# THE YEAR IN REVIEW ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION



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## 2019 AT A GLANCE



THE FOUNDATION REACHED 1,808,943
INDIVIDUALS WITH CARE, SUPPORT
OR TREATMENT INCLUDING OVER
ONE MILLION HIV TESTS



4,938

T-SHIRTS SOLD TO BENEFIT THE FOUNDATION ON ELTON JOHN'S FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TOUR



207,440

PEOPLE FOLLOW

THE ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION
SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



\$14.02 BILLION

WAS RAISED TO REPLENISH THE
GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND
MALARIA BY GOVERNMENTS AND
ORGANISATIONS THAT ELTON JOHN HELPED
TO ADVOCATE TO PLAY THEIR PART



THE FOUNDATION LEVERAGED AN ADDITIONAL

£10 MILLION

IN RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAMMES
WE FUND TO FIGHT THE EPIDEMIC



MORE THAN
1,700
PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR
ACADEMY AWARDS VIEWING
PARTY AND MIDSUMMER PARTY IN
SUPPORT OF THE FOUNDATION



#### \$29.9 MILLION

RAISED BY THE FOUNDATION IN THE UK AND US TO FUND PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS TO END THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

(as of 31 Dec 2019)



# LETTER FROM ELTON, DAVID & ANNE









Firstly, thanks to each one of you for being a pivotal part of our many successes this year! We simply would not able to do what we do without your support.

It's been an exciting year of integration and expansion for the Elton John AIDS Foundation. In our first 12 months as a unified force with the US and UK Foundations becoming one in the battle to end the AIDS epidemic, we've grown in staff, expanded our global impact and our commitment to the key populations most vulnerable to HIV, whilst raising \$29.9 million\* to continue supporting our grantees around the globel

Enormous progress has been made since the Elton John AIDS Foundation was founded in 1992, but in 2019 only 23.3 of the 37.9¹ million people living with HIV were receiving lifesaving treatment. We have been a significant part of this success – but our work is far from done! Achieving an end to the global AIDS epidemic where no one is left behind will continue to require boldness, creativity and love, in addition to medicines and money.

With your support, in 2019 the Elton John AIDS Foundation acted as a catalyst in the creation of a future where there is no more discrimination, no more HIV infections, and no more AIDS deaths – no matter who or where you are. We did this at grassroots and policy levels, working with our funders and partners to identify the solutions that will save lives.

During 2019 the Foundation was able to award more than 20 grants to help people prevent HIV infections, to make sure HIV-positive people receive and remain on the treatment they need, and to advocate to overcome the barriers that stand in the way of achieving our goals.

#### OUR WORK CONTINUES TO BE GUIDED BY OUR DEEPLY HELD BELIEFS THAT:

#### Nobody should die because of who they love:

Yet, LGBT people are routinely punished and shamed in many parts of the world. This is why the LGBT community still accounts for 1 in 5 HIV infections worldwide. As the tenth largest funder of services for LGBT people globally and seventh largest in the USA<sup>2</sup>, we work with clinical and community partners, including in some of the most difficult settings, to create an AIDS free future where nobody dies due to stigma, discrimination or violence.

We can do this by increasing the number of cities and countries where there are HIV services sufficiently accessible and unbiased to meet the needs of LGBT people, preventing and addressing the stigma, discrimination and violence that many LGBT people face while trying to remain healthy, and increasing the number of policymakers and international organisations who will stand behind us.

#### People who use drugs should be supported, not punished:

Yet, people who use drugs are 22 times<sup>3</sup> as likely to acquire HIV compared to the general population. Deaths due to drug overdose continue to rise at a staggering rate globally, with over 70,000 people losing their lives in 2018 in the United States alone. These deaths are preventable. Governments spend \$100 billion dollars a year on drug control. Less than 10% of this sum, if invested in harm reduction, could reduce HIV infections and AIDS deaths in people using drugs by over 90%<sup>4</sup>.

We are one of the largest funders of harm reduction work in the world. Our goal is not to judge those who use drugs but to make them less vulnerable to contracting HIV. We will continue to speak out in support of those who are living with drug dependency, rather than criminalizing them. We will advocate for evidence-based policy and invest in services, such as needle and syringe programmes. And we will help people using drugs access opioid substitution and HIV treatment programmes, including in some of the world's most restrictive settings.

#### Finding out your HIV status should be very easy:

Eight million people live with undiagnosed HIV. Millions more are HIV-negative but worry about their status. More than 30 years after the emergence of a global HIV response, testing is still not as easy and accessible as it should be, yet this is essential as knowing your status means you can protect yourself and those you love. Access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and HIV testing is not available in many countries; and in others testing is so restricted, or dangerous, that people shy away.

