

EVALUATION MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

REACH End Term Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

This document presents Frontline AIDS' management response to the end-term evaluation of the LGBT REACH programme, which was conducted by Singizi Consulting Africa.

The LGBT REACH programme concluded in January 2026. Frontline AIDS commissioned the external evaluation to serve both as an accountability mechanism for the donor and stakeholders, and as a learning opportunity to inform future programming and strategic direction.

The primary audiences for the evaluation were Frontline AIDS, the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), implementing partners, and prospective donors.

The evaluation assessed the programme's contribution to changes in attitudes, behaviours, and practices, and explored how and why these changes occurred. It also generated practical recommendations to support ongoing learning and adaptation across the partnership.

QUALITY OF THE EVALUATION

Frontline AIDS conducted an internal assessment of the evaluation using the BOND checklist for assessing the quality of evidence¹. The evidence assessment indicates that the evaluation aligns with the BOND gold standard across all five principles of evidence quality. Four of the five principles - Voice and Inclusion, Appropriateness, Contribution, and Transparency - scored 15/16, while Triangulation scored 16/16.

Where the evaluation did not receive full marks, this was due to: limited partner involvement in designing the data collection and analysis processes, lower survey response rate, limited exploration of other actor's contribution to change and it could have explained more clearly who did the analysis and any potential bias. As all scores fall within the 14-16 range, the evaluation demonstrates a high overall standard of evidence.

Our response to the evaluation

Frontline AIDS welcomes the evaluation findings and accepts the recommendations in full. There were no recommendations which we disagreed with, although some were more relevant for donors. For Frontline AIDS, the recommendations offer valuable guidance on how to strengthen coordination, sequencing work more strategically, prioritising partner-led capacity building and embedding sustainability considerations more systematically. We are committed to integrating these lessons into future programme design.

¹ <https://www.bond.org.uk/resources/evidence-principles/>

RESPONSE TO THE EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Recommendation	Our response to recommendations	Who?	By when?
1. A phased approach to implementation (e.g. workstream 2 needed to be established before evidence could be used by workstream 3) – rather than trying to accomplish objectives simultaneously, sequence activities in a phased manner	<p>We accept this suggestion.</p> <p>For future programmes, where evidence feeds into advocacy, this should be sequenced appropriately and implemented in a phased manner. This should be clear from the proposal development stage.</p>	Lead, Human Rights	Roll out of strategic plan
2. Extend programme duration	<p>We agree with this suggestion, but we have to be realistic about the funding environment. Where possible, we will apply for longer term funding.</p> <p>We will consider extending the duration of our own grants, when we discuss the future of the RRF.</p>	Lead, Human Rights	Roll out of strategic plan
3. Frontline AIDS to have a core team in place to implement the programme, rather than different staff members responsible for different workstreams	<p>We agree with this recommendation, and this is being done in the new strategy, where programmes and advocacy will be more integrated.</p>	Director of Programmes, Lead, Human Rights	2026
4. Prioritise partner led capacity development over external consultancies	<p>We accept this recommendation.</p> <p>For future programmes that aim to strengthen capacity, where possible partners will take more of a co-lead role in the different areas of work. External consultants will still be engaged, when necessary, but with more of a deliberate focus on ensuring they help to build partner's skills and long-term capacity. We will also build in more South-to-South learning.</p>	Director of Programmes, Lead, Human Rights	Next programming cycle
5. Integrate sustainability strategies from the start of the programme, particularly from REAct	<p>We accept this recommendation.</p> <p>For future programmes that include REAct, we will integrate sustainability planning, and supporting partners in fundraising for it after the programme has ended.</p>	Senior Advisor: MEL, Lead, Human Rights	Next programming cycle
6. Reduce reporting burden, and put in place an accompaniment framework with explicit touchpoints	<p>We agree with this recommendation although we recognise that donor requirements may not always allow us to reduce the reporting burden for partners.</p>	Senior Advisor: MEL, Senior Advisor, Funding and Partnerships	Next programming cycle

Recommendation	Our response to recommendations	Who?	By when?
	<p>Where possible, we will reduce the number of M&E tools (we agree that advocacy log, OCAT, Results Framework and narrative reporting was a lot and perhaps some of these could have been integrated).</p> <p>Where possible, we will have conversations with partners in lieu of written reports, if that is preferable to partners, with a focus on accompaniment.</p>		