# Impact Report 2024

Stephen Lewis Foundation



# A Year of Impact

## Reaching Millions Through Grassroots Partnerships

In 2024, the Stephen Lewis Foundation stood shoulder-to-shoulder with community-led organizations across Africa as they led bold, effective responses to HIV and its root causes. These partners provided critical care, connection and advocacy for the communities most impacted by HIV, often in the face of shrinking resources.

**In 2024**

**98** community-led organizations were supported across 14 countries.

**41%** of our partners relied on the SLF as their sole or primary funder.

**47%** of our partners shared that SLF funding supports areas of work other funders do not.

**More than 2.1 million** people were reached through community-led programs.




Photo Credit: Eva Gilliam/CHRR/Malawi

Catherine Eltoni Lungu at her barbershop business in Malawi. She is a member of a village savings and loans group and a small-business grant recipient through SLF partner Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR).

# Community-Led Solutions

Across Africa, SLF partners are confronting the challenges of HIV and its far-reaching impacts with determination and creativity. Our support spans six key areas: supporting children and young people, empowering grandmothers, providing home-based care, improving health and well-being for people living with HIV, ending violence against women and girls, and promoting the health and human rights of LGBTIQ communities.

In the communities where SLF partners work, the average adherence rate to antiretroviral treatment for HIV often exceeds national averages. This success stems from understanding a community's specific needs and priorities, meaningful and supportive connections with peers living with HIV, addressing stigma and other barriers to treatment, and reaching community members who may be missed by national health care systems. SLF partners provide services and support for their communities that are rooted in dignity and respect.

At the same time, climate change is an urgent and growing reality that touches every aspect of our partners' work. Floods, droughts and extreme weather disrupt health services and livelihoods and intensify existing challenges, making the leadership and sustainability of our partners even more vital for building resilient communities.

Here, we are sharing just a few examples of how community-led organizations are adapting to new realities, meeting urgent needs and creating strong foundations for a healthier, more equitable future.

## Impact Snapshot: By the Numbers

### HIV and SRHR

**761,956** people reached with HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights services by **87%** of SLF partners.

### Safety and protection

**266,431** survivors of violence were protected and supported, of which **166,870** were women and girls.

### Human rights

**300,070** had strengthened human rights protections through education and services.

### Economic empowerment

**123,430** supported with economic empowerment programs, of which **36%** are grandmothers.

## Health and well-being

**766,818** accessed services supporting physical and mental health and well-being, of which more than **34%** are children and youth.

## LGBTIQ health and rights

More than **128,905** LGBTIQ community members were reached with vital health and well-being supports, including HIV services.

**77,518** accessed information and support to defend their human rights.

## Nutrition support

**18,585** people living with HIV had improved access to nutrition, which is required for adherence to HIV treatment.

## Climate change

**231,996** received support to increase climate change resilience in relation to food, income and housing security necessary for effective responses to HIV.

## Education

**204,270** community members accessed education programs.

**134,030** children were supported to complete primary or secondary school.

## About partners

**71%** of SLF partners are primarily led by women and people living with HIV.

# Power in True Partnership

94% of SLF partners identified their partnership with the SLF as contributing to a sense of participating in a movement that extends beyond their own organization. Together we champion health and human rights as part of the global HIV response.

> *Our relationship with the SLF is most meaningful because of the commitment to true partnership rather than traditional donor-recipient dynamics. [The SLF's] approach emphasizes mutual respect, open communication, and shared decision-making, which empowers our leadership team and strengthens our organizational autonomy. Your understanding of our local context and challenges has fostered trust and enabled more responsive, effective interventions.*
>
> *– Angelina Tembo Girls' School (ATGS), Zambia*

> *The SLF has been a longstanding partner for nearly two decades. Through this partnership, we've been able to make a significant impact, especially in the lives of many grandmothers. The SLF has been a key reason DFT is surviving today, especially during challenging times.... We are truly speechless about the strength of our partnership and the lasting difference it has made in the communities we serve, particularly in [responding to the HIV epidemic] and supporting grandmothers.*
>
> *– Developing Families Together (DFT), Ethiopia*

> *The SLF is commited to grassroots, community-driven solutions for social justice, particularly in areas of the HIV response, gender equality, and feminist movement building. Unlike many donors, the SLF provides core funding that allows organizations to respond to the real needs of communities rather than restrictive project-based funding. The SLF aligns with our core feminist principles [amplifying] the voices of women and grassroots voices, empowering women and strengthening them economically.*
>
> *– Kared Fod Women Development Programme (KAWODEP), Kenya*

> *Our relationship with the SLF is especially meaningful to Icebreakers Uganda as it helps empower marginalized communities, particularly the LGBTQ+ community, in addressing HIV and AIDS. The support we receive from the SLF not only provides essential funding but also offers valuable resources such as capacity building, advocacy, and networking opportunities. This allows us to build sustainable programs and advocate effectively for the rights and well-being of our community.*
>
> *– Icebreakers Uganda (IBU), Uganda*

# SLF Partners Are at the Heart of the HIV Response

## *Supporting Children and Young People*

## *St. Francis Health Care Services, Uganda*

Young people are not just the future of HIV responses, they are leading them today. At St. Francis Health Care Services in Uganda, youth-led initiatives like the *Young Positives Club* and *Shadow Idol Youth Club* provide safe spaces for adolescents living with HIV to connect and receive mentorship on reproductive health, mental wellness, leadership and career skills.

