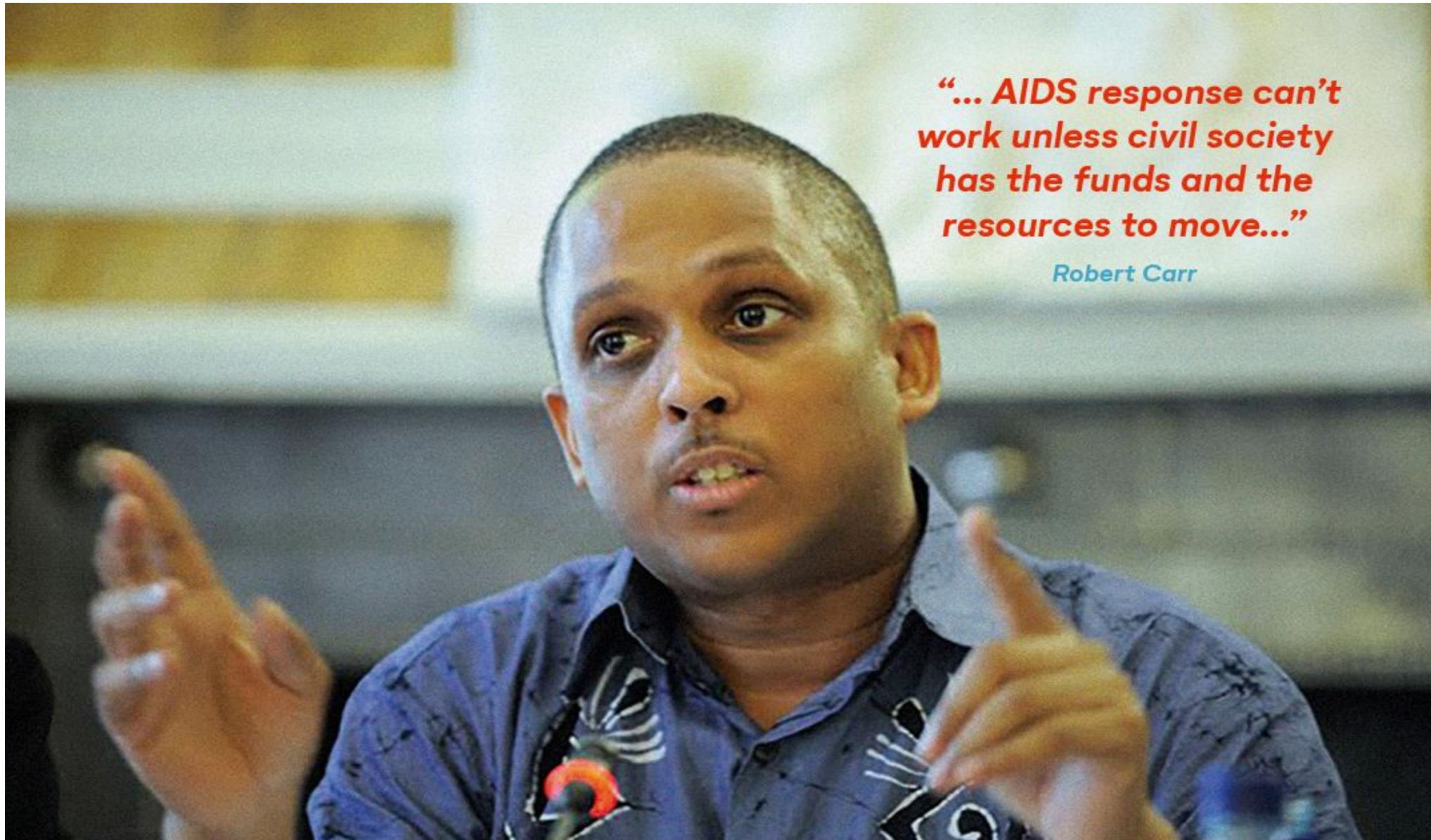# CONTENT

- **About RCF**

- **RFP Timeline & important dates**

- **Eligibility**

- **For proposals to be considered for review**

- **Strategic & funding priorities**

