

2017 Annual Report



A Aids e as Hepatites Virais estão presentes. Nós Também.





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Introduction	01
02	Resource Mobilization	02
03	Communication Tools	03
04	Funded Projects	04
05	Specific Results	08
06	Key Advances in Networking	21
07	Advances and Challenges Civil Society Organizations Identified	25
08	Project Anecdotes	28
09	Success Stories	30
10	Artist support for Fundo PositHIVo	31
11	Partnerships	32
12	Institutional Representation and Event participation	33
13	Site Visits	37
14	Evaluation	44



Introduction

This report is a description of the main activities Fundo PositHiVo fomented during 2017. The goal is to share the impacts and results of work in our third year of operation, as well as to give a public account to our supporters, advisors and the general public.

Actions implemented were the result of a joint effort between the executive coordinators, Fundo PositHiVo staff, fiscal council members and invaluable external collaborators. It is important to reiterate that such actions were only possible because of the trust of our supporters who strongly believe in the institutions mission, supporting our work whenever necessary.

Fundo PositHiVo has much to be proud of in 2017! During this period we were truly immersed in activities that have everything to do with our goals; launching public calls for grants, managing and supporting grantees focused on HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention, as well the equally important Zika prevention through sexual transmission. These actions enhanced Fundo PositHivo's image as an integral part of Brazilian society.



Resource Mobilization

With regard to individual donor fundraising, we identified as a challenge the current political-financial climate in Brazil, where the serious financial crisis directly impacts community action. Despite this, we managed to have successful results in our individual donor fundraising efforts. We intensified our communication with individual donors, we managed to maintain our monthly donor base and we continue to invest in strategic campaigns that raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS cause,

while encouraging direct and immediate support through our donation button on our website (<https://doe.fundopositivo.org.br>) as well as our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fundopositivo.>).

A new development is Fundo PositHivo now integrated into the O Polen platform, an online plug-in that allows individuals to make donations directly to the fund without any added fees. While making online purchases, the O Polen platform allows people to allocate a percentage of their total purchase order to a civil society organization of their choice. When a person clicks the confirm purchase button, the plug-in alerts the online store to transfer a percentage to the organization indicated.





Communication Tools

People interested sign up on the O Polen website, download the plug-in and indicate Fundo PositHiVo as the organization that will receive a percentage of each purchase made online.

The O polen platform works with more than 100 quality online stores like Submarino, Dafiti, Americanas and Ali Express. To sign up and indicate Fundo PositHiVo as the organization of choice, supporters should visit www.opolen.com.br/apoiar/fundohiv. From then on, each purchase made will send an automatic message to the online store to make a direct donation to the fund.

Individual donor fundraising, in addition to institutional marketing, is where we can communicate that the AIDS issue is still a pressing issue, broadening our base of support. As a result of this effort, a diverse number of celebrities have publicly expressed their support for Fundo PositHiVo through social networks, further positioning the fund as a reference in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Brazil.

Understanding communication channels as important tools that increase Fundo PositHiVo's visibility, we enhanced our communication activity through our facebook fanpage, twitter and instagram profiles, generating more than 35,500 followers on our fanpage. We continued producing our newsletter for donors and advisors, as well as specific communication materials to strengthen our relationship with donors.

Funded Projects



Fundo PositHiVo increased its support for organizations with missions to spread and improve HIV/AIDS prevention programs with socially vulnerable populations, which according to the epidemiological data includes youth, LGBT, Black, female and elderly populations. This year, we prioritized organizations that develop prevention programs based in a couples approach methodology with a focus on behavioral change. Combination prevention, political action and advocacy programs were also priorities in selecting projects.

In April we launched our second public call for projects named the "Grants for STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention," (Edital de Ações de Prevenção Relacionados à Epidemia de IST/HIV/AIDS e Hepatites Virais), which focused on combination prevention targeting LGBT, black, female, elderly and youth populations between 13 and 29 years old. These populations have had alarming increases in HIV/AIDS cases in Brazil

For the public selection process, we utilized "PROSAS," a digital grant management platform that facilitated fully digital proposal submissions.