We have fought to normalise HIV testing since our inception. We have recently funded pilots on marketing self-tests to men; offered testing in emergency departments in the UK and facilitated community-based testing for gay men in stigmatising countries. We will continue to work through impactful partnerships, in conjunction with community advocates, and through funding innovative programmes to give people access to safe and reliable testing, no matter who or where they are.

#### You should receive care no matter where you live:

We will continue to work globally, prioritizing regions with high unmet need where there are opportunities to create significant change for people living with HIV and AIDS. Our theory of change prioritizes working in partnership with a wide range of public and private stakeholders to mobilize all available resources.

This year our commitment to fund grantees where no one else would was manifested through RADIAN, a ground-breaking \$25,000,000 strategic partnership with Gilead Sciences designed to combat the growing number of HIV transmissions and AIDS deaths in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

EECA is woefully under-resourced when it comes to the HIV epidemic, with very few donors compared to other regions. RADIAN will step in where no one else would.

This year in the United States, the Foundation's work went beyond providing grants to non-profits. To create greater leverage where HIV is at its worst nationally, we also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fulton County which manages the health budget for counties in and around Atlanta, Georgia. This partnership will work with a consortium of key stakeholders – care providers, non-profit organisations, research institutions, the state health department and, critically, the community of people living with HIV/ AIDS in and around Atlanta to strengthen and expand local access to culturally competent services and treatment for people at risk and living with HIV there. Metro Atlanta has the second highest diagnosis of HIV in the United States; it's where black gay men have a 60% lifetime chance of contracting HIV and it is already home to more than 37,000 people living with HIV.5

We look forward to sharing more specific examples of our progress in the following pages and hope that you'll enjoy meeting some of the beautiful faces behind the work that the Foundation supports. Finally, as we are reflecting on the last year and look to the year ahead, it's impossible not to consider how the COVID-19 pandemic, so devastating for large parts of the world, will viciously affect people living with HIV who do not know their status, or are not on lifesaving treatment. They are at an elevated risk for this novel infection. We are committed to remaining in close contact with our grantees and partners so that we can assess an increased need for support from the Foundation.

If COVID-19 has already taught us anything, it is that there is no room for complacency for potential lethal infectious diseases. In the inevitable case that this new pandemic has an impact on the HIV/AIDS community, another historic pandemic that we've made so much progress to end, we will continue to look to you, our dear friends, so that we can ensure that we do not lose momentum in our mission to create a more loving, healthier world than the one we live in.

Thank you for your support this year, and in the years ahead. Together, we will continue to challenge all the causes of the AIDS epidemic, and fight for everyone, until no one is left behind.

We are so grateful to have you as a part of our Foundation community.

Sincerely,

**Sir Elton John** Founder

**David Furnish** Chairman

padJ Find

Anne Aslett
Chief Executive Officer

#### WE ARE COMMITTED TO



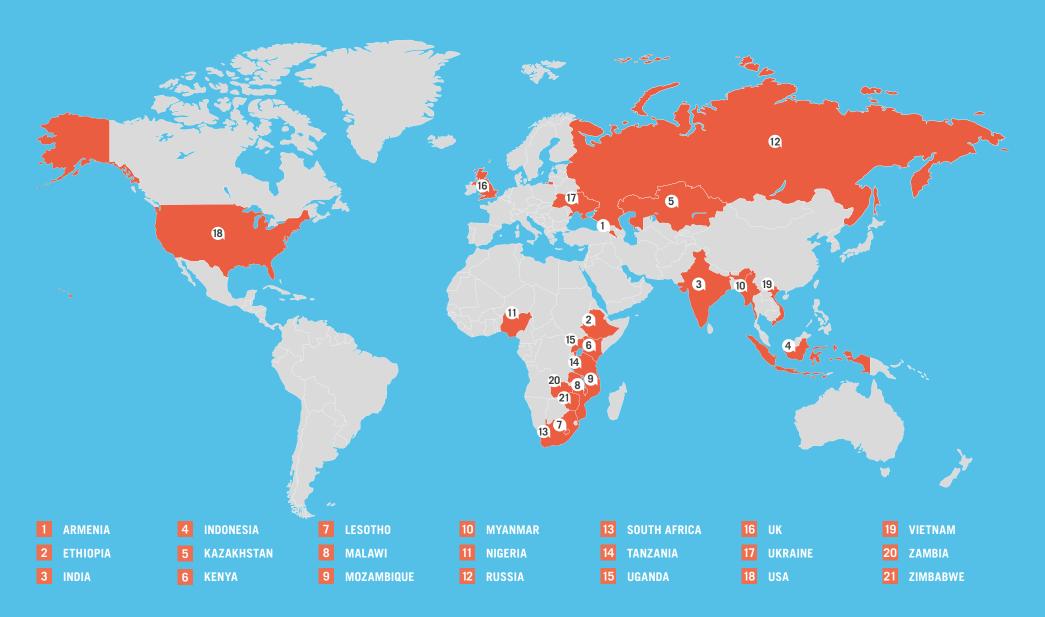
- **O** NO MORE DISCRIMINATION
- **O** NO MORE HIV INFECTIONS
- **O NO MORE AIDS DEATHS**
- O NO MATTER WHO OR WHERE YOU ARE