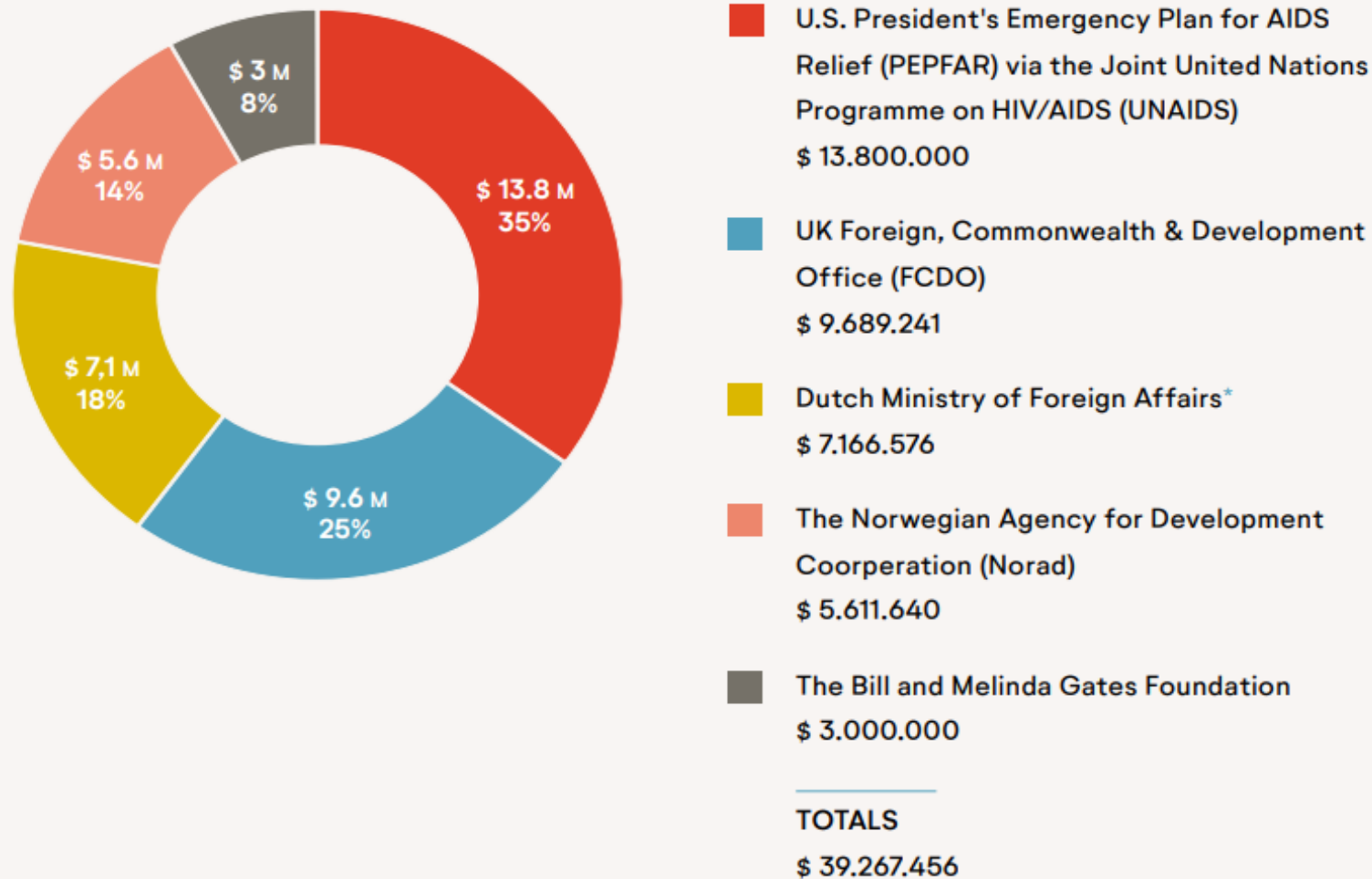- **Process for application**

- **Q&A**

"... AIDS response can't work unless civil society has the funds and the resources to move..."

