



- CIRW 2024 -

Weaving knowledge for collective learning

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

PRACTICAL
RESOURCE

STORIES FROM THE
'22-'24 COHORT

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Practical Resource

STORIES FROM THE '22-'24 COHORT

Outcome 1: Network Strength and Influence

International Community of Women living with HIV in Central Africa (ICWCA) successfully supported six country associations to obtain legal recognition and operating permits in Cameroon, Chad, Central Africa Republic, Congo and the DRC, enabling legitimate representation of women living with HIV despite significant stigma and discrimination.

Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) trained over 100 sex worker leaders for national advocacy and built community-led research capabilities, empowering sex workers to collect data and advocate for their rights using evidence-based strategies, across India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Laos and Timor-Leste.

Sex Worker Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN) developed and implemented a community-led curriculum across five countries, building capacity for research and advocacy while revealing that trans and gender-diverse sex workers face disproportionate discrimination (68%) and violence.

Youth LEAD allocated USD 21,000 through their Small Grant Program to strengthen youth-led responses to HIV in Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam) – including emergency relief during conflict in Manipur and capacity building for trans youth issues.

Coalition PLUS mobilized rapid support for Sahelian partners (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger) after French funding withdrawal, securing additional Global Fund support and establishing safety protocols for human rights activists in regions facing increased violence and LGBTI repression.

Eurasian Movement for the Right to Health in Prisons (EMRHP) united community representatives from 9 EECA countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) to establish the first regional network of people with living experience in prisons, developing country-specific advocacy plans to improve prison healthcare access.

Unmode, working across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, automated and anonymized their information services using AI to protect activists facing increased repression and foreign agent laws, while successfully diversifying funding sources to reduce donor dependency.

International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific (ICWAP) strengthened its financial management and governance across 13 countries including Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand, transitioning from fiscal host dependency to independent grant management and securing \$120,000 in new funding.

Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD) restored trust and democratic governance across Eastern Europe and Central Asia by implementing transparent decision-making processes, achieving 90% participation in General Meetings and developing community-led positions on OST treatment protocols in 9 countries.

Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) organized the first global trans conference since 2010 in Munich, bringing together 200 activists from 67 countries, resulting in a Global Trans Declaration that was prominently presented at the International AIDS Conference 2024.

Africa Network of People Who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD) achieved legal registration in Kenya despite intelligence service resistance, and expanded advocacy work across 16 countries including Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Mauritius, successfully advocating for harm reduction inclusion at the 67th CND.

International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) secured ECOSOC status after years of Russian opposition, enabling formal participation in UN processes and strengthening global advocacy for drug policy reform.



MENA Rosa strengthened its network across 11 MENA countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen), developing essential organizational systems and establishing new collaborations with stakeholders (CSOs, networks, NAP and UN Agencies) despite regional political instability and monetary crises.

Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) developed a capacity-building curriculum for adolescent girls and young women-led organizations across Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, and Namibia, enabling them to access Global Fund and other donor funding.

Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA) established a Feminist School that trained over 100 women across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, creating a platform for women living with HIV to challenge stigma and develop leadership skills despite growing anti-gender movements.

Y+ Global successfully transitioned from 4 to 18 staff members and took over financial administration of the Vibrant Young Voices Consortium, demonstrating successful youth leadership in managing complex global networks.

HIV Justice Network (HJN) expanded its global coalition against HIV criminalization by adding Frontline AIDS and the Global Network of Sex Work Projects to the HIV JUSTICE WORLDWIDE coalition; strengthening intersectional advocacy through an enhanced Global Advisory Panel. pg. 4 HIV Justice Network (HJN) launched multilingual capacity on the HIV Justice Academy online platform reaching 2,700 learners from 110 countries and providing tools to challenge HIV criminalization laws and support community advocacy.

Southern Africa Network of Prisons (SANOP) successfully registered in Botswana and developed a new strategic plan for 2024–2028, strengthening its organizational framework across multiple African countries despite previous registration challenges in Zimbabwe.

International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA) launched the FIERCE Awards across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda, mobilizing over 1000 women living with HIV to combat stigma and develop new leadership in the HIV response.

South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD) launched the “Double or Quits” initiative providing business start-up funding to three networks of people who use drugs in Gauteng, creating sustainable income generation opportunities.

The Regional Network of Young People with HIV in Latin America (J+LAC) successfully established legal status in Argentina and Chile, while automating processes and developing sustainable funding strategies across Mexico, Honduras, Panama, and other Latin American countries.

International Community of Women Living with HIV West Africa (ICWWA) strengthened governance across nine countries including Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone, resulting in 90% of country chapters achieving official registration and improved resource mobilization.

