



**UNITING
COMMUNITIES
TO CELEBRATE
DIVERSITY,
DIGNITY AND
CHANGE**

**GLOBAL NETWORK OF
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

**STRATEGY
2018-2021**

Acknowledgements

This strategic plan was developed by the Board and Secretariat of GNP+ in collaboration with countless community members and partners that have supported us and worked tirelessly with us over the last year as we continue to learn and grow.

Methodology

This strategy was developed by drawing upon multiple approaches including:

1. Desk review of a number of key GNP+ documents and broader health and HIV-related literature
2. Global e-survey among PLHIV: An online survey was produced in English, French, Spanish and Russian. 1189 people responded of which 789 were deemed eligible
3. Key stakeholder interviews with 12 individuals and one organization
4. Two-day face-to-face meeting with GNP+ Board members

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From the Chair of the GNP+ Board

For the last two decades, GNP+ has brought together people living with HIV around a shared and united vision: a world where all people living with HIV are free from stigma and discrimination, have our rights recognised, our dignity respected and have universal access to treatment and care. This one singular vision is shared by all people living with HIV, in all of our diversities, in all parts of the world.

The global HIV response has made significant progress in many parts of the world. Treatment scale-up is a resounding success and will continue to be so, if properly invested in and expanded. More people are aware of and sensitized to stigma and discrimination affecting people living with HIV and key populations, including drug users, sex workers, transgender people and sexual minorities. Some countries have even demonstrated great political leadership in protecting and promoting the health and rights of people living with HIV and key populations.

However, in many parts of the world, the situation for people living with HIV has worsened. Stigma, discrimination, violence and criminalization of people living with HIV and key populations perpetuates significant structural challenges for communities that impede our ability to improve the health, safety and well-being of community members. The space for communities to engage in governance is shrinking rapidly – this engagement is all too often perfunctory and our voices are all too often ignored.

We still have a long way to go before we can rest assured that our shared dreams have been realized. As political and ideological agendas become more polarized and funding for health and human rights becomes scarcer, our engagement with broader movements for health and human development is essential for the future sustainability of our movement.

For people living with HIV, our shared vision can only be achieved through stronger unity among us, especially in turbulent times. No one is better placed to defend the health, human rights and gains made by people living with HIV than we are. The Global Network of People Living with HIV is proud to present you with our roadmap for action - GNP+'s Strategic Framework for 2018-2021.

It is our sincere hope that this Strategic Plan will bring us closer towards our shared and united vision for this world.

In solidarity,

Javier Bellocq-Hourcade

Board Chair, GNP+

July 2018

The world through our eyes: The changing face of AIDS

In 2018, 36.7 million people are living with HIV around the world and 4,500 of us are still dying from AIDS-related illnesses every day. We are proud that 21 million people are receiving ARV treatment. However, 15 million people who still need treatment cannot access these life-saving drugs. HIV co-infections such as Hepatitis C and TB further exacerbate the situation. HIV affects us all - but disproportionately affects young people, women and the most marginalized groups in our society.

Since the beginning, the response to HIV was built on the fundamental principle of advocating for the right to health, safety and well-being. As a group of people living with HIV, we have had a strong and powerful voice from the outset. We developed the first prevention approaches and the first programmes for care and support. We successfully advocated for treatment research and accelerated access to new medicines, pushed for global access to treatment leading to the creation of the Global Fund, fought stigma and discrimination, and developed rights-based approaches to testing and health services delivery that are now the cornerstone of HIV programmes. We continue to be at the forefront of what is most needed for people living with HIV. Why? Because who better than us, people living with HIV, know what we need – what services, what treatment, what policies and programmes?

In 2018, we still face significant barriers including punitive laws and policies, stigma and discrimination, limited funding and complacency. The challenges we see ahead of us are in multiple areas, including:

Meaningful involvement of people living with HIV – With the changing landscape, it is as important as ever to ensure that people living with HIV are involved at all levels of decision-making processes. This includes meaningfully involving people living with HIV in governance, policy, and advocacy and as an essential part of service delivery.

Stronger health systems – For people living with HIV to access prevention, care and support services and achieve universal health access, a strong health system is vital. People living with HIV provide an essential and unique part of the community responses that form an integral part of a robust health system.