People can live a full and healthy life with HIV, yet 15 million people today are not accessing the life-saving HIV treatment they need because they are already restricted in their own society: gay men, young people, those who inject drugs or sell sex, and transgender women. Most new HIV infections are in these marginalised groups. They face abandonment, discrimination and violence. This just isn't good enough. Tragically, it stops them from getting the effective, life-saving services that already exist and so prolongs the AIDS epidemic. The Foundation harnesses local expertise across four continents to challenge discrimination, prevent infections and provide treatment for these groups, as well as mobilising governments to end AIDS. We will build love, compassion and dignity for those with or at risk of HIV and a future for young people free from the fear of AIDS. We will not stop until the AIDS epidemic is over.

At the Elton John AIDS Foundation, we believe AIDS can be beaten. But only if everyone at risk of HIV, no matter who they are or where they are has access to the non-discriminatory HIV information and compassionate care that allow them to stay healthy and safe and live with dignity. Acting on these beliefs, we speak out with honesty and kindness about the reality of people's lives. We will not leave anyone behind.

As a leader in the global AIDS community, the Elton John AIDS Foundation is committed to helping overcome the stigma, discrimination and neglect that keeps us from ending AIDS. The Foundation's purpose is to harness local expertise, mobilise networks of generous public and private supporters and partners, and maximise the platform and influence of our founder Elton John to eliminate HIV as a problem for people vulnerable to HIV and for their communities.

#### WHERE WE FUND





#### OUR 27TH ANNUAL ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION ACADEMY AWARDS VIEWING PARTY HOSTED BY ELTON JOHN AND DAVID FURNISH RAISED OVER \$6.3 MILLION.

The gala, which took place on Sunday, February 24, at West Hollywood Park in Los Angeles, was generously supported by Presenting Sponsors IMDb and Neuro Drinks.

Guests arrived at the Academy Awards Viewing Party for cocktails followed by a dinner prepared by Chef Wayne Elias and Crumble Catering and viewing of the 91st Academy Awards® telecast. For the first time, IMDb broadcasted its annual IMDb LIVE streaming companion show from the event, co-hosted by Aisha Tyler and Dave Karger, offering viewers four hours of celebrity studded conversation and unique, entertaining and informative coverage of Hollywood's biggest night.

During the auction lot for Rocketman: an epic musical fantasy about the incredible human story of Elton John, Alexander Gilkes of Paddle 8 welcomed to the stage actor Taron Egerton, star of the upcoming motion picture film. Following a short preview of the trailer and a round of bidding on a trip to London premier of the film, the audience was taken by surprise when Gilkes asked Taron to sing one of Elton John's songs. Only agreeing to the performance if Elton played the piano, guests were brought to their feet

as they watched Elton John take his position on the keys while Taron belted out the lyrics to one of his most beloved ballads, "Tiny Dancer." Elton signed the Yamaha piano he was playing and this was also auctioned. Elton had also played this piano at the Lion King 20th Anniversary Concert and studio sessions for the Devil Wears Prada musical in Las Vegas and Toronto.

Additional auction items included the silkscreen print with faceted Swarovski crystals, Lightness of Being (Her Majesty) 2013 by Chris Levine, a Catherine Opie Photograph with a tour of the private Elizabeth Taylor Archive, a neon artwork by Tracey Emin, The Heart Has Its Reasons, a week-long vacation to Joali Resort in the Maldives, and invitations for two to the Vanity Fair after party.

Cadillac, Gilead Sciences, Marriott Bonvoy and The Bluefish Co-Sponsored; Fin Gray and Michael Melnick, Bob and Tamar Manoukian and Hilary Roberts were Associate Sponsors with American Airlines as our Official Airline. The Foundation is especially grateful to the City of West Hollywood for continued collaboration.

## MIDSUMMER PARTY

## THE MIDSUMMER PARTY PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING NEW PROGRAMMES THAT AIM TO PROVIDE HIV SELF-TEST KITS TO 400,000 YOUNG MEN IN KENYA AND TREATMENT FOR THOSE WHO TEST-POSITIVE.

On Wednesday, 24th July 2019, the Elton John AIDS Foundation raised€5.5 million at our first-ever Midsummer Party in the South of France with American Airlines, The Kraft Group, and Lily Safra generously served as Supporting Partners of the evening.

