



## **The Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness**

### **A project of Tides Foundation in partnership with the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition**

*I would like to say that the key to successful treatment education and advocacy is remembering our own dignity as human beings and taking hold of the power of that truth. Taking care of our feelings is as important as understanding and treatment of the physical manifestations of this disease. I would like us to remember that we are our own cure, that we use our voices to educate and advocate, and that we will realize our goals.*

*Paisan Suwannawong*

*Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group, Thailand*

*Speaking at the March 2003 International Treatment Preparedness Summit*

**The Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness** is a community-driven funding mechanism to support HIV treatment advocacy and education efforts in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America, and Eastern Europe/Central Asia.

In each funding region, the Collaborative Fund provides:

- Grants for community-based organizations for HIV treatment advocacy and education projects;
- Support for regional networks to share information, implement collaborative strategies, and provide technical assistance to grantees;

### **Meeting the Global Challenge to Treat HIV**

Millions of people around the world need HIV treatment now, and millions more will need it in the future. Increased access to HIV treatment is possible, but requires sustained commitment and resources of many different kinds. Successful advocacy efforts, led by people living with HIV/AIDS, have resulted in new political and funding commitments by multilateral, bilateral and national government agencies, fortifying the hope that HIV treatment will be accessible in all parts of the world. The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is now providing funding contracts with 119 countries that will support HIV treatment for 1.6 million people. The WHO "3 by 5" Initiative seeks to scale up treatment access with the goal of treatment 3 million people by the end of 2005. This is the single greatest undertaking in the history of the global public health establishment. If successful, these HIV treatment efforts will not only provide hope to tens of millions of people living with HIV/AIDS, but will radically alter the healthcare infrastructure throughout the developing world.

But, ultimately, the effectiveness of HIV treatment access efforts will depend on the ability of people living with HIV to overcome the stigma associated with HIV disease, access medicines and health care services in their communities and understand how to make and follow

through on treatment decisions. These activities, broadly defined as *treatment preparedness*, are as essential to success as the drugs themselves. They include:

- Advocacy to ensure that funding applications best meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and that funding is used appropriately to provide high quality care.
- Advocacy to ensure the equitable availability of HIV treatment and end discrimination against those at-risk for HIV, especially women, drug users, gay men, sex workers and other vulnerable groups.
- Awareness to inform the public that HIV is a treatable illness to encourage HIV testing and engagement with health care systems.
- Treatment education to assist people living with HIV to make and follow through on treatment decisions.
- If not taken correctly, the virus will develop drug resistance, rendering treatment ineffective. Therefore, HIV treatment must be accompanied by patient education and support to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS have the knowledge and assistance needed to follow through on their treatment regimens.

### **The Collaborative Fund – a global coalition for HIV treatment preparedness.**

Over the past two years, the Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness (the Collaborative Fund) has initiated community-based, peer-reviewed grantmaking to advance HIV treatment preparedness efforts. The Collaborative Fund grantmaking model includes:

- Regional planning processes that convene a diverse and equitable array of voices and perspectives;
- Community-based peer-reviewed grantmaking;
- Support for grantees and grantmaking through funding of community-based networks and other technical assistance providers; and
- Monitoring and evaluation of grantmaking and grantee efforts to assess impact, outcomes, and process-related successes and challenges.

The Collaborative Fund is directed by those most vested in its success: people living with HIV/AIDS. The Collaborative Fund is developed as a partnership with the membership of the ***International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)***, comprised of leading treatment advocates and educators from around the world. People living with HIV/AIDS are directly involved in leadership positions in all aspects of Collaborative Fund activities. The people involved in and priorities of the Collaborative Fund reflect a deep understanding of HIV treatment need in every world region, and a commitment to advance HIV treatment while also advancing gender equality and the rights of women, youth, the poor, drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men, prisoners, migrants and other vulnerable populations.

