*](#)

This publication analyses the intersection between gender on the one hand, and climate adaptation and mitigation on the other. It discusses the gender-specific impact of climate change, and ways to access funding related to gender, climate change and health.

Katya Burns and Liane Schalatek. 2013. [*Operationalising a Gender-Sensitive Approach in the Green Climate Fund.*](#)



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