It was held at Johnny Pigozzi's beautiful Villa Dorane at the end of Cap d'Antibes and featured a cocktail reception, a Provençal dinner and music provided by Stjepan Hauser of the 2Cellos. After dinner, Simon de Pury hosted a live auction of unique items and experiences, including the first edition of the new Bentley, a beautiful Yamaha piano used in the Rocketman film and autographed by Sir Elton John and Taron Egerton, a custom Gucci jacket worn by Egerton in Rocketman and tickets to see Elton's farewell tour, a stunning piece of Chihuly art glass, and a trip to Los Angeles on American Airlines to attend our 2020 Academy Awards Viewing Party and stay at the new H Club.

Chris Martin of Coldplay thrilled guests with an amazing performance of "Sky Full of Stars," "Yellow," and "Everglow." The crowd was brought to their feet when Martin was joined on stage for a surprise rendition of "I'm Still Standing" and "Rocketman" with Elton. DJs Fat Tony and Jodie Harsh set the tone for the evening by spinning tunes for the cocktail reception and after party around Johnny Pigozzi's famous pool.

We are grateful to our wonderful founding Event Chairs for their leadership and support: Jamie Bell and Kate Mara, Len Blavatnik, Gerard Butler, Dale and Leslie Chihuly, Gwendoline Christie and Giles Deacon, Taron Egerton, Jean Paul Gaultier, Tiffany Haddish, Bryce Dallas Howard, Quincy Jones, Richard K. Kraft, Spike and Tonya Lee, Richard Madden, Bob and Tamar Manoukian, Katy Perry, Bruce and Shadi Ritchie, Julia Roberts, Lily Safra, Caroline Scheufele, and Sharon Stone.





# ADVOCATING FOR GLOBAL RESOURCES FOR HIV/AIDS

## CRITICAL TO THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS WAS THE SUCCESSFUL REPLENISHMENT DURING 2019 OF THE SIXTH GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB & MALARIA.

Critical to the global fight against HIV/AIDS was the successful replenishment during 2019 of the Sixth Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB & Malaria. Replenishment follows a three-year cycle in which national governments, philanthropists and commercial entities pledge funds to support the Fund's activities. A 2019 goal of \$14 billion was established by the Fund as the minimum resources required to maintain progress against these killer diseases.

In the run up to and during the pledging process for the Fund in Lyon, the Foundation played a key role in advocating for the largest commitment from all donors. This included a joint oped in Le Monde by Sir Elton, Peter Sands and Lelio Marmora, Executive Directors of the Global Fund and Unitaid respectively, urging full replenishment. The Foundation also paired Sir Elton's receipt of the Legion D'Honneur from President Macron in May with the opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for increased Fund commitments, including petitioning the French government and President Macron, as hosts for the 2019 Replenishment, to increase their contribution to the Fund.

France and national governments across the world responded to this call and finally, \$14.02bn was secured, which will help save 16 million lives, avert 234 million infections by 2023, and help put the world on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals target of ending AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics by 2030.

FRANCE AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS
ACROSS THE WORLD RESPONDED TO THIS
CALL AND FINALLY, \$14.02BN WAS SECURED.



## AIDS-FREE CITIES CAMPAIGN

IN 2018/2019, WE COLLABORATED WITH ESI MEDIA GROUP FOR THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL CAMPAIGN AND CALLED IT AIDS FREE CITIES.

Through the collective work of the Foundation, ESI journalists and representatives from the HIV community, we raised awareness and inspired donations raising over £3.5million from generous readers and supporters for 6 key cities affected by HIV/AIDS: London, Atlanta, Kiev, Delhi, Nairobi and Maputo.

The campaign with the ESI Media Group (owners of London's Evening Standard and the Independent newspapers) gave our Foundation a platform to tell the real stories of HIV. people in London and around the world were talking about HIV on a huge scale for the first time in years. Voice of people living with HIV and the HIV community were at the forefront of mainstream UK media. The daily readership across platforms extends beyond 1.2million per day who saw these stories and were moved to take action or read these compelling real-life stories.

The campaign reached over 1.17 million people on social media and engaged over 50k people in conversations about the campaign. This was the furthest reaching campaign on social media for the Foundation.

As part of the AIDS Free Cities Forum, which concluded the campaign, we convened partners and stakeholders from the key 6 cities in London. Both the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock, and the Secretary of State for International Development Penny Mordaunt (at the time) spoke at the event underlining the priority attached to tackling HIV both domestically and internationally. The Secretary of State for Health used the occasion to make a key policy commitment to end HIV infections in England by 2030 which has been widely welcomed and announced £1.5m funding for the appeal from his Department and DfID Secretary Penny Mordaunt praised the programmes supported by the campaign and their contribution to both DflD's and the United Nations' goals. As a result, our Foundation and other organisations created the HIV Commission to hold the government to account to this promise and to ensure the proper care and resource for people at risk and living with HIV in the UK.