Robert Carr

About RCF

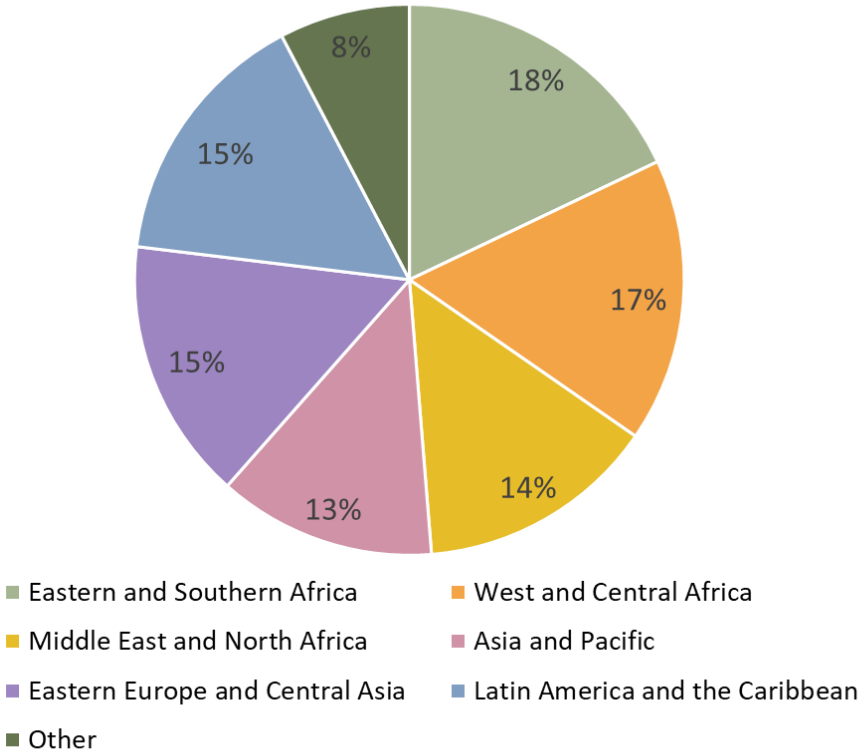Mission Statement:

*The Robert Carr Fund invests in global and regional civil society networks to sustain and expand the role of inadequately served populations (ISPs) in the HIV response, **with a commitment to prioritize ISP-led networks for funding** to uphold rights, remove barriers to accessing services, and to contribute to sustainable financial investment in communities and programming.*

ROBERT CARR FUND *For civil society networks*

Funders' Contributions to the RCF Pool – 2022–2024 ($39.2 Million)

$ 3 M
8%

$ 5.6 M
14%

$ 7,1 M
18%

$ 13.8 M
35%

$ 9.6 M
25%

■ U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) via the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
$ 13.800.000

■ UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
$ 9.689.241

■ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
$ 7.166.576

■ The Norwegian Agency for Development Coorperation (Norad)
$ 5.611.640

■ The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
$ 3.000.000

TOTALS
$ 39.267.456

2022-2024 grants cycle

RCF 2022-2024 Grants Portfolio: Geographic Coverage balance

- Eastern and Southern Africa
- West and Central Africa
- Middle East and North Africa
- Asia and Pacific
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Other

RCF 2022-2024 Grants Portfolio: Total populations addressed (Primary & Secondary population)

- Primary population
- Secondary population(s)

RFP Timeline & Important Dates:

Request for Proposals 2024 – Timeline

1 May 2024	Publication of RFP
May –June 2024	Global and regional webinars focusing on Request for Proposals 2024, with an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions
May –June 2024	Publication of Q&As Received
3 June 2024	**Online application portal launched for proposal submission**
22 July 2024, 12:00 (noon) CET	**Deadline for proposal submission via online application portal**
Eligibility and Review Process	
July–August 2024	Administrative screening of applications received Non–eligible applicants informed
August–October 2024	Independent External Peer Review of eligible proposals
August–October 2024	Program Advisory Panel (PAP) review
Funding advice	
November 2024	Funding advice to the International Steering Committee (ISC) by the PAP ISC meeting and funding decision
December 2024	**Funding decision communicated to applicants**

Eligibility

To be eligible for the 2025-2027 grant, applicants must:

1. Address the health, social inclusion and wellbeing of inadequately served populations (ISPs)

2. Be from the civil society sector

3. Be a civil society network and/or a consortium of civil society networks

4. Operate regionally and/or globally

5. Led by ISPs*

Also

6. Submit a work plan and budget in the RCF Budget Form Template

*RCF prioritizes the funding of networks which are led by ISPs but networks which are not led by ISPs are also eligible. They must demonstrate however meaningful engagement of ISPs in the work of the organization.