Continued political commitment and leadership - As countries continue to move towards integrated approaches to health, ensuring governments continue to show political commitment and are accountable to their promises in relation to HIV remains an ongoing priority.

Changing funding environment - In the last ten years the world has witnessed unprecedented economic growth in developing countries, bringing opportunities to millions of people. However, this development comes with a new set of challenges. Because international funding for HIV, and development aid in general, targets low-income countries, there has been a proportional concentration of funding to a shrinking number of very poor countries and a corresponding withdrawal of major donors of financial support from middle-income countries. This significantly un-

dermines the global response to HIV. Priority must be on a careful and supported transition to domestic funding in these middle-income countries to ensure the continued provision of essential services and ARVs.

Treatment and prevention - There are significant challenges ahead as treatment scale up continues. As they age, millions of people living with HIV will seek to remain in care and on treatment for the rest of their lives. Challenges include reaching marginalized communities, the impact of stigma and discrimination on treatment access and the resource needs to ensure consistent access to equitable and high quality care for all those living with HIV and HIV co-infections – in particular TB and Hepatitis C, and the role of support services, including psycho-social support, sexual reproductive health and legal services.

Stigma and discrimination – Stigma and discrimination – including self-stigma and social stigma – continues to be the number one issue identified by people living with HIV as a concern. Stigma and discrimination remain the biggest barrier to accessing treatment and care, to adhering to treatment and to living a high quality life. Discrimination also places people living with HIV and key populations in danger in their day-to-day lives, destroys families and communities, causes economic hardship and violates basic human rights.

Human rights and gender inequality – Abuses of human rights and gender inequality remain prevalent in most countries where people liv-

ing with HIV reside. PLHIV are often are subject to laws that criminalize their behaviours and their very identities. Constant police harassment and violence (including domestic violence) present significant challenges to effective HIV treatment and prevention programmes.

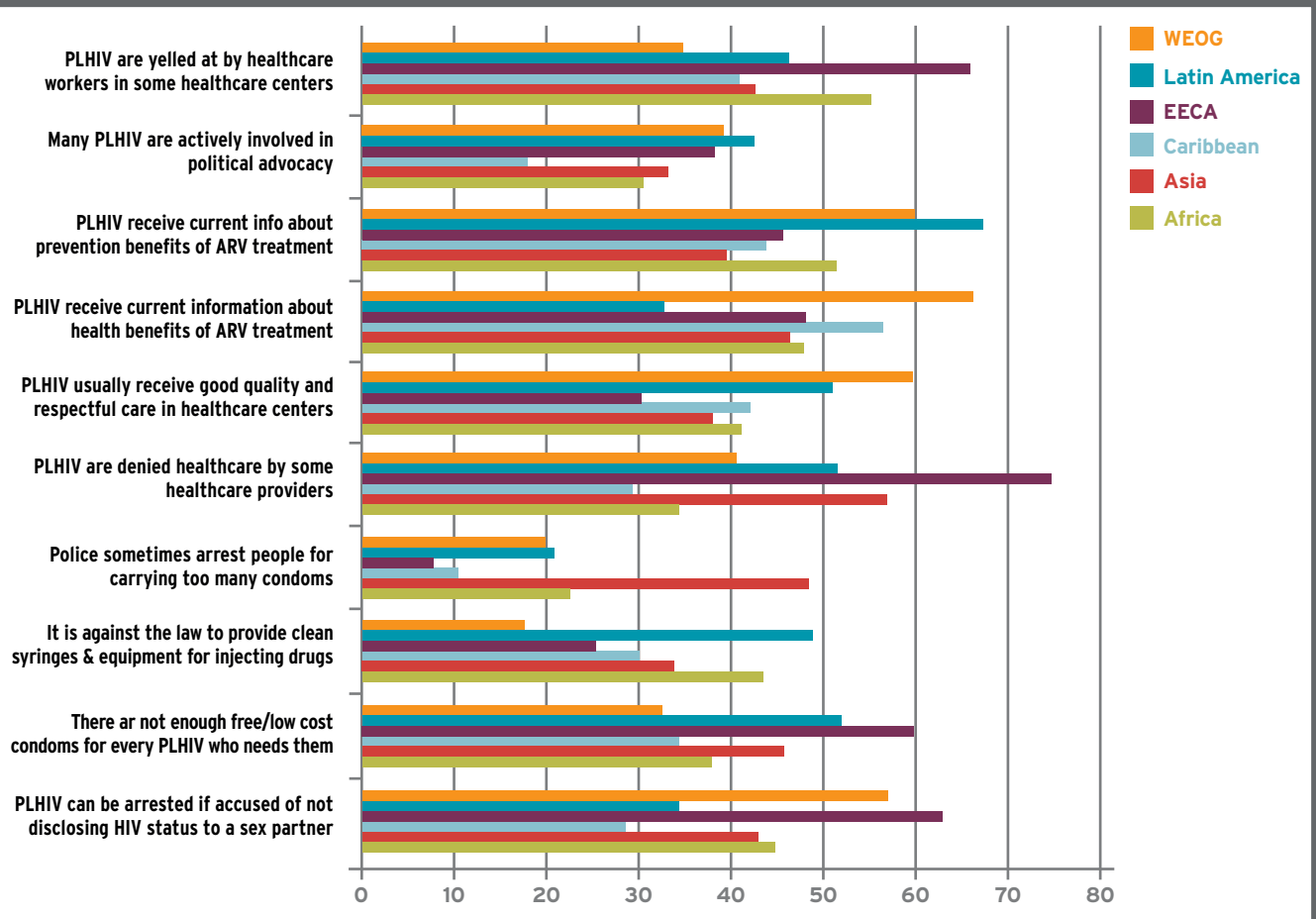
In order to achieve the targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals, it is more important than ever to collaborate across the broader health and social movements and to stand in solidarity with all those excluded and left behind.