THE CAMPAIGN RAISED OVER £3.5 MILLION, REACHING OVER 1.17 MILLION PEOPLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.







THE FOUNDATION LEADS A COOL, ENGAGING MEDIA CAMPAIGN: CHUKUA SELFIE, MEANING 'TAKE A SELFIE' IN SWAHILI, DESIGNED TO TARGET YOUNG MEN TO SELF TEST FOR HIV ACROSS KENYA.

### **MENSTAR**

Founded by the Elton John AIDS Foundation, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Unitaid, The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Johnson & Johnson and Gilead Sciences, the MenStar Coalition will expand the diagnosis and treatment of HIV infections in men, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The establishment of MenStar was announced on 24th July 2018 by Sir Elton John and the Duke of Sussex at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.

Every week, 7000 young women are infected with HIV and typically, young women are tested and go onto treatment quite quickly, often as part of ante natal services, but their male partners do not get tested because of fear and stigma and they continue to spread HIV to multiple partners. To protect young women in sub-Saharan Africa, we need to reach young men to find out their status. HIV testing needs to become safe, confidential and on their own terms.

The Foundation leads a cool, engaging media campaign: Chukua Selfie, meaning 'take a selfie' in Swahili, designed to target young men to self test for HIV across Kenya. We want to make self-testing safe, normal and easy for these young men and break the stigma and worry associated with finding out one's status. Currently, the campaign is advertised through billboards, online ads, Kenyan influencers and musical artists, WhatsApp messages and in-store activations in pharmacies. The campaign's initial, online music video was watched over 2m times in the fortnight after it appeared on YouTube and spawned multiple imitations.

From July to December 2019, we distributed 1,500-2,000 kits per month, available in over 500 pharmacies in Nairobi and Kisumu and given out to young men in community centres, high-risk social spaces and workplaces. Now that the Chukua Selfie brand and multiple distribution channels have been established, our aim is to accelerate testing with the ultimate aim of selling 400,000 kits.

**EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA KEY POPULATION FUND:** 

## LIGHTHOUSE & COMMUNITY GRANTS

DESPITE GLOBAL PROGRESS AGAINST REDUCING NEW HIV INFECTIONS, THE HIV EPIDEMIC IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECA) CONTINUES TO GROW.

The number of people living with HIV in the region has increased from 990,000 in 2010 with 1.7 million people today. Stigma and discrimination against the groups most affected by HIV contributes to the proliferation of the epidemic. All too often, these are groups that society wants to hide or ignore: people who use drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, and their sexual partners collectively accounted for over 95% of HIV cases in the region in 2017.<sup>6</sup>

At the end of 2017, we established a unique programme - the Eastern Europe & Central Asia Key Populations Fund (EECA KP Fund) – to effectively mobilise funding and provide targeted support in response to the pressing need for action. The EECA KP Fund seeks to improve access to HIV prevention, care and treatment information and services, including harm reduction services, for key populations in EECA. The Fund supports innovative, evidence-based work, while also aiming to empower communities delivering and advocating for better, stigma-free HIV services, to help bring the region closer to epidemic control.





#### BY THE END OF 2019, THE FUND HAS REACHED OVER 50,000 PEOPLE FROM KEY POPULATIONS

Four 'Lighthouse' grants were issued in Russia and began implementation in 2018. Lighthouse grants fund projects that work with and within the existing healthcare infrastructure to increase the uptake of HIV care services. Community Grants fund smaller scale, community-based initiatives that, if proven successful, can be scaled up. By the end of 2019, 12 community grants had been approved through the fund in Armenia, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine. These primarily service delivery-focussed programmes are complemented by emergency grants addressing stigma, discrimination and violence, and other barriers to key populations accessing HIV care. Emergency grants were issued across 10 countries in EECA, enabling 17,800 people from vulnerable populations to access HIV testing among other outcomes.

By the end of 2019, the Fund has reached over 50,000 people from key populations with scaled-up and innovative HIV prevention and treatment services and tested 30,000 people for HIV.

# RADIAN: MODEL CITIES AND UNMET NEED FUND GRANTS

IN SEPTEMBER 2019, THE FOUNDATION LAUNCHED A NEW FUND FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA, 'RADIAN', IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GILEAD SCIENCES.

RADIAN aims to continue and expand the EECA KP Fund's vital work to tackle the HIV epidemic in the region, and further confront and challenge the barriers which prevent at-risk populations from accessing HIV prevention and treatment services. RADIAN is a natural evolution of the EECA Key Populations Fund, which has given the Foundation a greater understanding of the urgent needs in EECA and the necessary experience to respond even more effectively moving forward.