Eligibility

1. Address the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of inadequately served populations (ISPs)

ISPs = *populations facing a high HIV risk, mortality and/or morbidity compared to the general population, and, at the same time, facing systematic human rights violations and barriers to information and services. As people with direct experience of key health-related needs and barriers to health services, ISPs are central to efforts to improve human rights environments, improve HIV service accessibility, and improve efficiency and effectiveness of national and international funding for health and human rights.*

ISPs include:
- people living with HIV
- gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men
- people who use drugs
- people in prisons or other closed settings
- sex workers
- trans and gender diverse persons.

Depending on the dynamic of the HIV epidemic and the legal status of these populations, ISPs may also include **women and girls, youth (18-30), migrants** and **people living in rural areas**.

Eligibility

2. Be a civil society network and/or a consortium of civil society networks

Network = *a membership of organizations and/or individuals that pool skills, experience, and resources, working towards common goals. A network creates platforms for social action and is sustained through jointly developed governance structures, resources and regular communication.*

Consortium = *a network-led group of networks, where other types of agencies or organizations with specific expertise may join (e.g. a human rights/legal organization). The consortium works together in a coordinated partnership towards a common set of inter-related goals and objectives.*

Civil society networks = *regional and global networks led by and/or devoted to serving the needs of inadequately served populations in the HIV response.*

Eligibility

3. Operate regionally and/or globally

Regionally =

      1. conduct activities directed at a regional body or a regional process
          AND/OR

      2. conduct a sequence of activities over the course of one year in at least 3 countries in the region
          AND/OR

      3. have an active national network members operational in at least 3 countries in the region.

Globally =

      1. conduct activities directed at a global body/institution or global process
          AND/OR

      2. conduct a sequence of activities over the course of one year in at least 3 regions.

Eligibility

4. Be from the civil society sector

For this reason, governmental or inter-governmental organizations or units and aggregates of projects, individuals or professional associations are considered not eligible.

5. Be led by ISPs

= *...entities for which the majority of governance, leadership, staff, spokespeople, membership and volunteers, reflect and represent the experiences, perspectives, and voices of their constituencies, and who have transparent mechanisms of accountability to their constituencies. ISP-led networks are self-determining and autonomous, and not influenced by government, commercial, or donor agendas. Not all organizations which provide services for ISPs are ISP-led.*

Please note: RCF **prioritizes** funding ISP-led applicants, however, it also recognizes that that in some contexts some ISP groups experience greater challenges to ISP leadership, such as prisoners, migrants, young people and children. In these cases, non-ISP led networks are also eligible but must demonstrate meaningful engagement of ISPs in line with their work.

6. Submit the proposal with a work plan and budget in the RCF specific Work Plan and Budget Form

The template is available on the Robert Carr Fund website, Request for Proposals and it should be uploaded within the application in the grant's platform prior to the submission deadline of **22 July 2024**

For proposals to be considered for review

1. Only applications submitted through the **Aidsfonds grant platform** will be considered.

2. Applications must fulfill the eligibility criteria for this Request for Proposals.

3. Applications need to be submitted in **English.**

4. Applications need to be accompanied by supporting documents as listed in the checklist (this includes the budget form of RCF).

5. Applications received after the deadline for submission will not be taken into consideration and deemed not eligible.

Deadline for submission is 22 July 2024 at 12:00 (noon) CET.

Strategic Priorities

01

RCF will continue supporting global and regional networks and consortia through core, long-term and flexible funding.

02

RCF will remain focused on HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights, while recognizing that HIV exists as part of wider health, social and political issues.

