

Intersecting Pandemics

2021/2022 Year in Review



the
Stephen Lewis
FOUNDATION





Meg French,
Executive Director

It's difficult to believe that it has been almost three years since the COVID-19 pandemic first created disruption around the world. And while we still come to terms with how it has upended our lives, we must not forget that millions of people continue to be affected by another pandemic: HIV and AIDS. For our community-led partners in sub-Saharan Africa, who had already been working for decades to respond to HIV and AIDS, the new health threat of COVID-19 also created shock and uncertainty. But very quickly these organizations, with their deep expertise, ingenuity, and resolve, rallied to respond to intersecting pandemics.

Through every wave of COVID-19 we have worked alongside them, and thanks to our donors, we continue to provide flexible support tailored to communities' unique needs. The SLF is founded on the belief that communities have the expertise to dismantle the root causes of pandemics. The value of this model was never more apparent than in recent years, when our tireless partners battled against personal loss, lockdowns, fear, and misinformation to continue their work. I'm inspired by their commitment to health, security, and justice for their communities and, as you read stories about their impact, I know you will be too.

I am also inspired by the solidarity of Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign members, monthly donors, individuals, unions, foundations, and businesses. Their unwavering commitment to community-led responses to HIV has allowed the SLF to continue to provide the resources our partners need to address the rising incidents of domestic violence and teen pregnancy, loss of food and income faced by grandmothers and the children they care for, and the increased discrimination and violence experienced by LGBTIQ people resulting from COVID-19. Never has flexible funding been more important.

While COVID-19 once again laid bare disparities in global health, it has also strengthened our resolve to create a more equitable and just future. As the SLF enters our 20th year, we hope you will join us in celebrating the progress that has been made toward ending AIDS, while renewing your commitment to cutting off the inequities that drive pandemics.

In solidarity,

“

I am proud of the fierce determination of the Foundation to maintain its focus on the worst pandemic we've ever had. No matter how tough things get, whether it's economic crisis, or COVID-19, or international conflict, the Foundation doesn't swerve for a moment. It just keeps its head down, keeps fighting, and keeps listening to the people who it is attempting to help. It is a narrative of human devotion and determination that we never gave up and will not give up to this day.



Stephen Lewis
Co-Founder and Co-Chair,
Board of Directors

VISION

An equitable and just world where all people's right to health is realized.

MISSION

We deliver funds and other resources directly to community-led organizations who are leading responses to HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. These organizations empower women and girls, grandmothers, orphaned and vulnerable children, LGBTIQ communities, and people living with HIV.

We advocate for global health and philanthropic communities to engage in partnering, fundraising, and international development that shifts power to community-led organizations, and dismantles the inequalities driving the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Our Impact

The collective impact of the SLF's partnerships is spread across

122 community-led organizations in

15 countries.

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We appreciate the fruitful partnership, charity, and compassion of the SLF. Though COVID-19 has swept us back to the ground, we believe we will rise again.

— Kared Fod Women Development Programme, Kenya



In 2021, you helped us reach people through six areas of work:

Grandmothers

25,599

grandmothers participated in income-generating activities

49,872

grandmothers took part in support groups

Over

100,000

caregivers, including

40,000

grandmothers received caregiving support, such as: parenting while living with HIV and AIDS; promoting HIV literacy with school councils; entrepreneurship and microfinancing; counselling to manage stress and anger; and conflict resolution

22 organizations in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Namibia rebuilt or improved

200

homes, including over 100 headed by grandmothers



Ending violence against women and girls

19

SLF partner organizations supported almost

1100

women and children to escape violence and access shelter

13

partner organizations

provided women with legal support, including obtaining court orders, preparing for court proceedings, and referral to paralegals

This resulted in prison sentences or protection orders issued against

60 offenders





Children and young people

38,000

children and young people were reached through peer support groups by

57

partner organizations who covered topics such as: HIV prevention education, HIV disclosure, managing stigma and discrimination, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and nutrition



Home-based care

More than **100,000** clients were reached through frequent **home-based care** visits, providing services such as: health education, HIV testing and support for antiretroviral treatment, post-partum support, nutrition support, personal care support, and vaccinations. Of these clients, approximately

