

SUSTAIN, ADAPT, PROTECT: A CALL TO ACTION ON HIV, TB AND COVID-19.

With this Call, we ask governments, donors and UN partners to support our efforts, by committing to the following actions:

SUSTAIN PROGRESS ON HIV AND TB

We ask governments to urgently recognise HIV and TB prevention and treatment and SRHR as essential, and to ensure that they have enough staff, resources and supplies to continue uninterrupted HIV, TB and SRHR services during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also urge donors to honour their existing commitments to sustain and increase HIV and TB funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNAIDS and other UN partners must continue to advocate for adequate HIV and TB funding, in order to meet global targets and avoid undoing the gains of recent years.

ADAPT COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO HIV AND TB TO TACKLE COVID-19

We call on governments, donors and UN agencies to recognise the essential work that communities on the frontline of the HIV and TB responses are doing to tackle COVID-19, and to focus on providing community organisations with the financial resources, technical support and equipment they need to adapt to COVID-19, instead of starting brand new programmes using parallel structures. We also urge donors to grant maximum flexibility to existing partners, so that they can adapt to address HIV, TB and COVID-19 together, alongside the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 restrictions, including lockdown.

PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

We demand that governments and all other state actors desist from human rights violations carried out in the name of the COVID-19 crisis and urge them to uphold dignity and human rights for all people. We also urge donors and UN partners to make human rights a core component of their responses to COVID-19, by increasing their advocacy efforts in response to human rights violations and by ensuring that new vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 are available and affordable for all, in line with the right to health.

ABOUT THE CALL

This Call to Action was developed in May 2020 by Frontline AIDS, AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), Global Coalition of TB Activists, TB People, and Stop TB Partnership alongside community organisations and civil society groups committed to ending AIDS and TB.

To sign your organisation on to this Call to Action, please email emacfadden@frontlineaids.org.