03

RCF will make sure that its funding reaches the people who are most affected by HIV and who are inadequately served due to systematic human rights violations, inequalities, including those based on gender, and barriers to information and services.

04

RCF will prioritize networks led by inadequately served populations (ISPs). Funding for networks which are not ISP-led is conditional on meaningful engagement with ISPs.

05

Funding will also prioritize work in the Global South[1], and on reaching those most inadequately served. RCF will monitor gaps in the response, and fund new networks where such gaps exist.

Funding Priorities

a. Aligned with the Robert Carr Fund Theory of Change and Strategy:

The Robert Carr Fund will prioritize applications by global and/or regional networks and consortia of networks that are aligned with the Fund's Theory of Change and Strategy.
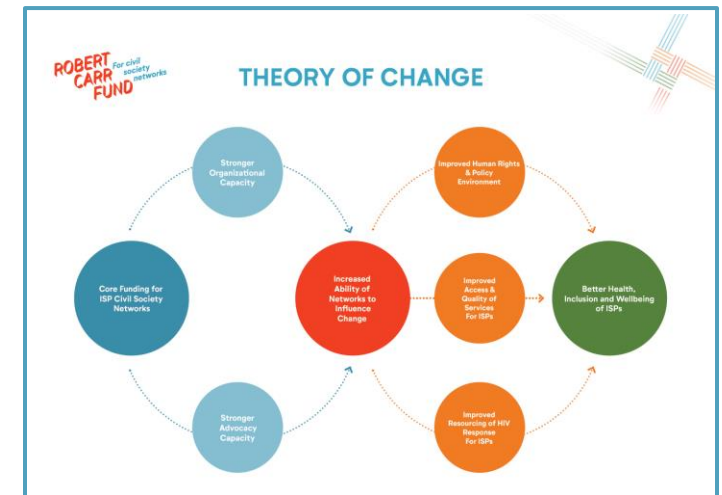
The RCF strategy has the following Result Areas:

Result Area 1: Network strength and influence (obligatory)

Result Area 2: Human rights (optional)

Result Area 3: Access to services (optional)

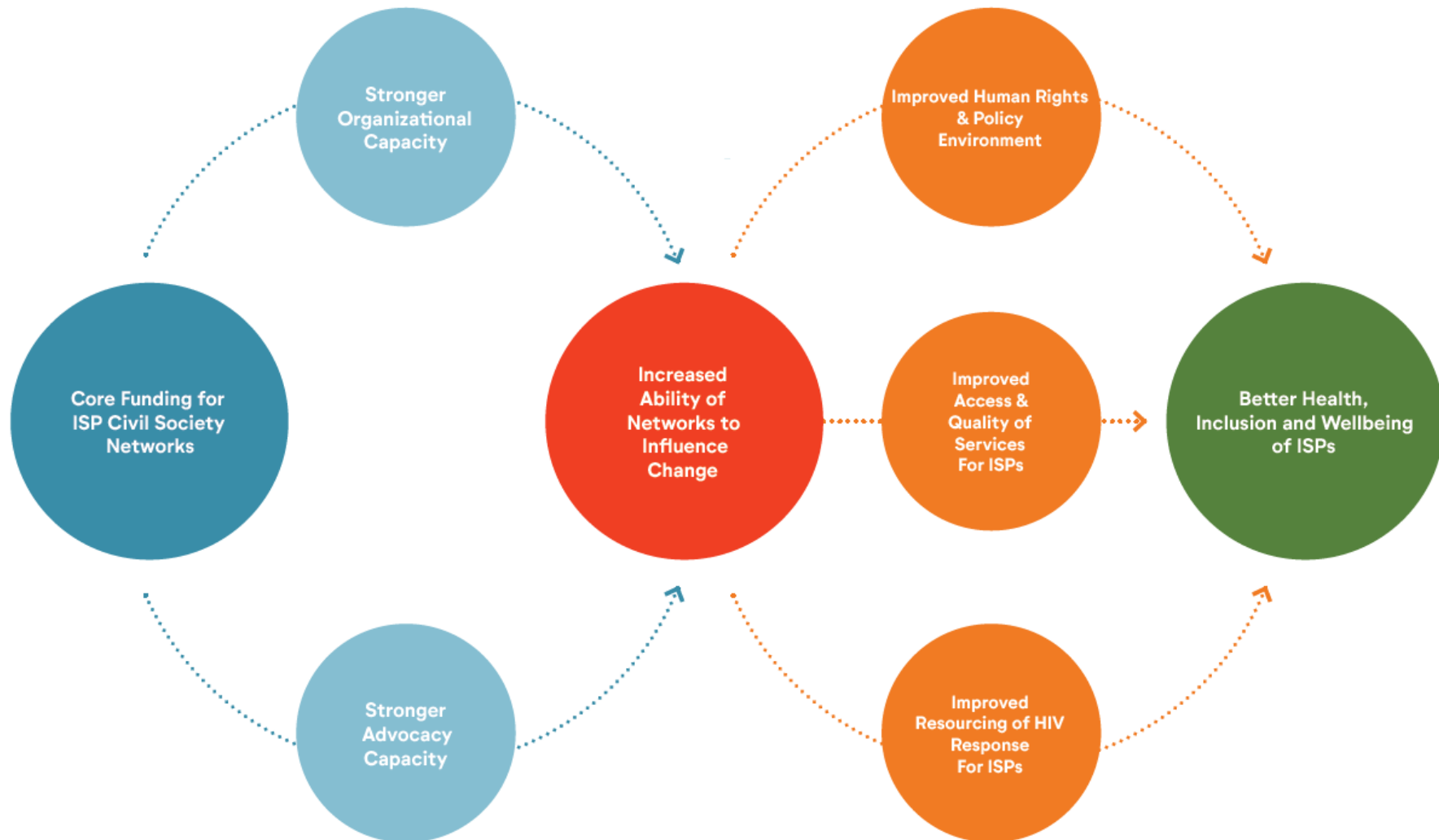**Result Area 4**: Resource accountability (optional)