13%

were children and teens and

87%

were adults



Health and human rights for LGBTIQ communities

Over

40,000

people were reached by

15

LGBTIQ organizations with health care, nutrition support, education and training, access to justice, human rights advocacy, COVID-19 support, and organizational strengthening



140,000

people were reached through different forms of **psychosocial support**

This includes support for staying on HIV medication, group and individual counselling, drug and substance abuse counselling, home-based health care support, monthly teen club meetings, play therapy, life skills programs, music and art therapy sessions, bereavement counselling, and support for those affected by COVID-19

Positive living

Over

260,000

people received HIV counselling and **testing services**. Almost 20,000 tested positive, and

64%

were women and girls

76%

of all clients are currently **adhering to antiretroviral** therapy as a result of holistic support



2021–2024 Strategic Plan

In 2021, we embarked on a three-year strategic plan to increase our support of our community-led partners in countries across sub-Saharan Africa. Envisioning the plan during COVID-19 lockdowns, both in Canada and countries where our partners work, provided a sobering reminder of the precariousness of advances in global health, including four decades of work to end AIDS.

HIV and AIDS remain a public health emergency with devastating impacts, disproportionately affecting adolescent girls and young women, vulnerable children, grandmothers, and LGBTIQ communities. In creating this strategic plan, we were guided by the expertise of our partner organizations, our donors, board members, and staff. Their ideas informed a way forward that will continue to provide communities with the funding they need to support people whose daily lives are affected by this disease.

As a progressive feminist foundation based in Canada, our strategic plan also commits to the learning and unlearning that is necessary to work in solidarity with our grassroots partners. Anti-oppression, anti-racist, and anti-colonial values guide our work, but we recognize that our very existence is a result of colonialism, and therefore we must be open to new perspectives and criticism as we fight for justice for all people and an end to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Our Four Strategic Directions



Strengthening and expanding our relationships with community-led organizations

We advance progressive relationships with community-led organizations in sub-Saharan Africa through mutual learning, meaningful engagement, open communication, and an increase in flexible resources to support growth.



Championing the power of progressive partnerships with community-led organizations

We advocate for systemic change in philanthropic and international development sectors through an intersectional feminist, anticolonial, anti-racist, rights-based approach.



Nurturing a thoughtful, feminist organizational culture

We consistently co-create a resilient organizational culture among staff, board members, volunteers and consultants, equally empowering all to flourish in their role.



Cultivating a thriving and engaged supporter base

We invest in and invite supporters to bolster the important work of the SLF and our partners, through sharing the achievements that their donations support.

Strengthening and expanding our relationships with community-led organizations

When multiple waves of COVID-19 swept through nations in sub-Saharan Africa, our community partners experienced loss of life and health, restrictions on movement, and social unrest, all while living with the lowest access to COVID-19 vaccines in the world. Lockdowns created barriers to HIV testing and treatment; interrupted access to condoms, lubricant, and PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis); and disconnected people from in-person counselling and support groups.

Children normally supported with access to education were shut out of school, and people whose livelihoods relied on access to in-person markets lost incomes. With drop-in centres closed, members of LGBTIQ communities were forced to return to families who often rejected their identities, sometimes in rural areas where discrimination runs high and stigma-free health care doesn't exist. As with HIV and AIDS, the impact of COVID-19 is gendered, and isolation created by lockdowns led to a spike in sexual violence, teenage pregnancies, and early marriage.

Community-led organizations' staff and volunteers, who were themselves battling COVID-19 infections, and in some cases tragically losing loved ones, put themselves at great risk to ensure that progress made in the response to HIV and AIDS was not completely eclipsed by COVID-19. With the support of additional COVID-19 funding from the SLF, they harnessed the depth of their community connections and expertise to mobilize emergency food support, distribute masks, wash basins, and sanitizer, and dispel myths about the coronavirus and vaccines.

With an urgent need for virtual services, they pivoted to counselling by phone, online, and through apps. When public transportation halted, they turned to social media and radio to reach people, and delivered food and personal protective equipment (PPE) by foot and on motorcycle. When they saw an increase in stress and trauma caused by the pandemic, they adapted mental health and well-being programs.