Youth club members use music, dance and drama to challenge stigma and educate the wider community about HIV. Trained peer educators extend this impact through school outreach and community dialogues, reaching thousands with life-saving and life-improving information on HIV, sexual health and gender equality.

Using digital tools, social media campaigns and creative outreach like soccer for mental health awareness, St. Francis is empowering a generation of youth champions who are breaking stigma and shaping healthier futures.




Photo Credit: St. Francis Health Care Services/Uganda

St. Francis Health Care Services works with children and adolescents in communities impacted by HIV to build strong foundations for the future generation of leaders.

## *Supporting Grandmothers & Children and Young People*

## *Hope Tariro Trust (HTT), Zimbabwe*

In Zimbabwe, tuberculosis (TB) is the second leading cause of severe illness and death, with 80% of cases linked to HIV. Because malnutrition weakens immunity and worsens outcomes for both HIV and TB, Hope Tariro Trust (HTT) addresses HIV, TB and food insecurity.

What began in 2008 as a single program has grown into a district-wide network reaching over 10,000 people across six wards of Masvingo district. HTT provides testing, treatment and education, while equipping families with seeds, tools and information on gardening and nutrition. Children and youth are supported through home visits, play-based learning, and camps that build confidence and resilience. Grandmothers, many who have stepped in to raise children after losing their own adult children to AIDS-related illnesses, receive psychosocial support, training in agroecology, and access to community gardens to grow healthy food for their families.




Children at Hope Tariro Trust (HTT)'s community garden learning how to plant and grow produce.

## *Delivering Vital Home-Based Care*

## *UMATU Karatu, Tanzania*

In rural Karatu, Tanzania, distance and cost often prevent people living with HIV from accessing health facilities. The result is disrupted treatment, declining health, and higher likelihood of HIV transmission.

UMATU Karatu is closing this gap by bringing care directly to their community members' homes. Mobile outreach teams and community health workers deliver antiretroviral treatment for HIV, provide health check-ups, and offer psychosocial support in homes and villages. UMATU Karatu's approach integrates traditional health practices and engages with community leaders to ensure their services are trusted, accessible and reach clients with dignity and equity where clinics can't.

## *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*

# *Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAVWOC), Malawi*

CAVWOC ensures that women and children in Malawi affected by HIV and gender-based violence receive protection, care and more equitable opportunities. CAVWOC provides safe spaces and counselling to survivors, health outreach and psychosocial care for women and children, and educational support to help girls stay in school. They also equip women with income-generating skills and support community savings and loans groups to help them become more economically empowered.

Volunteer early childhood educator **Gloria Nkoma** is one of the women making this work possible at a CAVWOC early childhood development centre in Blantyre. Through pre-primary learning, structured play, stimulation activities and daily meals, Gloria helps nurture children's cognitive and social growth, building strong foundations for healthy, hopeful futures.

Watch Gloria's story → **theslf.org/Gloria-Nkoma-CAVWOC-Malawi**



Photo Credit: Eva Gillam/CAVWOC/Malawi

Gloria Nkoma and her young students at a CAVWOC early childhood development centre in Malawi.

## *Access to Health Care for People Living with HIV*

## *Nancholi Youth Organization (NAYO), Malawi*

NAYO provides comprehensive health care and support in Blantyre, Malawi, with programs that include HIV prevention and treatment, women and children's health services, and outreach to reduce stigma and expand access to care. Their *Thanzi la Mwana ndi Mayi* program provides support through pregnancy and for children under five, so they can receive the health care they need for a strong start in life.

During her pregnancy, when 27-year-old **Chimwemwe Mkwamba** learned she was living with HIV, NAYO's treatment and Early Infant Diagnosis program helped her protect her own health and to access treatment to prevent transmission of the virus to her baby. Today, Chimwemwe shares her story as a peer volunteer, offering hope and guidance to other women living with HIV in her community.

Watch Chimwemwe's story → **theslf.org/Chimwemwe-Mkwamba-NAYO-Malawi**

> *I thought that the child was also going to be HIV positive, and I was so sad for her, thinking that she's going to have to go through everything that I'm going through. But my child is healthy thanks to the program... And here I am, strong.*
>
> *– Chimwemwe Mkwamba*



Photo Credit: Eva Gilliam/NAYO/Malawi

Chimwemwe Mkwamba with her baby, visiting Nancholi Youth Organization (NAYO)'s clinic.

# Championing health and human rights to end AIDS.



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IMAGINE CANADA

Front cover: Through PASADA, in Tanzania, Shada Mfugale learned to make soap, crafts and chili sauce to generate income. She also increased her knowledge in farming, business management and caring for people living with HIV. (Photo Credit: Neema Ngelime/PASADA/Tanzania).

Back cover: Grandmothers in Uganda are mobilizing for their rights, influencing policies that affect them, and through local action, part of a global grandmothers solidarity movement. (Photo Credit: Artmaid Pictures/Uganda).