The direct involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in policy and program development has been at the forefront of success in the fight of against AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. It is people living with HIV that developed harm reduction approaches, such as needle exchange programs, and other HIV prevention efforts, such as safer sex practices. People with AIDS around the world have developed the primary models for HIV advocacy, care and support. It is only through their courageous actions all over the world that we have made progress in overcoming discrimination and stigma associated with HIV. The Collaborative Fund represents the first time that a global coalition of people

living with AIDS has developed a funding mechanism that will allow them to set funding priorities and implement their strategies. Over 100 community-based and regional organizations around the world are already involved in Collaborative Fund activities, including:

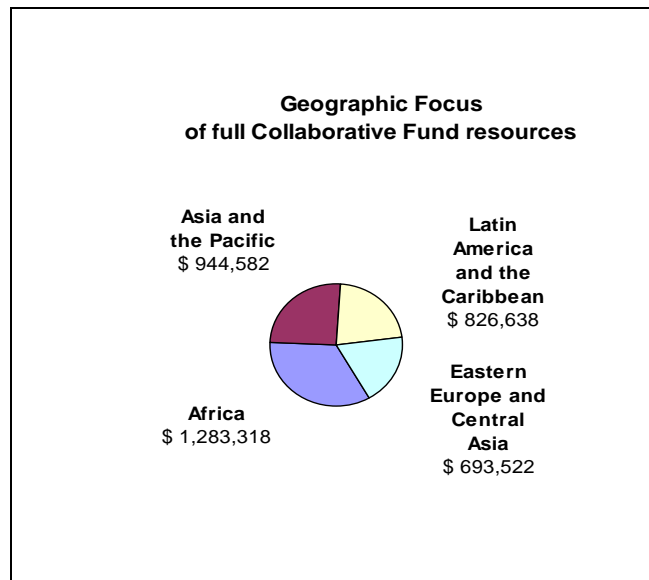
- Thai Treatment Action Group
- Treatment Action Group (South Africa)
- International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)
- Vivo Positivo (Chile)
- European AIDS Treatment Group
- Indian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Central/Eastern European Harm Reduction Network
- Jamaican Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Podruga (Kyrgyzstan)
- AIDS Care China
- Gay Men's Health Crisis (U.S.)
- Zimbabweans Against HIV/AIDS
- Lumiere Action (Cote d'Ivoire)

### A Global Infrastructure for HIV Treatment Advocacy and Education

The Collaborative Fund provides funding in eight funding regions:

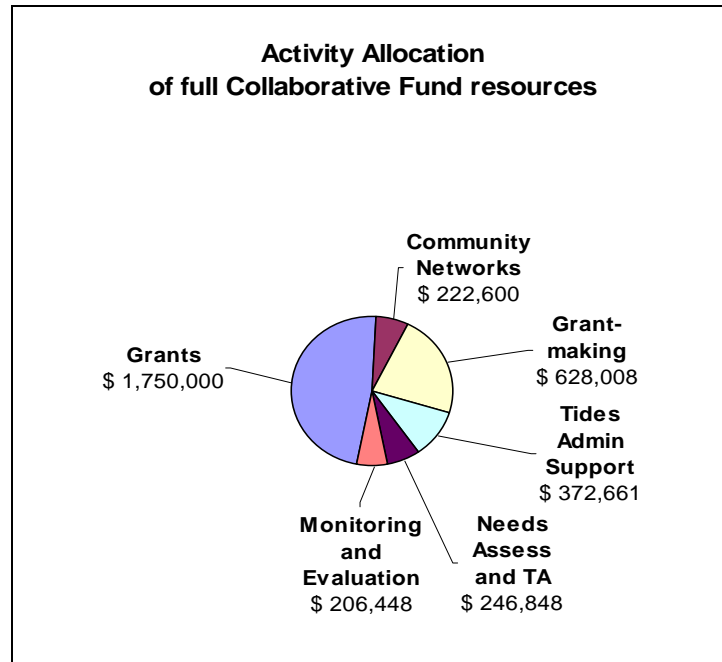
- Southern Africa
- West Africa
- East Africa
- Southeast Asia (includes China at this time)
- South Asia
- Caribbean
- Latin America
- Eastern Europe/Central Asia (limited to NIS countries at this time)