Finally, when COVID-19 vaccines became available in the Global South, they registered people for vaccinations and ran clinics. Despite the logistical barriers, personal and organizational losses, and stretched resources, the 122 partner organizations we support remained a vital lifeline for their communities, persevering to restore hope, reclaim human rights, fight injustice, and save lives.

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We would like to thank the Foundation for their continued support: financially, emotionally, and with education. This year it wasn't easy to cope with COVID-19 but you were there to motivate and encourage us.

– Umtha Welanga, South Africa



Empowering young South Africans with virtual HIV counselling

When strict COVID-19 lockdowns had immediate and dangerous impacts for communities in Durban, South Africa, Blue Roof Life Space knew they had to take their vital youth-focused HIV programming online. "Everything happened so fast," remembers Hombisa Ntsikanye from Blue Roof. "Everything was a shock, in our work and also the country as a whole."

In South Africa, home to one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, community-led organizations like Blue Roof are the heartbeat behind life-saving HIV interventions for young people and their families. Six thousand people take part in their multi-disciplinary programming each year, and more than 200 young people living with HIV rely on their youth-friendly in-person clinics. And while South Africa is seeing a gradual decline in HIV transmission rates overall, young people are acquiring the virus at an alarming rate, especially adolescent girls. Finding, testing, and linking young people to treatment from a distance hit peak urgency during lockdowns.

With funding from the SLF, Blue Roof fast-tracked a pilot for a digital platform: Talk, Test, Treat. People can access age-appropriate and reliable advice on mobile phones, at home or from internet cafes, get a self-screening kit, watch how-to videos, and link to treatment and counselling through a coordinated referral system. Blue Roof is finding new ways to help young people overcome barriers, take control of their futures, and build thriving communities, because the worst HIV status to have is 'unknown.'

Hombisa Ntsikanye/Blue Roof Life Space



Photo Credit: Blue Roof Life Space



Home-based care for Ugandan students and their grandmothers



Photo Credit: nyakaglobal.org

When COVID-19 lockdowns suddenly disrupted life in rural Uganda, where SLF partner Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project operates schools for children who have lost their parents to AIDS-related illnesses, the organization found itself pivoting to being a provider of home-based care.

Children who normally boarded at school were suddenly without food and health care. When national borders closed, grandmothers whose gardens were in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo were cut off from their food source. But thanks to uninterrupted funding from international donors, including the SLF, Nyaka continued to support students and their families during two years of lockdowns. Nyaka staff delivered food, school supplies, masks, soap, sanitizer, and COVID-19 information on motorcycles, to cover the vast, rural area where students live.

Nyaka staff provided COVID-19 education to grandmothers whose long history with the organization had built an unshakable trust. They translated government-issued COVID-19 materials from English to local languages. The school's clinic, designed to treat students with coughs, colds, malaria, and antiretroviral medication for students living with HIV, suddenly had to prepare for vaccinations. Nyaka brought in graduates who'd gone on to nursing and medical school for their support, and when vaccines became available, Nyaka grandmothers were first in line. Nyaka's founder Twesigye Jackson Kaguri knew the organization's twenty years of work in the community had built a solid foundation on which they could respond to this new pandemic. "I've always told people," he says, "when you empower communities, they will be there for themselves."

Rebuilding grandmothers' lives in rural Zimbabwe



In 2021, grandmothers supported by SLF partner Midland AIDS Service Organization, or MASO, started to recover from the devastation of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe. Women who normally rely on selling local products for an income had seen their savings dry up through lockdowns, and with no national social security program to rely on, they worried about their survival. They were carrying the stress of seeing a rise in drug use, sexual abuse, and unplanned pregnancies among the grandchildren in their care, who were also not allowed to travel or leave home. Many grandmothers who'd already lost family members to the HIV pandemic were now losing family to COVID-19, including a grandmother named Gladys Win. The 60-year-old, who is living with HIV, raised her nieces and nephews after her sister died of AIDS-related complications. Tragically, Gladys also lost a daughter to COVID-19.