State of the world for people living with HIV in 2018

In an online survey conducted in early 2018, we asked people living with HIV to create a picture of how they experience the world, and 1,200 people responded from every region in the world. It is clear that much is left to be done: people living with HIV are still denied healthcare by healthcare providers and many do not have enough money to cover the basic necessities of life. The graph shows the full picture:

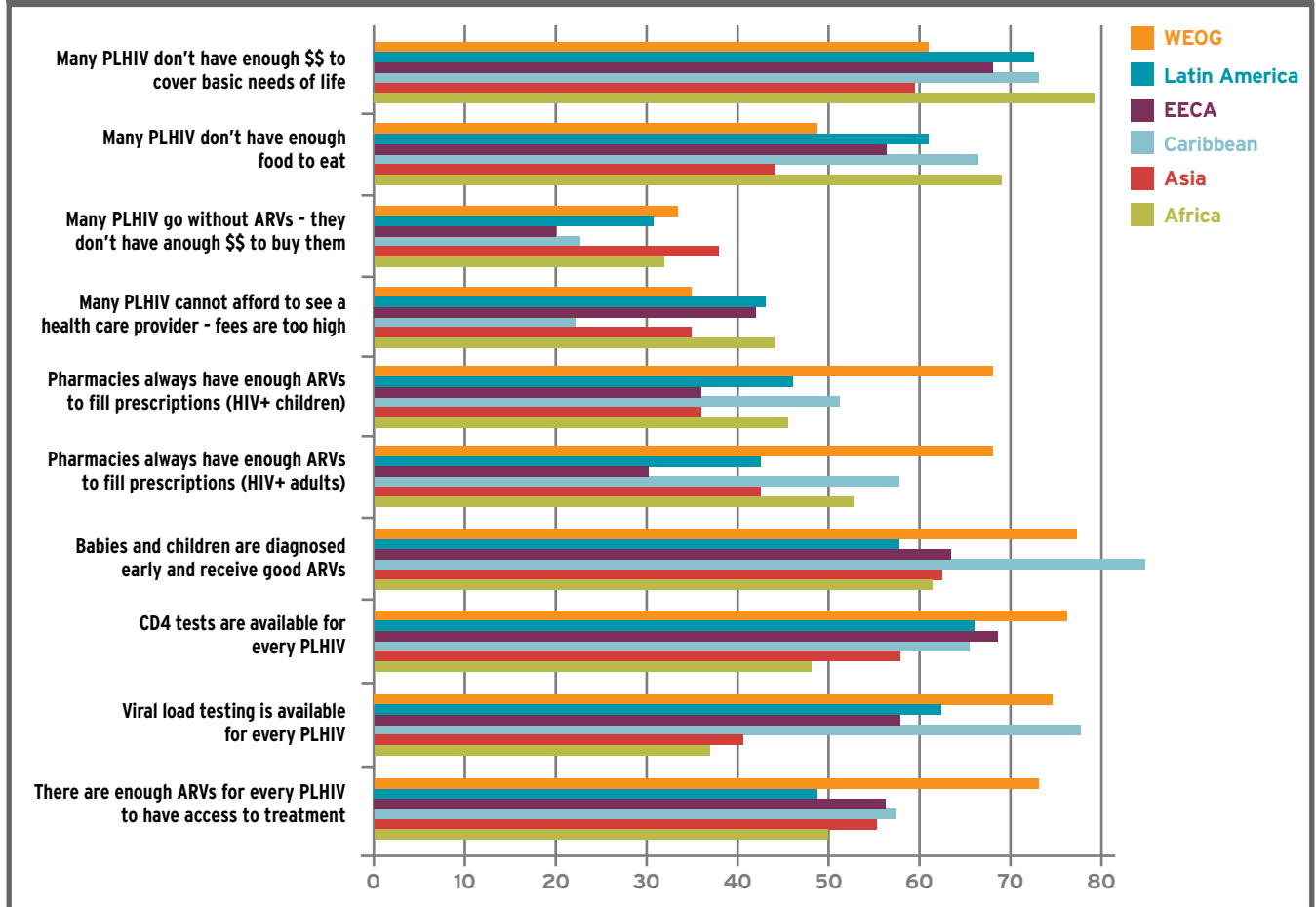
* The number given represents the average answer per region on a scale from 0 to 100. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which each statement is true for their country. The higher the answer, the more

1. Picture of the World for PLHIV (n=571):*



Source: GNP+, 2018 Survey of people living with HIV

2. Picture of the World for PLHIV (n=571):*



* The number given represents the average answer per region on a scale from 0 to 100. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which each statement is true for their country. The higher the answer, the more

Source: GNP+, 2018 Survey of people living with HIV

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Who we are

We are a global network and a political organisation for people living with HIV run by people living with HIV. As a network of interconnected individuals and organisations, we are open to all.

We are people living with HIV who represent great diversity. We are adolescents, indigenous people, children, people who use drugs, transgender people, young women and men, migrants, heterosexuals, sex workers, gays and other men who have sex with other men, pregnant women, prisoners, displaced persons, disabled people, women, men, people over 50 and more. There is no one face of HIV.

We are not a membership organisation. We exist to serve people living with HIV, to provide guidance for political action on HIV and to be part of a larger movement to improve the quality of life for all people living with HIV through meaningful involvement, networking, advocacy and communication.

We take global action informed by local information and we engage with and support national and regional networks of people living with HIV. We work with communities of people living with HIV, regardless of whether they are geographic or identity based, to challenge and hold governments and global leaders accountable to improve access and quality of essential HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. Using the power of evidence-based advocacy we improve the HIV response and the quality of lives of people living with HIV and HIV co-infections.

Values and principles

OUR VALUES ARE:

WE EMBODY
GREATER INVOLVEMENT
OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (GIPA)
IN ALL WE DO

WE ARE GUIDED BY
THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV, IN ALL
THEIR DIVERSITY

WE ARE
CONSTITUENCY
DRIVEN

WE ARE INCLUSIVE
AND RECOGNISE AND
EMBRACE DIVERSITY

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY
WITH ALL THOSE
WHO ARE EXCLUDED

WE ARE
ACCOUNTABLE
TO THOSE WE SERVE AND
TRANSPARENT IN HOW WE WORK

Our approach is underpinned by the concept of positive health, dignity and prevention for people living with HIV.

What is the GIPA principle?

