



AIDS 2020 CLPC vision

The HIV response has collectively moved mountains. No other health movement in history has seen such progress in shifting the landscape. At the same time, our efforts continue to show us that there is no one solution and no one size fits all. Any intervention that is singular, such as only biomedical and not rooted in people-centred approaches, fails to address the vital issues that make people vulnerable to HIV and disease.

As we celebrate our achievements and resilience, we also recognize that HIV has always been more than just a health issue. We are diverse and, as communities, do not always own one identity. As a movement born out of community advocacy, a key part of our legacy and success has been the strength that comes from our local and global community leadership, creativity and activism. Collectively, we must continue to shift the status quo to ensure that our rights are respected, services are fit for purpose, and we have access to treatment options and information. At the same time, effective approaches to address stigma and social injustice and our continued advocacy for responses to address social factors, including racial, social, economic, geographical and gender inequities, are critical.

We in the HIV world come together in this conference to collectively understand where we are in the epidemic, in science and in the results of the response. The Community and Leadership Programme Committee (CLPC) of the International AIDS Conference celebrate that the collective family comes together: for science to come together with communities; communities with other communities; health providers with communities of users and partners; and for politicians, academics and communities to come together as one. It takes a village. We collectively look at the evidence, think about how to apply and share this information, reinforce the skills and understanding across generations, and build leadership so that conference participants can take ideas home to help build resilient communities.

In this conference, as we acknowledge the extraordinary collective and individual resilience along with scientific and programmatic advances, we must also be bold and continue to ask: who is being left behind. We must call out what is not working and where we must engage differently to advance human rights, meaningfully engage communities in all our diversity as decision makers, and abolish disempowering legal and policy environments, discrimination and marginalization. Our activism is important – now more than ever – given that at this time, the world is more divided and inequitable and we are grappling with related key global threats, such as climate change, and opportunities, such as universal health coverage. As we work to leave no one behind, we hold ourselves and others accountable in how policies are made, money is spent, and programmes and services are delivered and monitored. We have to bridge the divide of inequities not only in our communities and homes, but also in healthcare, research and other social systems. It takes a village.

Therefore, the HIV epidemic today demands that the conference sifts through evidence and experience to identify diverse, evidence-informed, rights-based and gender-transformative responses that go beyond singular siloed approaches, beyond pills and beyond isolated biomedical interventions.