Amid so much turmoil, MASO staff remained committed to the grandmothers. With the help of emergency funding from the SLF, they delivered masks, sanitizer, and food parcels to homes, and pamphlets to counter misinformation about COVID-19. Today, with MASO's support, Gladys and others are returning to their in-person support groups that help provide the strength to continue raising multiple generations, and the skills to earn an income. They have started a savings and loan collective where grandmothers pool funds for groceries to help counteract fluctuating prices in Zimbabwe's unstable economy, and they learn income-generating skills such as chicken rearing, gardening, and craft work.

After a difficult two years, as her community continues to recover, Gladys can finally say, "I feel like I have my life back."



Photo Credit: Siyano Photography

Out of the shadows: reaching sex workers under curfew in Kenya



Photo Credit: Wambui Gathee

For sex workers in Nairobi's informal settlements, government-imposed dusk-to-dawn curfews during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic were more than an inconvenience; they stole women's livelihoods. The 19,000 sex workers supported by SLF partner Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Programme, or BHESP, were forced to find alternate places to meet clients, often working in the shadows at risk of violence and arrest.

For the 8,000 workers BHESP serves who are living with HIV, disruption turned to despair. The government lengthened wait times between deliveries of antiretroviral medication, leaving many in fear of not receiving their treatment. Access to condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, critical tools in HIV prevention for sex workers, was limited. Some women chose to return to their homes in rural areas, which meant relying on government health facilities where stigma against women doing sex work runs high. Government aid packages that included emergency funds and rent relief did not include sex work, which is widespread but criminalized in Kenya.

With limited access to BHESP's four drop-in centres, staff found alternate ways to provide essential services. They delivered medication to people's homes on motorcycles, and partnered with local bars to distribute medication outside of curfews. Zoom and WhatsApp became meeting spaces for mental health support, and workers could call BHESP for support and reverse the charges. For women who'd retreated to rural areas, BHESP staff would locate health care facilities that provided sex worker-friendly services. Despite the many barriers, BHESP found ways to continue their peer-led services for the thousands of sex workers they serve, guided by their mantra, "Nothing about us, without us."

Back to class after world's longest lockdowns in Uganda



On January 10, 2022, when millions of Ugandan children returned to school after COVID-19 lockdowns, SLF partner St. Francis Health Care Services was ready. St. Francis staff ensured schools fees were paid, bought uniforms and books, and sent village health teams door-to-door to verify how many children were returning. While children in urban areas might have benefitted from government lessons provided through radio and newspapers during lockdown, the 300 rural primary students St. Francis supports had received no formal education in two years.

Lockdowns had taken a toll on the families, 30 per cent of whom are headed by subsistence farmers already struggling with food and financial insecurity. St. Francis' programs teams feared that after two years away from school, and with a taste of the small income that comes from casual labour, some families would choose to keep their children at home to work. Others, headed by grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren, sent them to live with other relatives for support.

For girls who missed two years of the security and meals that school provides there was another challenge: the lure of predatory older men who promised them a path out of poverty, and St. Francis health teams saw an increase in teenage pregnancies during lockdown. St. Francis monitored attendance records and worked with officials to create safe spaces for students who needed them, including girls who might need to breastfeed. Thanks to St. Francis' persistence, about 94% of students returned to school. After the world's longest COVID-19 shutdown, St. Francis laid the groundwork for a well-supported transition back to the classroom.





Fleeing hate in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Photo Credit: Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko

In March 2022, J r mie Safari, executive director at SLF partner Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko, or RSM, noticed an unsettling presence outside her house: police. As the leader of an organization that supports LGBTIQ people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, J r mie is no stranger to threats from authorities.

But this time the threat didn't pass. J r mie was soon summoned to court, accused on a hate-fuelled charge of "recruiting people into homosexuality." Wary of neighbourhood vigilantes, J r mie went into hiding while her lawyer, a defender of LGBTIQ human rights, appeared in court on her behalf. Despite homosexuality being legal in the DRC, the country's penal code is routinely used to criminalize community members under public decency laws. LGBTIQ lives are not widely accepted, and are commonly thought to be linked to witchcraft and mental illness.