RADIAN will further develop the relationships, trust, support, and knowledge the Foundation has gained from implementing the EECA KP Fund. RADIAN will seek to include and go beyond service delivery work to contribute sustainably towards zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero stigma and discrimination in EECA. In order to achieve these goals, RADIAN will take a dual-pronged approach using **Model Cities** and **Unmet Need Fund**.

"GILEAD AND THE ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION SHARE AN AMBITION TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC. AT GILEAD, WE BELIEVE AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE ZERO DISCRIMINATION, ZERO NEW HIV INFECTIONS AND ZERO AIDS-RELATED DEATHS BY 2030. WE ARE PROUD TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION ON THE GROUND-BREAKING RADIAN INITIATIVE WHICH AIMS TO CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE HIV EPIDEMIC IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA AND ENSURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND IN THE GLOBAL EFFORT TO END THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH WE ARE ABLE TO LEVERAGE THE UNIQUE CAPABILITIES OF EACH ORGANIZATION IN THE EFFORT TO MEANINGFULLY ADDRESS HIV."

#### **KORAB ZUKA**

**VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS GILEAD SCIENCES** 





#### LGBT FUND

SINCE THE CRIMINALISATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IS STILL PREVALENT IN MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, THE FOUNDATION HAS DELIBERATELY EXPANDED PROGRAMMES THAT OFFER HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND SUPPORT IN A NON-JUDGMENTAL ENVIRONMENT TO THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) COMMUNITY.

In responding to infectious diseases, it's essential not to leave anyone behind. We have made it our mission from the start to support those who are stigmatised by society just because they are living with or vulnerable to HIV. In 2015, the Elton John AIDS Foundation built a nimble, inclusive and effective four year, \$11.5m LGBT Fund in collaboration with our partners UNAIDS and PEPFAR implemented by Frontline AIDS, LVCT Health, MPact, and other partners.

The fund was designed to reach LGBT people in Sub Saharan Africa and the Caribbean who are most vulnerable and keep them safe, complementing broader LGBT human rights programmes whilst specially protecting LGBT people from HIV. The LGBT fund addresses structural challenges and seeks to bridge critical gaps for LGBT people by improving access to HIV and STI prevention, care, treatment information and services. The Fund was also designed to tackle stigma and discrimination, whilst increasing the capacity of LGBT community-based organisations to deliver HIV and Sexually

Transmitted Infection (STI) services and advocate for the rights and health of LGBT people. It aims to give people freedom — so no one experiences fear from the risk of having one's HIV status made public or from the burden of stigma in the community they've always called home.

The Fund has pioneered significant innovations in health in over 20 countries, including the creation of safe spaces for vulnerable people, community-led peer-driven referrals in Uganda, peer-led HIV testing in Mozambique and LGBT services integrated in public settings in Kenya. Furthermore, several major advocacy wins were achieved with support from the Fund, such as a law used to criminalise transgender people in Guyana being overturned. Through holistically addressing the most pressing barriers to HIV prevention, care, and treatment, the Fund has successfully created systematic change that will continue to improve the lives of LGBT individuals for years to come. By the end of 2019, over 46,000 people had been tested for HIV through the Fund, with over 5,000 diagnosed as HIV positive and initiated on HIV treatment.