The following graph describes the allocation of funding by region through the end of 2005:



The program was initially piloted in Eastern Europe/Central Asia, where a second round of grant making was just completed and over \$400,000 has been distributed to date. Grant making activities are now also underway in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In each funding region, Community Review Panels, comprised of leading community-based treatment advocates and educators, set funding priorities and select grant applications for funding. Support is also provided for regional networks that facilitate the dissemination of treatment information and education approaches, develop joint advocacy strategies, and provide technical assistance to grantees. The graph below describes funding allocations for different Collaborative Fund activities through the end of 2005. Approximately 85% of all funds are spent within the funding regions.



Each Community Review Panel develops policies to ensure transparency in its funding process, protect against conflicts of interest, and to gain input from the communities they represent. In each region, local and/or regional organizations are selected to coordinate activities in their respective regions. All planning bodies and review panels are led by people living with HIV/AIDS and include a geographically diverse group of people affected by HIV in their regions, including drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men and other affected groups. The majority of participants in these bodies are women. Organizations coordinating Collaborative Fund activities include:

- Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM)
- Positive Movement (Belarus)
- Blue Diamond Society (Nepal)
- Asian-Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- AIDS Action Foundation (St. Lucia)
- Latin American Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RED LA+)

## **A Growing Collaboration of Donors**

Tides Foundation, a U.S.-based public charity, serves as the administrator of the Collaborative Fund. Tides has more than 25 years of experience as a funder of grassroots peer-reviewed grantmaking in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, public health, international development, and community development. Tides has significant experience in the development and administration of collaborative funds that bring multiple donors together to support community-based funding mechanisms.

Under Tides Foundation administration, the Collaborative Fund can already claim several major accomplishments:

- successful mobilization of more than \$3.4 million in funding, more than 90% of its targeted budget for global HIV treatment preparedness in 2004-2005,
- rapid, efficient, responsible and equitable global allocation of that funding, and
- fulfillment of high standards for diversity, accountability and international transparency in all of its work.

In July 2004, the WHO announced funding for treatment preparedness activities through its Preparing for Treatment Program. Through a competitive bidding process in which 130 applications were submitted, the Collaborative Fund became the first and sole recipient of these funds, signing a contract for a total of \$1 million dollars for treatment preparedness activities in all eight funding regions in 2004-2005.

Having raised core funding for operations in every region of the world in 2004-2005, the Collaborative Fund is now poised for further growth through inclusion of additional funding partners. An impressive and growing list of funders are now supporting the Collaborative Fund, recognizing the value of an established and proven mechanism to direct HIV/AIDS funding to community-guided grants in any region of the world in 2005 and 2006. Current collaborative funders include:

- **AIDS Fonds Netherlands** – Currently providing support for Eastern European activities and plans to expand support for other regions in 2005.
- **American Jewish World Services** – Providing support for activities in Southern Africa.
- **Ford Foundation** – Providing support for activities in Russia.
- **Gargarin Family Trust** – Providing support for activities in Russia.
- **Open Society Institute** – Now in its second year of funding for Eastern Europe.
- **Overbrook Foundation** – Providing support for activities in Southern Africa.
- **Pfizer Foundation** – Now in its second year of funding for activities in the Caribbean and Eastern Europe.
- **Rockefeller Foundation** – Funding activities in Southeast Asia and Africa.
- **Stephen Lewis Foundation** – Providing support for activities in Africa.
- **UNAIDS** – Providing support for workshops in South Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.
- **Wellspring Advisors** – Funding Collaborative Fund activities in South and Southeast Asia.

Tides Foundation and the partners of the Collaborative Fund are now engaging in conversation with a large number of new potential funding partners to realize full funding for grantmaking activities in all eight global regions for 2006.