

2025

National Grants Programme Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





Africa REACH is an African-focused advocacy initiative committed to accelerating progress toward ending AIDS among children, adolescents and young people across the African continent. Working at the intersection of political leadership, community engagement and policy influence, Africa REACH enriches African-led accountability towards paediatric and maternal HIV goals on the continent; global and continental momentum for renewed efforts to end AIDS in children and young people in Africa; and a centralised support mechanism to ensure that political commitments and public attention are translated into meaningful and sustainable national level action.

Africa REACH's National Grants Programme is an essential mechanism through which the project advances its mission to renew political commitment, strengthen community leadership and catalyse action to end AIDS among children, adolescents, and young people in Africa. The programme is designed to support African-led, evidence-based advocacy initiatives that strengthen access to HIV prevention and treatment options, particularly for populations that continue to experience disproportionate vulnerability and systemic exclusion.

The 2025 grants cycle was implemented during a period of exceptional uncertainty in the global HIV response. In response to this moment, Africa REACH issued two Requests for Proposals (RFPs): one targeting new organisations and a second aimed at returning grantees with a demonstrated track record and compelling proposals for continued advocacy. The RFPs focused on strengthening advocacy for equitable access to injectable HIV prevention and injectable HIV treatment options, with an emphasis on community-led approaches, policy engagement, evidence generation, and sustainability beyond the grant period.

The call for proposals was launched in February 2025, with a submission deadline in March 2025, at a time when a global funding freeze was placing significant pressure on civil society organisations, health programmes, and advocacy efforts worldwide. Across Africa, organisations were grappling with constrained resources, paused funding streams, and uncertainty about institutional sustainability. This broader context shaped both the pace and scale of engagement with the grants process.

Africa REACH received a total of 22 eligible grant applications from organisations based in Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa, as well as proposals from previous grantees operating in other African countries (Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia and Cameroon). While this number was lower than in previous grants cycles that attracted several hundred applications, it reflected the realities of the funding environment at the time, rather than a decline in need or relevance. Many organisations were navigating institutional instability, staffing constraints, and shifting donor priorities, which likely affected their ability to develop and submit proposals within the timeframe.

Despite these challenges, the shortlisting and selection process moved forward in March 2025 with the support of the [Desmond Tutu Health Foundation](#). Proposals were [assessed based on](#) the strength of their advocacy approach, engagement with decision-

makers and communities, use of evidence, feasibility, and potential for sustained impact. Through this process, four organisations were selected for funding. Two new grantees were awarded grants: [The Aurum Institute](#) in South Africa and [ONG Alliance](#) in Côte d'Ivoire, both of which brought strong institutional capacity and policy engagement experience within their respective national contexts. In addition, two returning grantees were selected based on the quality and relevance of their proposals: [Technology for Inspiration Initiative \(InspireIT\)](#) from Nigeria and [Community Health Alliance Uganda \(CHAU\)](#) from Uganda. These organisations proposed advocacy initiatives that built on prior work, while responding to emerging gaps in access, awareness, and systems' readiness for injectable HIV prevention and treatment. Across all four grants, Africa REACH prioritised initiatives that linked community-level realities with national and sub-national policy processes. Grantees were supported to generate and use evidence, strengthen community literacy and leadership, engage policymakers and health system actors, and contribute to advocacy efforts to improve financing, service delivery, data use, and accountability. Collectively, the 2025 National Grants Programme sought not only to support individual organisational activities but to strengthen Africa REACH's broader advocacy agenda by grounding it in lived experience, locally generated evidence, and cross-country learning.



INTRODUCTION TO THE 2025 GRANTEES



The Aurum Institute (South Africa)

In South Africa, The Aurum Institute implemented an advocacy and communications-focused initiative aimed at strengthening public understanding and policy discourse around long-acting HIV prevention and treatment options. Operating within a country that continues to experience the highest number of new HIV infections globally, Aurum's work focused on translating complex scientific and policy concepts into accessible, community-facing information.

A central component of Aurum's activities was the development of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials addressing HIV prevention options, including long-acting and injectable modalities. These materials were designed to improve HIV literacy among priority populations and to support informed decision-making by individuals and communities. By focusing on clarity, accuracy, and cultural relevance, the materials addressed persistent misconceptions around HIV prevention and treatment, including confusion between prevention and treatment modalities.