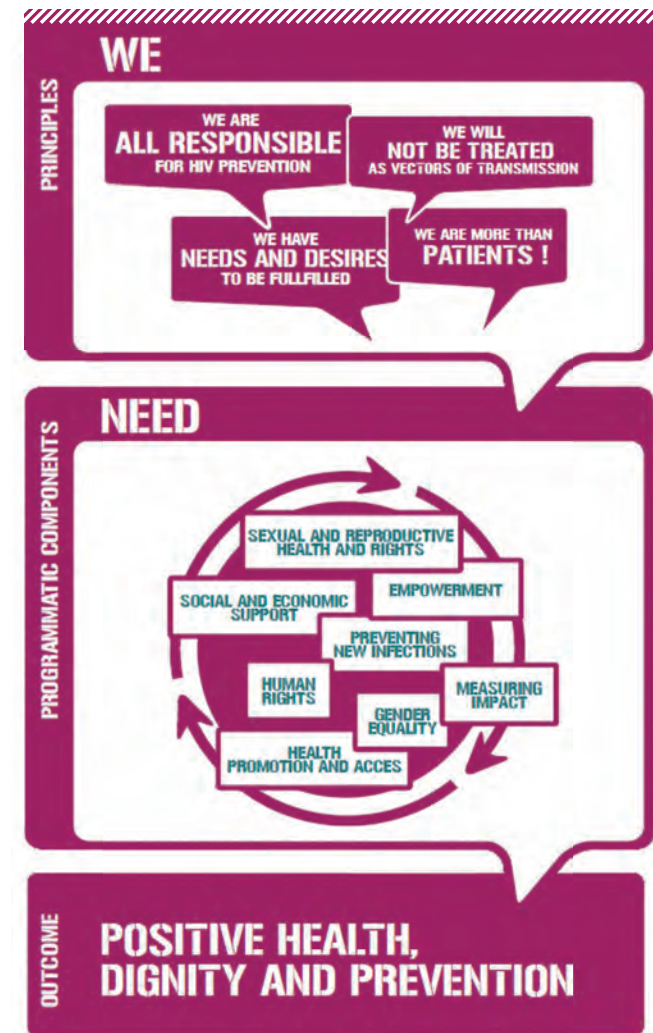
The greater involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA) is a guiding principle that calls for the active and meaningful participation of people living with HIV in the inception, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes. To be successful, the involvement of people living with HIV should be mainstreamed across all aspects of the HIV response, including prevention, treatment, care and support. This participatory way of working breaks down simplistic and false assumptions of 'service providers' as those who are living without HIV and 'clients' as those who are living with HIV.

The GIPA principle is a rights-based approach, which is recognised as good practice in programming and policy. It acknowledges the universal rights of people living with HIV to self-determination and participation in decisions that affect their lives.

Source: International HIV/AIDS Alliance and the Global Network of People Living with HIV: (GNP+) 2010: [http://www.aidsalliance.org/assets/000/000/411/464-Good-practice-guide-Greater-involvement-of-people-living-with-HIV-\(GIPA\)_original.pdf?1405586730](http://www.aidsalliance.org/assets/000/000/411/464-Good-practice-guide-Greater-involvement-of-people-living-with-HIV-(GIPA)_original.pdf?1405586730)

What is the Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention framework?

Positive health, dignity and prevention (PHDP) provides a set of standards to ensure fair treatment of people living with HIV by families, communities and institutions. It provides a holistic framework by which to understand HIV from the perspective of someone living with HIV.



The changing face of GNP+

Since the first international group of HIV-positive people came together in 1986, our world continues to change. We are fully committed to adapting our focus to ensure GNP+ is relevant, hearing the voices and meeting the needs of people living with HIV within the broader agenda of health and human rights.

In 2018, we stand strong as an integral part of a movement for change together with population-based networks of young people, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people, migrants, prisoners and others.

**We are focused. We are strategic. We are determined.
Our lives are at stake.**

How we work

Our way of working reflects the identities of people living with HIV around the world. As there is no one face of PLHIV, our way of working differs from region to region, and from country to country – based on evidence and driven by the wisdom of national and regional networks of people living with HIV.