Y+ Global and **Youth RISE** provided small grants to youth-led networks across 15 countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, resulting in strengthened institutional systems and several networks securing independent funding, while also implementing supportive structures for leadership mental health and preventing burnout.



Outcome 2: Improved Human Rights Environment

The Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) launched the “Rise & Decriminalize” Movement uniting LG-BTQI+, people who use drugs, women living with HIV, and sex workers across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, successfully engaging high-level stakeholders at AIDS 2024 to address shrinking civic space.

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC) Coalition deployed Community Liaison Officers in Jamaica, Guyana, and Suriname to support transgender individuals in accessing justice and services, leading to increased reporting of human rights violations and improved access to legal support.

International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) coordinated the Support Don't Punish campaign across 295 cities in 85 countries, providing small grants to local partners and creating a global platform for drug policy reform advocacy despite banking challenges with payments to people who use drugs networks.

ITPC Global led advocacy at UNGA78 resulting in 13 health references in the Pact of the Future and formed a coalition of 350+ organizations to influence the UN Summit of the Future, despite challenges in securing specific commitments on community-led responses.

CARAM Asia successfully advocated for migrant workers' HIV and health rights at the 7th Asia Pacific Population Conference, achieving the first-ever inclusion of migrant workers' health issues in the official APPC report.

The Vibrant Young Voices Consortium supported youth advocacy at AIDS 2024 and funded a media hub to address visa denials, ensuring youth voices were heard despite travel restrictions.

African Sex Worker Alliance (ASWA) empowered sex workers as community researchers across nine ODA countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, DRC, Benin, Senegal, Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe) to document barriers to social protection and healthcare access, developing effective advocacy strategies despite rising anti-gender movements.

Unmode documented critical gaps in healthcare access for Ukrainian former prisoners transiting through Georgia, highlighting how the lack of legal status prevents access to vital opioid substitution therapy, leading to advocacy for changes in Constitutional Court.

Harm Reduction International (HRI) supported research on prison harm reduction in Georgia and Romania, resulting in submissions to UN bodies and strengthened advocacy for prisoners' rights globally, particularly focusing on women who use drugs.

SERO Project contributed to the repeal of Article 159 criminalizing people living with HIV in Mexico City through strategic engagement with LGBTQI+ legislators and community protests.

United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTrans) conducted groundbreaking research showing how lack of legal gender recognition increases vulnerability during climate disasters in Caribbean region, documenting that 59% experienced disruptions in hormone care.

INPUD provided technical assistance and small grants to five countries (Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, Zimbabwe) to strengthen community participation in Global Fund processes, resulting in expanded harm reduction services and the first-ever population size estimates for people who inject drugs in Zimbabwe.

Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA) contributed to successful advocacy efforts resulting in CEDAW recommendations to decriminalize HIV transmission in three Central Asian countries (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) and removed professional restrictions for people living with HIV in Uzbekistan.

Africa Network of People Who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD) advocated for harm reduction inclusion at the 67th CND across 16 African countries including Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, securing support from Ghana, Morocco and South Africa.

HIV Justice (HIVJN) Academy launched multilingual capacity building online platform reaching 2,700 learners from 110 countries, providing tools to challenge HIV criminalization laws and support community advocacy.

YouthPoPs consortium members **Southern Africa Network of Prisons (SANOP)** and **SAfAIDS** established 13 Men as Supporting Partners clubs and Youth Clubs across Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Eswatini, reaching over 300 young inmates with HIV prevention and gender equality education, resulting in 62% increase in SRHR knowledge.



Outcome 3: Improved Access To and Quality of Services

Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN) conducted global mapping of gender-responsive harm reduction services, revealing critical gaps in peer-led social and health services for women and gender diverse people who use drugs, particularly acute in global south regions.

Delhi Network of Positive People in India (DNP+) provided HCV testing and treatment to homeless people who use drugs without identity documents, successfully advocating for removal of barriers to healthcare access and training 432 community activists.

Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN) conducted cross-regional consultations across Central and Eastern Europe & Central Asia examining intersecting barriers faced by sex workers, LGBTQ+, people who use drugs, and those living with HIV in accessing healthcare services.

In Asia Pacific, **Youth LEAD** improved access to HIV and health services for young key populations during COVID-19, delivering ARVs to 252 adolescents living with HIV and expanding food security assistance from 60 to 250 young people in multiple ODA countries including India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal.

Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD) launched advocacy campaign across 9 EECA countries to remove punitive measures from opioid substitution therapy protocols, impacting 43,670 people and securing endorsement from 25 organizations.

Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) piloted first drug checking services in Georgia through vending machines, reaching 1,545 beneficiaries and securing government funding for nationwide expansion in Croatia.

THRIVE Consortium conducted groundbreaking research on the impact of legal gender recognition and gender-affirming care on HIV outcomes for trans and gender diverse people, presenting findings at AIDS 2024 with first all-trans panel in main conference program.

MENA Rosa conducted stigma-reduction training with 463 healthcare providers in Tunisia and Egypt, resulting in improved HIV care access and successful advocacy for removal of barriers to surgery for people living with HIV.

International Treatment Preparedness Coalition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ITPC EECA) conducted first community-led monitoring of HIV drug resistance in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, revealing gaps in testing access and awareness despite high viral load testing coverage.

The Eurasian Movement for Health Rights in Prisons (EMHRP) developed first roadmap for community-led monitoring of HIV, TB, and HCV services in prisons across 8 EECA countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine), with direct input from 16 community members with lived experience.

Southern Africa Network of Prisons (SANOP) implemented minimum standards for HIV and health services across prisons in Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, training prison officers and establishing peer education programs.

Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) supported development of the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children across 12 African countries including Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, and Nigeria, focusing on improving pediatric HIV treatment access.

Network of African People living with HIV West Africa (NAP+WA) contributed for inclusion of PLHIV in national health insurance schemes across six West African countries, by advocating with governments in Mauritania and Côte d'Ivoire towards committing funds for PLHIV insurance coverage.

International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) contributed to the achievement of a historic breakthrough at UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs with first-ever inclusion of "harm reduction" in CND resolution through coordinated advocacy with member states.

Y+ Global and **Vibrant Young Voices Consortium** launched "Engage Us. Our Health. Our Rights" campaign to advocate for meaningful youth involvement in healthcare services, particularly for young people living with HIV, using creative advocacy tools and youth advisory groups.

CARAM Asia's partner in Malaysia supported undocumented MSM migrants and refugees in accessing HIV care and UNHCR protection, despite legal barriers and stigma, highlighting the intersectional challenges faced by LGBTQI+ migrants.



Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD) supported women-led advocacy in Nepal resulting in inclusion of HCV testing and treatment for women who inject drugs in Global Fund funding, with 88 women tested and 8 receiving treatment.

International Community of Women living with HIV West Africa (ICWWA) contributed to improved access to non-discriminatory healthcare services across nine West African countries through targeted advocacy and community engagement.

Youth RISE conducted research working groups focusing on young women who use drugs, young sex workers who use drugs, and young people who use opioids, bringing findings to CND and international conferences.

Contextualized **Youth RISE Academy** content on harm reduction and drug education into 10 languages to ensure relevance for young people who use drugs across different regional contexts.

CARAM Asia conducted first assessment/study of migrants and families living with HIV in Pakistan and developed strong collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health and a working group comprised of relevant stakeholders for establishing HIV screening and referral mechanism for returnee migrants at the airports. In the Philippines, they remained engaged in updating the Pre-Departure Training Modules and ensured that accurate HIV prevention information was included, also influenced the Philippine Migrant Health Network's Strategic Plan for the next five years. Additionally, they influenced Sri Lanka's National HIV/STD Strategic Plan to better serve migrant populations.

Outcome 4: Resource Accountability

Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) organized a donor pre-conference ahead of the Global Trans Conference to address funding inequities, highlighting how anti-gender groups received \$6.2 billion (2008–2017) compared to minimal funding for trans-led organizations, particularly in Global South countries.

The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA) organized a hybrid advocacy workshop reaching 132 advocates across sub-Saharan Africa, with in-person hubs in Kampala, Cape Town and Johannesburg, focusing on financing gaps for communities affected by HIV. They produced evidence-based advocacy materials highlighting funding gaps for children affected by HIV, successfully showcasing community voices at AIDS 2024 despite visa restrictions.



Insights

Geographic Coverage

- Strong focus on ODA countries across all outcomes
- Particular emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, and Eastern Europe/Central Asia
- Significant work in traditionally underserved regions like MENA and Caribbean

Outcome Areas

- Network Strengthening: Focus on building capacity in regions with limited resources
- Human Rights: Addressing criminalization and rights violations in challenging contexts
- Service Access and Quality: Improving healthcare access and quality
- Resource Accountability: Improving transparency and the funding environment for the ISP-led HIV response

Key Trends

- Most interventions targeted multiple countries within regions
- Strong emphasis on community-led responses
- Focus on intersectional approaches (gender, HIV status, drug use, etc.)