J r mie's lawyer successfully argued to the court that RSM is an organization serving vulnerable people living with HIV, not an association to recruit people into homosexuality. But authorities continued to look for J r mie, who was forced into hiding for months while her lawyer looked for a resolution to the charges. Finally, with the help of emergency funding from the SLF to cover legal fees, J r mie's lawyer successfully argued her case and the charges were dropped. Today J r mie continues to lead the work at RSM while staying vigilant about her and her colleagues' safety. "Activism is very important to me," she says. "I really care about my fellow human beings who are victims of rights violations every day. I have made it my goal to defend their rights, our rights."

Championing the power of progressive partnerships with community-led organizations

This year, as part of our strategic plan, and drawing on our 20 years' experience in challenging traditional colonial power structures in international development, we advocated for changes in philanthropy to shift resources into the hands of local communities.

We released *Investing in Healing, Health, and Hope*, a call to action for HIV funders to commit to concrete steps toward decolonizing funding practices. Through the lens of five anti-colonial funding principles, we advocated for changes in conventional models of philanthropy and international development that devalue communities' expertise and ignore the systemic racism and colonial influences that are embedded in top-down funding practices.

The report was the culmination of conversations with community-led organizations in sub-Saharan Africa and some of their global HIV funders, and we launched it at an event affiliated with the 24th International AIDS Conference that took place in Montreal, Canada, in July 2022.

Read *Investing in Healing, Health, and Hope*.

At the International AIDS Conference, we co-hosted a gathering of foundations and other philanthropic HIV



SLF Director of Programs Leah Teklemariam and Board of Directors member Vuyiseka Dubula-Majola at the launch of *Investing in Healing, Health, and Hope*



SLF Executive Director Meg French speaks at a reception at the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada

funders, where we reiterated our call to action. The message we heard from HIV leaders was clear: the AIDS response must prioritize the needs and expertise of the Global South.

Many representatives of our African partner organizations were also in Montreal. In front of a global audience, these activists, leaders, and experts shared their first-hand experience delivering effective HIV programming. We were thrilled to once again connect in person.

Juliane Etima, Ruth Awori, Josephine Nabukenya, Dr. Brenda Gati-Mirembe (MU-JHU Care Limited, Uganda)



Nurturing a thoughtful, feminist organizational culture

Values

The Stephen Lewis Foundation is a feminist organization rooted in the principles of anti-colonialism and anti-racism. Our values reflect how these principles are expressed in our work, and in our relationships with partners, donors, and supporters.

Solidarity	Optimism	Anti-oppression
We are united with all who pursue justice in the HIV movement, including our African community-led partners whose expertise is critical to ending the pandemic, and with other justice-seeking movements working for a more equitable world.	We celebrate the generosity and purpose that drives our work and the joy of its impact.	We recognize the existence of systemic oppression, including the criminalization of people living with HIV and those within the LGBTIQ communities, and work toward the liberation, freedom, and realization of the rights of all people. We honour people’s lived experiences and unique identities.
Courage	Respect	Accountability
We are defiant in the face of inequitable power structures and bring creativity, vulnerability, and strength to our work.	We value contributions from our partners, supporters, and each other, and actively cultivate relationships of mutual trust.	We meet our responsibilities, are transparent in our actions, and commit to ongoing learning and self-reflection.

Racial Equity

This year, the SLF embarked on a racial equity journey to further understand our role in the oppressive systems that lead to racial inequality. We established a staff-led Racial Equity Working Group that leads the SLF in learning and unlearning the systems that contribute to racial injustice. Through this lens, we are examining our policies and procedures to ensure those learnings are incorporated into our day-to-day work. Finally, we are committed to keeping staff engaged on this journey by creating safe spaces for racialized staff to meet, and attending events such as Future of Good’s Black Leadership in Social Impact Summit.

Truth and Reconciliation

The SLF is committed to a journey of truth and reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the oppressive systems that have perpetuated a legacy of racism, intergenerational trauma, and structural inequality in Canada, and the impact that legacy has on disproportionate rates of HIV affecting Indigenous communities. This year, SLF staff collectively enrolled in the University of Alberta's online Indigenous Canada course to further our understanding of the history and contemporary realities of Indigenous peoples in Canada.