To reflect this diversity, GNP+ is governed by a Global Board comprising 10 men and women living with HIV that includes every region in the world and most of the key populations affected by HIV.

We operate a Secretariat in Amsterdam and Cape Town. To further strengthen relationships with local and regional networks, some of our staff are also based in countries in the sub-Saharan and Asia Pacific regions. We work closely with other networks of PLHIV and key populations, NGOs and UN partners and with delegations of people living with HIV in global health and development institutions.

Vision, mission and strategy

Our vision is a world where all people living with HIV are free from stigma and discrimination, have our rights recognised, our dignity respected and have universal access to treatment and care.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV, in all our diversity.

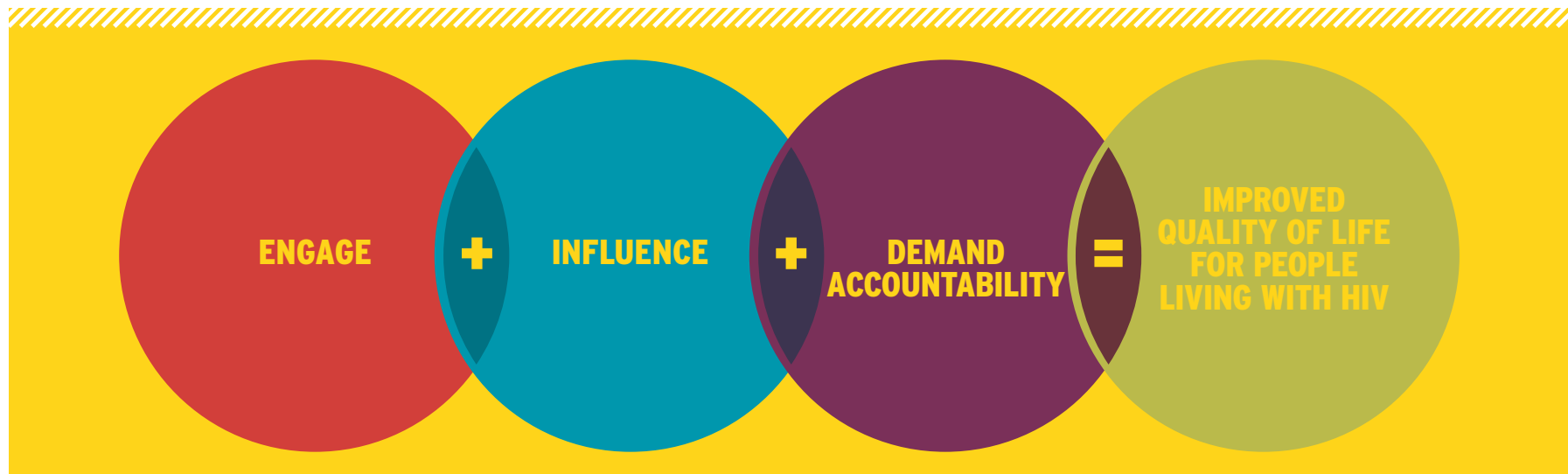
Our role is to:

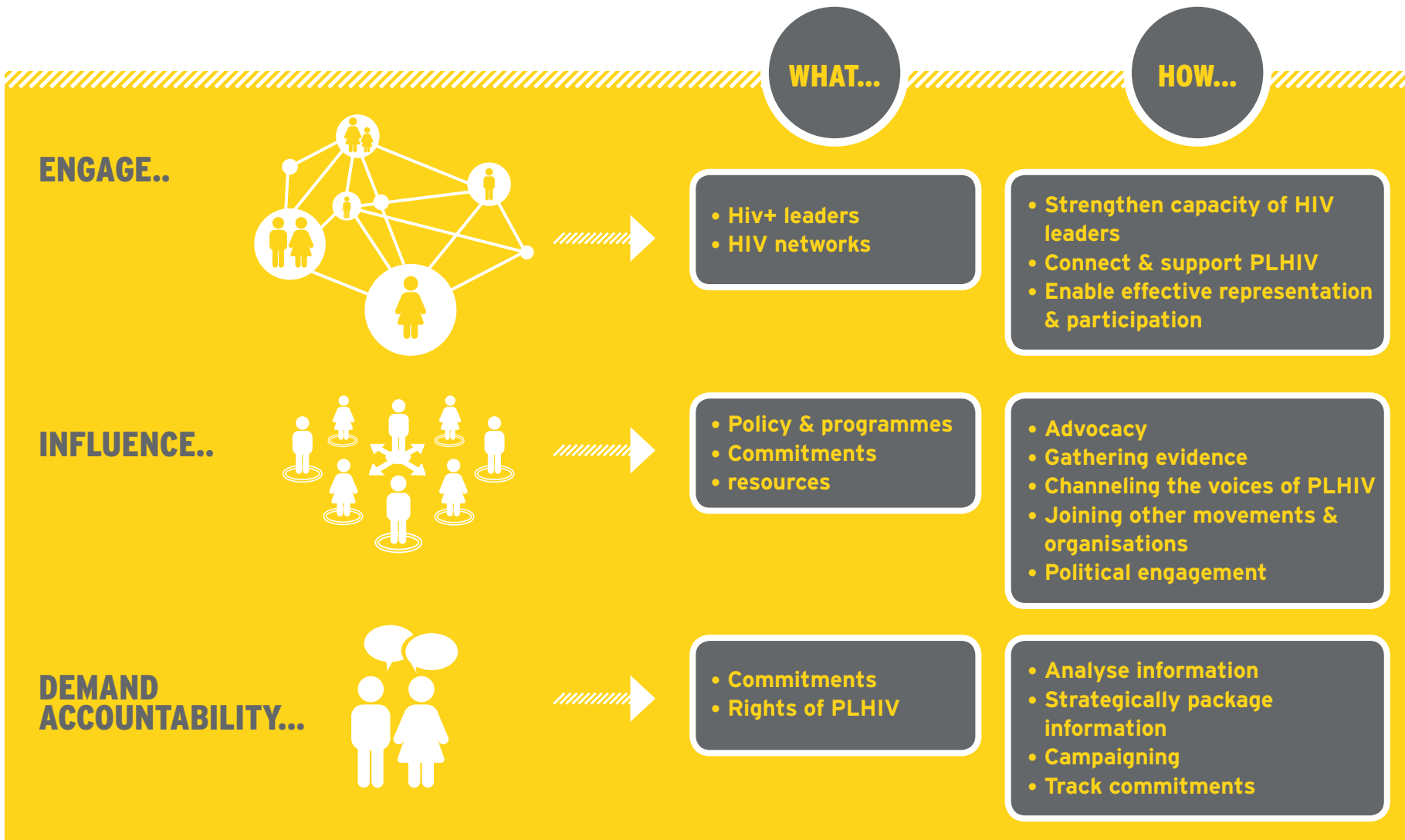
- Be a global advocate and voice for the needs and issues of people living with HIV and PLHIV networks

- Strengthen the capacity of PLHIV leaders and networks (enabling the involvement, at national, regional and global levels)
- Be a global watchdog and work with others to share, analyse and hold governments, organisations and individuals to account
- Provide a platform to bring people living with HIV in all their diversity together for networking, knowledge sharing and capacity building

Our strategy

We have three core strategy areas: **Engage**; **Influence** and **Demand Accountability**





1. Engage

We know that the meaningful participation of people living with HIV results in better decisions, programmes and policies, and contributes to an inclusive society with improved health and social outcomes. People living with HIV also have a critical role to play in challenging human rights violations and holding governments and agencies to account.

As people living with HIV, we **ENGAGE** and strengthen the capacity of leaders living with HIV and HIV networks to be resourced and to enable more effective and accountable representation and participation at all levels. We also continue to support HIV networks who seek to engage at national, regional and global levels.

2. Influence

In 2018, people with HIV are still dying. We still lack basic services and many of us have no access the life-saving treatment we need. While we can live with HIV, we cannot, and will not, live with the pervasive stigma and discrimination that still exists in all societies around the world.

We lead on and participate in evidence-informed, inclusive and relevant advocacy with global mechanisms and leaders to positively **INFLUENCE** improvements in programmes, policies, commitments and resource allocations.

We **INFLUENCE** governments, UN and other bodies, donors, civil society organisations, the private sector and the scientific community.