#### **UK SOCIAL IMPACT BOND**

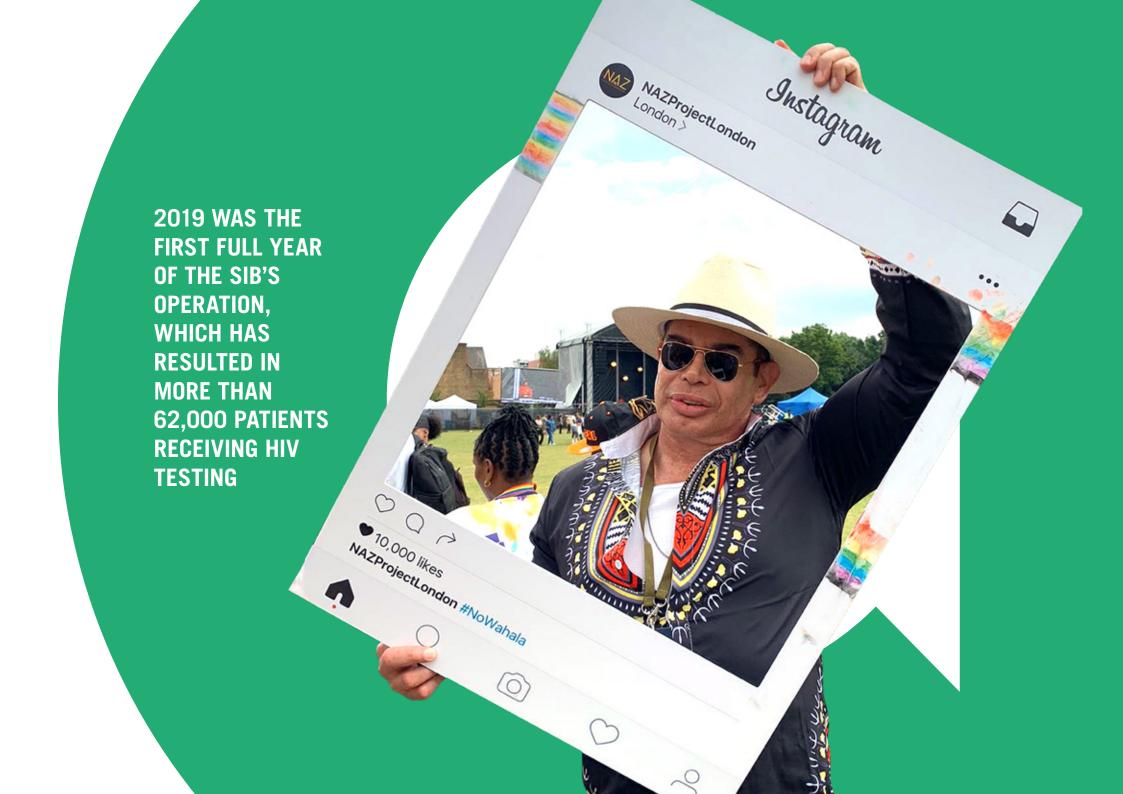
## THE FOUNDATION, ALONG WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS, DEVELOPED THE FIRST SOCIAL IMPACT BOND (SIB) FOCUSED ON HIV TREATMENT AND CARE IN THE WORLD.

The Zero HIV SIB is based in the South London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark, and Lewisham (LSL) due to disproportionately high HIV prevalence, with an estimated 1,000 residents living with HIV that are unaware of their status. Finding people who are unaware of their HIV status and who might never think to test for HIV is a critical part of truly ending an epidemic. To reach patients in LSL, the Zero HIV SIB operates across three settings: in hospitals, in GP surgeries and in the community. These places offer multiple 'touch points' to bring individuals with HIV into care. Unlike public policy, the SIB is able to work with teams across the national health service and social care to try out multiple approaches and really establish what works, at no cost to the taxpayer.

2019 was the first full year of the SIB's operation, which has resulted in more than 62,000 patients receiving HIV testing and more than 100 people newly diagnosed with HIV and engaged in care or re-engaged into HIV care. Whilst 100 patients may not sound like a large number, these Londoners were not previously in HIV care and would not otherwise have been reached. That means they would only enter the health service when they were really sick, at which point their care would be ten times as expensive, their prognosis uncertain, and there is a risk they may have unwillingly infected others. Hospitals, primary care,

and community organisations have each conducted distinct activities through the SIB to find these patients and link them to care. The model places greater focus on patients themselves and utilises a bespoke approach to engage individuals in HIV services. Ultimately, it is this kind of approach that may be needed to fight other infectious diseases in the UK, including COVID-19.

Hospitals in the programme have set up universal HIV testing in their A&E departments, so that all adults with blood drawn have the option to be tested for HIV. If a patient is HIV-positive, the clinic follows up with them and brings them in for specialist care. GP Federations are helping their practices implement a range of activities, including computerized notifications prompting screening patients for HIV, wide screening during universal HIV testing week (end Nov), and targeted work with HIV-positive patients who are not currently in care. Community organisations go into public spaces like clubs and bars, build trust and respect, test for HIV, and then provide supportive services to those who are diagnosed with HIV. which encourages those patients to seek specialist HIV treatment. This project has, in its first year of implementation, proved that diverse stakeholders can come together to develop varied but connected HIV activities across a complex health system.



## CASE STUDIES FROM 2019

GUYANA TRANS UNITED RAPID RESPONSE FUND

FUNDING FROM OUR FOUNDATION HELPED OVERTURN A LAW THAT USED TO CRIMINALISE TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN GUYANA FOR CROSS-DRESSING.

This judgement by the Caribbean Court of Justice could pave the way for local campaigners to challenge other discriminatory laws There is a direct correlation between criminalising sexuality and greater risk of HIV infection and a drastically reduced likelihood of people seeking healthcare for fear of being imprisoned.

The Foundation supported Guyana Trans United with a grant to fund the extensive advocacy work with national media and the sensitisation of government ministers to raise awareness of transgender issues.

In November 2018, it was ruled unanimously that the law that makes it a criminal offence for a man or a woman to appear in public in the clothing of a different gender for "an improper purpose" violates the Constitution of Guyana and is therefore void. Guyana Trans United provides support to transgender women to access a range of services including HIV counselling and testing, legal advice and psychosocial support. The ruling could prove beneficial to Guyana Trans United's ongoing campaign to overturn a British colonial era 'buggery law' that can further impact access to health and rights services for transgender people.