b. Addressing underfunded populations and/or regions:

The Robert Carr Fund is open to any applicants that meet the eligibility criteria. However, the Fund particularly welcomes applications which seek to address ISP groups and/or regions which are underfunded in its portfolio, these are:

- People in prison, migrants, trans and gender diverse, intersex or youth who are ISPs
- Networks and/or consortia from the Middle East and North Africa, West Africa or Central Africa

Funding Priorities

RCF Theory of Change

Floors & ceilings

Actual funding amounts are dependent on the availability of funds, and on the number of successful applications and therefore any amount awarded may be less than which the applicant applied for, however, the floors and ceilings for this RFP are:

- **Emerging regional and/or global networks** which have been in existence for less than two years can apply for a minimum of $50,000 and a maximum of $150,000 per year, for three years.

- **Regional networks** which have been in existence for more than two years can apply for a minimum of $100,000 and a maximum of $350,000 per year, for three years.

- **Global networks** which have been in existence for more than two years can apply for a minimum of $100,000 and a maximum of $700,000 per year, for three years.

- **A consortium of networks** can apply for a minimum of $100,000 and a maximum of $1,000,000 per year, for three years.

Application Process

Applications can only be submitted through the Aidsfonds grant platform: https://aidsfonds.grantplatform.com/.

Please ensure you access the correct application form as per below:
-**Chapter**: Robert Carr Fund
-**Category**: RCF 2024 Request for Proposals

The RFP 2021 application via the grant platform will go live **3rd of June 2024 at 12:00 (noon) CEST**.

The deadline for applications is **22 July 2024** at **12:00 (noon) CET**.

Submission of proposals through other communication platforms will not be taken into consideration for review.

Question & Answers

Questions:
For further information please visit our website at:

robertcarrfund.org/request-for-proposals

If you can't find the answer to your question, please e-mail grants@robertcarrfund.org

Questions regarding this RFP should be received by the RCF Secretariat no later than 15 July 2024. It may not be possible to provide an answer to questions received after this date.

Answers:
We will be developing a series of Q&As to be published on a regular basis via the RCF website. Please don't hesitate to sign-up to our newsletter via the RCF website.

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?