In addition to community-facing outputs, Aurum's work contributed to broader health advocacy efforts by strengthening the availability of credible, locally relevant content for civil society actors, health workers, and advocates. Through this approach, the grant supported Africa REACH's objective of grounding advocacy in accessible evidence and strengthening the informational ecosystem necessary for sustained policy and community engagement around long-acting HIV options.

ONG Alliance (Côte d'Ivoire)

In Côte d'Ivoire, ONG Alliance implemented an advocacy initiative focused on strengthening awareness and policy engagement around long-acting HIV prevention within a Francophone West African context. The organisation's work responded to a relative gap in advocacy attention and locally generated evidence in the region, particularly around emerging HIV prevention modalities.

ONG Alliance engaged community stakeholders, civil society actors, and institutional partners to increase understanding of long-acting HIV prevention options and to position these interventions within broader national HIV prevention strategies. Activities included community sensitisation efforts, stakeholder dialogues, and the development of advocacy materials tailored to the Francophone context.

By situating advocacy within existing national HIV response frameworks, ONG Alliance contributed to strengthening regional representation in continental conversations on HIV prevention innovation. The grant enabled Africa REACH to extend its advocacy footprint into Francophone West Africa, supporting more inclusive and linguistically diverse engagement on long-acting HIV prevention and reinforcing the importance of regionally grounded advocacy approaches.



Technology for Inspiration Initiative (InspireIT) (Nigeria)

Technology for Inspiration Initiative (InspireIT), a returning grantee from Nigeria, built on prior advocacy experience to advance HIV prevention literacy and community engagement around long-acting HIV prevention and treatment options. Operating in a complex and decentralised health system, InspireIT focused on strengthening community-level understanding while engaging policy and institutional stakeholders.

Key activities included community dialogues, awareness campaigns, and the use of digital and youth-friendly platforms to disseminate information about HIV prevention options. InspireIT's approach prioritised adolescents and young people, recognising both their heightened vulnerability to HIV and their critical role as advocates and knowledge holders within their communities.

Through these efforts, InspireIT contributed to improving HIV prevention literacy and creating spaces for informed discussion around long-acting options. The organisation's work aligned with Africa REACH's emphasis on youth-centred advocacy and demonstrated how community-led engagement can complement policy-focused advocacy in large, diverse national contexts.

Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU) (Uganda)

In Uganda, Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU), also a returning grant, implemented a multi-level advocacy initiative that linked community-generated evidence with national policy engagement around long-acting HIV prevention. Building on Uganda's strong SRH and HIV advocacy environment, CHAU focused on positioning long-acting prevention as a strategic opportunity to address persistent vulnerabilities among adolescent girls and young women and other populations at substantial risk.

CHAU conducted rapid assessments, community dialogues, and community-led monitoring activities to generate evidence on awareness, acceptability, and health system readiness for long-acting HIV prevention options. These insights informed advocacy messaging and were used to engage policymakers, parliamentary actors, and other national stakeholders. A key output of CHAU's work was the co-development of a position paper and draft policy brief, produced in collaboration with Africa REACH, which articulated policy options for strengthening financing, community-led delivery, data use, and supply chain systems. Through this process, CHAU demonstrated how community-level evidence can be translated into concrete policy asks, reinforcing Africa REACH's approach of connecting lived experience with decision-making spaces.



COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICA REACH'S HIV RESPONSE

Taken together, the four grantee initiatives advanced Africa REACH's broader HIV response by strengthening advocacy capacity and sustainability across multiple levels of the health system. From community literacy and youth engagement to policy dialogue and parliamentary advocacy, the grants contributed to a more informed, inclusive, and evidence-driven conversation on affordable access to long-acting HIV prevention and treatment

Supporting organisations operating in diverse geographic and political contexts enabled Africa REACH to amplify locally grounded advocacy messages while reinforcing shared priorities around equity, access, and sustainability. The 2025 National Grants Programme thus functioned not only as a set of discrete grants, but as a coordinated effort to strengthen Africa REACH's advocacy agenda and its commitment to an AIDS-free generation in Africa.