3. Demand Accountability

We **DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY** because our lives are at stake. Governments around the world have committed to ensuring access to treatment and services, the meaningful and greater engagement of people living with HIV, resources for community-led responses and to ending stigma and discrimination. We **DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY** because pharmaceutical companies profit from our need for their medicines and bear a corporate and human responsibility to ensure affordable medications for people.

We ask people in power to walk their talk.

We **DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY** from people in decision-making positions to support the human rights for people living with HIV through keeping their commitments which include, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage, the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, UNAIDS Strategy, and commitments to corporate responsibility by the pharmaceutical industry and the private sector.

We **DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY** from UN Member States and governments, UNAIDS and other UN agencies, The Global Fund, PEPFAR/USAID and bilateral donors, civil society organisations and networks of people living with HIV.

Our priorities

In the coming years, we will specifically focus our advocacy on:

1. Greater and equitable access to treatment and services
2. Overturning stigma, discrimination and criminalization
3. The greater involvement of people living with HIV

1. Advocating for greater and equitable access to treatment and services

We advocate for access to treatment and services for adults, young people and children living with HIV including diagnostics, adherence support and health care for other conditions. Unjustly, treatment still remains unaffordable in many countries, including treatment for HIV co-morbidities such as TB and viral hepatitis. We advocate for access to treatment in the context of universal health coverage for all and strongly emphasise that we need sustainable quality, affordable treatment for life. Not all people living with HIV have equitable access to treatment depending on who they are and where they live; we highlight and challenge the social, legal and socio-economic barriers that impede our access. We advocate for adequate resources for evidence-informed programmes, particularly those that are community-led and for programmes that understand HIV prevention as a shared responsibility.

We influence global health and development conversation in ensuring that that health response through Universal Health Coverage framework are responsive towards the needs of People Living with HIV and key populations following the Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention framework.

2. Challenging stigma and discrimination

Stigma remains the #1 barrier to the entire HIV response. It is the biggest barrier for people living with HIV to access proper treatment and care and for those at risk of HIV to access prevention. HIV stigma is the tipping point of a cascade that leads to internal stigma, denial of services, criminalization and violence. Stigma perpetuates structural problems in a vicious circle of increasing poverty and vulnerability.

We stand in unity and solidarity with our sister organizations working on the interconnected stigmas that our diverse populations are facing. We measure the impact of stigma and discrimination; widely promote the findings and act on the evidence. We advocate for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly on target areas that strengthen social justice in achieving equality and equity for all, through the ongoing work on Stigma Index and the advocacy for rights to health.

3. Promoting the greater involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA)

Ensuring ongoing commitment and implementation of the GIPA principle throughout organisations, policies and programmes remains a high priority for us. Active and meaningful participation of people living with HIV in all our diversity ensures the best possible response to HIV and firmly acknowledges the universal rights of people living with HIV to self-determination and participation in decisions that affect our lives.

We equip people living with HIV in all their diversity to engage meaningfully and represent people living with HIV. We strongly re-affirm and promote the GIPA principle to all those we seek to influence and partner with, communicating the lessons learned from the meaningful engagement of people living with HIV as best practice to be adopted in the global work on resilient and sustainable systems for health, and in global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We advocate in three distinct ways:

In leadership....

We lead, lobby and campaign on our core advocacy issues

In solidarity & partnership...

We support other partners, in particular, key population groups, by signing onto statements, campaigns and widely distributing key messages across our networks

In reaction...

To issues that arise from a humanitarian or other emergency that put people living with HIV at risk of violence, poor health and death

How can you play your part?

As a person living with HIV or a person affected by HIV, we need your support. You can:

- ✓ **Stay informed - sign up to our newsletter here: info@gnpplus.net**
- ✓ **Help us advocate for what is important to us. Email us for our key messages**
- ✓ **Ensure GIPA is embedded in all the work you do and let us know how you do that**
- ✓ **Stand in solidarity with us [one poll on the website that has a red ribbon that people can leave their name and email address as a sign of solidarity]**
- ✓ **Partner with us**
- ✓ **Support us with financial resources or hook us up with those who can**

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