Living Wage Employer

In reflection of our values as a feminist organization committed to social justice, the SLF became a certified living wage employer. This means we compensate staff with a wage that reflects what people need to live in Toronto, Canada, where our office is located, as outlined by the Ontario Living Wage Network. This is one way we are building a strong, equity-focused organization with dedicated staff who can continue to fulfill our commitments to our African partners.



Cultivating a thriving and engaged supporter base

Your donations are helping our partners dismantle deeply entrenched inequalities and reach people too often overlooked. This is demanding work, fuelled by a passion for and commitment to their communities. But that determination must be matched with resources, and we are deeply grateful for your generous commitment to walk hand in hand with them toward ending AIDS. Thank you.



Partners in Pride

In Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the SLF's Partners in Pride campaign supports 15 LGBTIQ organizations who are standing up for health and human rights in communities that are denied both. Thank you for joining us as we commit to raising \$1 million a year in support of their work.

Being subjected to criminalization, political and social persecution, and pervasive homophobia and transphobia puts members of LGBTIQ communities at significantly higher risk of HIV. The human rights defenders leading these organizations put their safety on the line to provide health care, nutrition, education and training, access to justice, and human rights advocacy.

Their work is made possible by loyal SLF donors like Doug Stollery, a long-time Partners in Pride supporter who is moved by their courage. "Human rights are human rights," says Doug. "Human rights are not a local issue. Human rights are an international issue. We all have a responsibility to help to ensure that every human being in the world has the basic rights that we should all have."

In 2021, the SLF deepened its commitment to LGBTIQ human rights defenders by launching *The Right to Health and Healing*, a campaign in support of six Kenyan and Ugandan organizations to increase access to quality mental health and well-being programs for LGBTIQ communities. LGBTIQ leaders and the communities they represent consistently face direct and vicarious trauma with little or no access to meaningful mental-health care. This project, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, in partnership with Equitas and the Dignity Network, will help protect their fundamental right to mental health.

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign



For more than 15 years, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign has championed the power and tenacity of grandmothers and grandmothers across borders. It has forged deep connections between continents and within individual communities, and provided a meeting place where women can inspire and embolden one another. It's a unique model of solidarity that raises a remarkable \$2 million every year for the SLF.

In 2021, as African grandmothers persevered through COVID-19 restrictions, grandmothers groups in Canada also found innovative ways to connect, mobilize, and fundraise. Undaunted by new technology and logistics, the campaign's 10,000 members were a force, organizing virtual events and online marketplaces. Once again, they showed a deep commitment to supporting African grandmothers raising a generation who lost their parents to AIDS-related illnesses.

Events like Stride to Turn the Tide, a fundraiser fuelled by everything from running and biking to gardening, went online. When it was safe, striders returned outdoors, including the Quinte Grannies in Belleville, Ontario. For 101-year-old Win Perryman, a 16-year veteran of the Campaign and one of the Quinte Grannies' founders, support for the SLF is part of her lifelong commitment to creating a more equal world. "We all, wherever we happen to live, have to promote social justice," she says. "Not just in our own country, but all around the world, and hopefully things will change."

Bernice Hassay and Win Perryman, Quinte Grannies

Greater Van Gogos' Solidarity Cycle, 2022



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Photo Credit: Louise Coultas



Photo Credit: Paula Simson



Photo Credit: Paula Simson

Give a Day

Give a Day is a grassroots movement that brings together co-workers with a common purpose to raise funds for the SLF's community-led partners. In the spirit of 'One day's pay can change a life,' generous donors show their collective commitment to ending AIDS by fundraising with colleagues throughout November, and giving the equivalent of one day's pay on December 1, World AIDS Day. This inspiring team-building campaign has raised over \$5.3 million since 2004 and branched out to Give a Night, a campaign led by articling students who understand the value of demonstrating their commitment to ending AIDS in a tangible way.

Give a Day's success lies with champions like Michael Fekete, partner at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, who is inspired by the SLF's innovative and transformative model of international development. "It's a brilliant model for supporting people on the ground in local communities," he says, noting that communities are working not just to end AIDS, but for social justice and equality. "Fundamentally, the Foundation is about bottom-up development and capacity building and resilience ... I just think it's incredibly powerful."



