

## The Stephen Lewis Foundation COVID-19 Appeal: Key Messages

We appreciate the outpouring of concern for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's community-based partner organizations and the grandmothers and grandchildren in their care.

These key messages outline the potential impact of the new coronavirus on the communities where our partner organizations are working, and the critical role our partners continue to play during the COVID-19 and AIDS pandemics. We hope they will be helpful in guiding conversations and communications with your supporters and communities.

Please reach out to the Grandmothers Campaign Team at [campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org](mailto:campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org) if you need support or additional information.

### **1. People affected by HIV and AIDS are particularly vulnerable to the new coronavirus and should not disproportionately suffer the impacts of COVID-19.**

- The strain of COVID-19 on under-resourced healthcare and support systems threatens to undermine decades of progress made in turning the tide of HIV and AIDS in Africa.
- Grandmothers and the children in their care must find ways to access food and healthcare while protecting their own health and safety.
- People living with HIV who must stay on treatment will be challenged to access medicines and food during times of self-isolation and restricted movement.

### **2. As COVID-19 spreads across sub-Saharan Africa, the SLF's community-based partners are best placed to protect and support the most vulnerable populations.**

- Grassroots organizations have the established networks of care and trust needed to reach their community members.
- The SLF is particularly well placed to support grassroots responses, with current relationships with over 125 community-based partners who are already on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response and mechanisms in place to get funds directly to them, quickly and reliably.
- Their experience responding to the AIDS pandemic has given them the expertise, flexibility and creativity to respond to this crisis.

**3. The SLF launched a COVID-19 Appeal as donations are urgently needed to ensure these grassroots organizations can continue to provide critical services and outreach.**

- While we need to support vulnerable communities here at home, this is a global crisis that requires a global response.
- Vulnerable communities need and deserve our support, no matter where they live.

**4. Our grassroots partners, with limited resources, are already adapting and innovating to mitigate the potential devastation of two pandemics, COVID-19 and AIDS, but more support is needed.**

- SLF partners in sub-Saharan Africa are community experts in the 15 countries hit hardest by the AIDS pandemic.
- Our partners are working to provide access to water and soap for hand washing, food packages, HIV medications and care, and counselling.

**5. As an act of solidarity in this time of global vulnerability, please consider donating to the SLF COVID-19 Appeal at <http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/donate>.**

- The SLF is grateful for any donations, as we understand that these are difficult times for many people.
- Going to the SLF website is the easiest way to donate, particularly from home, but you can also make a credit card donation by phone at 1-888-203-9990, Ext. 0.