In the court judgement, the Hon. Mr. Justice Saunders added: "No one should have his or her dignity trampled on, or human rights denied, merely on account of a difference, especially one that poses no threat to public safety or public order."



## MOSCOW

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IS THE LEADING COUNTRY IN THE EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION IN TERMS OF THE HIV BURDEN, WITH AN ESTIMATED 35% GROWTH IN NEW HIV INFECTIONS SINCE 2010.

Moscow Lighthouse is a project implemented by the organisation "For support of social initiatives and public health" Foundation, also known as 'LaSky', which aims to address the growing HIV epidemic in Russia's capital and the surrounding region. The project, supported as part of the Foundation's Eastern Europe and Central Asia Key Populations Fund, is being implemented from September 2018 to October 2021.

LaSky aims to provide services to over 30,000 people in Moscow City and Moscow Region from Key Populations, including LGBT individuals, people who inject drugs, and sex workers. The project is conducting outreach activities, HIV testing and counselling, creating demand for self-testing and PrEP, and peer support groups for LGBT living with HIV. The central location of LaSky's offices in Moscow, and targeted advocacy activities aim to increase the impact of the programme by positioning it as a model example for others to follow.



In March 2019, Misha (photographed above) started feeling unwell so he came to LaSky to get tested for HIV. When he found out his positive result, he watched Bohemian Rhapsody and cried for two days. But on the third day, he decided to learn to live with HIV. After receiving support from LaSky through the Moscow Lighthouse project (see EECA KP Fund above), he is now training to join the project staff. Misha wants to work at LaSky to help people be better informed as HIV awareness is so low – Misha still encounters people who think HIV can be transmitted by shaking hands. That's why Misha now helps to lead LaSky's weekly peer support group for LGBT people who are living with HIV, to encourage others to live without shame.

#### SASHA

Sasha (photographed with his partner Igor) is 31 years old, originally from Voronezh, Russia, and now lives in Moscow. In 2008 Sasha was in hospital with the flu, and doctors performed various tests on him. Sasha tested positive for HIV, but shockingly, he was not told about his status by the hospital. Fast forward to 2014 and Sasha had become very sick. After many painful diagnostic tests, when Sasha was finally admitted to hospital, he discovered that he had been on the HIV register for six years but was never informed about his diagnosis. Sasha was in a very advanced stage of HIV at this point, with a CD4 count of just 42 (a normal count of these immune boosting cells is 500-1500). He weighed just 36 kilograms and couldn't even walk to the bathroom without holding onto the walls.

**DOCTORS PERFORMED VARIOUS** TESTS ON HIM. SASHA TESTED **POSITIVE FOR HIV, BUT SHOCKINGLY, HE WAS NOT TOLD ABOUT HIS STATUS** BY THE HOSPITAL.

When this all happened in 2014, Sasha was linked to Andrey Beloglazov, director of LaSky. Andrey was able to connect him to resources, information, and friendly faces which greatly supported his recovery. Now, Sasha's medication has reduced HIV in his blood so much that the virus is undetectable, which means he is no longer infectious and says his health is better than ever. He and his partner Igor, who now works at LaSky, are so grateful for the help and community that LaSky provided, and the hope that they reignited in humanity.

Together with LaSky, and people like Misha, Igor and Sasha, we are changing the narrative for thousands of





#### ATLANTA, USA MEET QUEEN

Queen is a 51-year-old trans woman who has faced unbelievable hardships in her life – more than any one person should endure. Stigma and discrimination are usual terms when fighting the AIDS epidemic but when your every day carries the threat of violence so severe that you tattoo your birth name on your neck in case your face is unrecognisably disfigured, stigma has a different meaning. Sexual assault, rape, and violence are all in Queen's past.

Queen has lived with HIV for over 20 years. This is not unusual – trans women are 12 times more vulnerable to HIV than the general population – but she decided that this would not define her. She took control of her life and future, asked for help and support and found it. She receives treatment, counselling and was able to participate in an educational course to give her a second chance to complete her high school diploma with thanks to support of the Foundation.

She has devoted the last 2 years of her life to helping her stigmatised brothers and sisters to be healthy, to feel loved, and to feel safe in her role as a group facilitator at Positive Health Impact Centre, supported by the Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia. People like Queen play an inspirational role in making HIV easier to live with when you have an accepting, safe and empowering environment of people around you.



WHEN YOUR EVERY DAY CARRIES THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE SO SEVERE THAT YOU TATTOO YOUR BIRTH NAME ON YOUR NECK IN CASE YOUR FACE IS UNRECOGNISABLY DISFIGURED, STIGMA HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING.





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