Impact Level

- Mix of national, regional, and global interventions
- Strong focus on policy change and systemic improvements
- Emphasis on sustainable, community-driven solutions

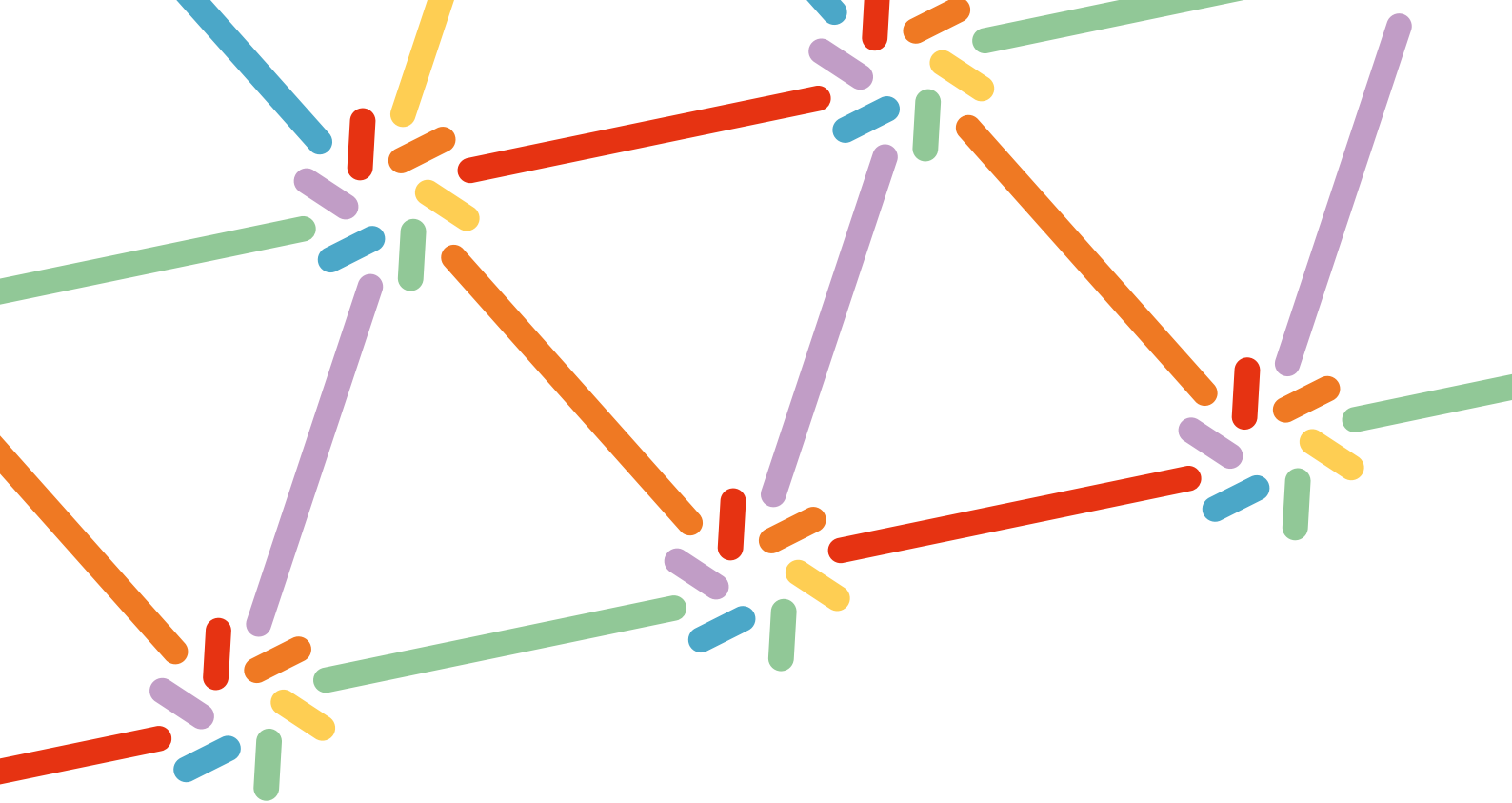
Challenges

- Political resistance in many ODA countries
- Resource limitations
- Shrinking civic space
- Anti-gender movements
- Legal barriers

Success Patterns

- Community-led initiatives showed strong results
- Cross-regional collaboration strengthened outcomes
- Consortium approaches enhanced impact
- Focus on capacity building led to sustainable changes

The stories demonstrate that the vast majority of interventions focused on ODA countries, particularly those facing significant challenges in healthcare access, human rights, and funding equity. The work predominantly addressed systemic barriers and aimed to build sustainable, community-led solutions.



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