Borden Ladner Gervais held a "Pie A Lawyer" event to raise funds for Give a Night



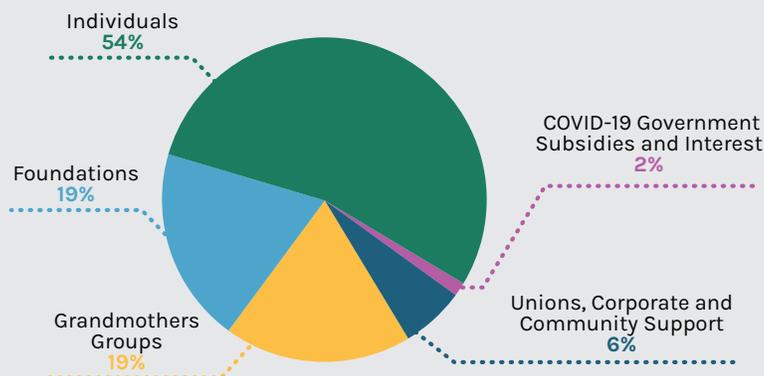
Photo Credit: Alanna Wallace

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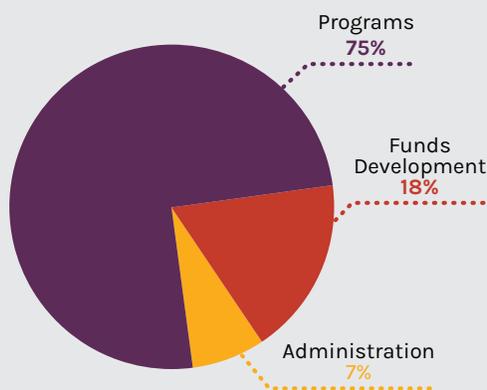
Financial Accountability

From July 2021–June 2022 the Stephen Lewis Foundation raised \$9.4 million dollars in support of 122 organizations in 15 countries, bringing our total fundraising since 2003 to more than \$183 million.

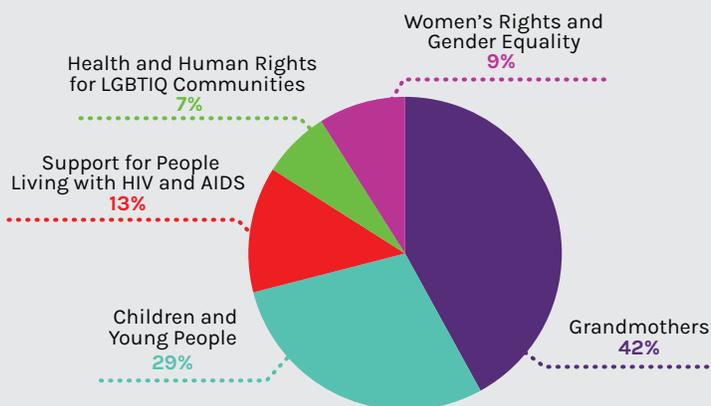
Where our support comes from:



Where your money goes:



Our programs support by area of work:



Programs

We are committed to delivering sustainable, impactful funding to our African partners and advocating for greater investment in their work. In 2021–2022, more than \$8.1 million was spent in supporting the work of our partners, representing 75% of total expenses for the year.

Administration

Costs associated with day-to-day operations ensure a strong infrastructure for the SLF, and accountability for how the funds we raise are allocated. In 2021–2022, our administrative costs were 7% of our total spending.

Funds Development

In keeping with our 2021–2024 strategic plan, we have strengthened our fundraising capacity to ensure we can continue to grow our support for the innovative programming developed by our African partners. This past year our fundraising costs were 18% of total spending.

For a copy of the SLF's full audited financial statements and the link to our annual Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) charity returns, please visit: stephenlewisfoundation.org/who-we-are/financials

The SLF's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.



In 2022 we renewed our accreditation with the Imagine Canada Standards Program for demonstrated excellence in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff management, and volunteer involvement.



Photo Credit: Siyano Photography/Midlands AIDS Service Organization

**With your support,
we can dismantle
inequality and
create a future free
from AIDS.**

**Join us, as we cut
the HIV pandemic
off its roots.**

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