During the open submission period, organizations were offered technical support through the PROSAS "help desk" and Fundo PositHiVo staff, answering questions and guiding organizations using the platform. In order to guarantee the greatest number of proposal submissions from throughout the country, we carried out an intense outreach campaign through our social media accounts (website, facebook, twitter) as well as through our partner networks.

The result was quite satisfactory; we received a total of 120 grant proposals from organizations all over the country.

In May, Fundo PositHiVo selected 15 projects to receive funding support through the 2017 public grant. The independent selection committee was comprised of Fabi Mesquita (advisor), Pierre Fretaz (advisor), Silvia Almeida (advisor), Diego Callisto (Ministry of Health), Selma Moreira (Baobá Fund) and Analice de Oliveira (São Paulo AIDS Treatment and Reference Center, São Paulo).

How were the 15 projects selected? The 2017 call for projects received 120 proposals, of which 88 met the requirements that had been previously published. The 32 projects that did not qualify were because they were proposed by hospitals, universities and municipal governments as opposed to community-based civil society organizations, a requirement highlighted in Fundo PositHiVo's guidelines.

The remaining 88 projects went through an evaluation process reviewed by the independent committee.

Among these, 50 received scores that satisfied the requirements to receive grant funding, demonstrating a huge demand for resources to fund HIV/AIDS projects in Brazil. However, as mentioned, only 15 could be selected, leaving the selection committee with the arduous task of determining which projects would receive funding of up to R\$25,000 each.

These projects are:

North Region

1. Associação de Bem Com a Vida (Good with Life Association); Boavista and Pacaraima, Roraima state

Project: VenhamMulheres! (Women let's go!)
Target population: Young people and women from Roraima as well as Venezuelan immigrants

2. Coletivo Difusão (Diffusion Collective); Amazonas state

Project: Cineclube Positivo (Positive film club)
Target population: Young people

3. DPAC Fronteira (DPAC border); Oiapoque, Amapá state

Project: Oiapoque Cooperação e Saúde (Oiapoque Cooperation and Health)
Target population: Young people, women and LGBT on the border with French Guyana

Northeast Region

4. Associação Arte e Cultura do Bairro Baianão; (Baianão Neighborhood Art and Culture Association); Porto Seguro, Bahia state

Project: Arte, Cidadania e Prevenção às IST, HIV e AIDS (Art, citizenship and STI, HIV/AIDS prevention)
Target population: Young people, women and the elderly

5. Grupo Matizes (Group of shade); Teresina, Piauí state

Project: A Gente Quer Viver Pleno Direito (We Want to Live Within Our Rights)
Target population: LGBT community

6. Apros-PB – Associação das Prostitutas da Paraíba (Paraíba Prostitutes Association); Sapé, Itabaiana, Patos e Cajazeira, Paraíba state

Project: Combinando Prevenção com Advocacy (Combining Prevention and Advocacy)
Target population: Women in prostitution

West central Region

7. Associação GDA – Grupo de Diversidade LGBT; (LGBT Diversity Group); Anápolis, Goiás state

Project: #JovensAntenados – Prevenção Combinada, Incidência Política e Advocacy (#ConnectedYouth - Combined Prevention, Political Action and Advocacy)
Target population: Young people, women, LGBT and the elderly

8. Palco Compararia Primeira de Talentos (First Talent Show Stage); Satellite cities of the Federal District

Project: Gincana Mais – Protagonismo de Jovens Gays e Homens Bissexuais em DST/HIV/Aids e Hepatites Virais (Scavenger Hunt -- Young Gay and Bisexual Leadership in STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis)
Target population: Young and LGBT communities

Southeast Region

9. Grupo Conexão G de Cidadania LGBT de Favelas (G Connection for LGBT Civic Action in Favelas); Rio de Janeiro

Project: Afirmando Vozes e Identidade (Affirming Voices and Identity)

Target population: Young, black and LGBT communities

10. ECOS-Comunicação em Sexualidade (ECOS-Sexuality Communication); São Paulo

Project: Sinais da Prevenção (Prevention signs)

Target population: Young, LGBT and deaf communities

11. Associação Ilê Ache Omo Odê; São Paulo

Project: Povos de Comunidades Tradicionais na Prevenção do HIV/Aids e Hepatites Virais (Traditional Communities Preventing HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis)

Target population: Young, elderly, black, LGBT communities

12. Reprolatina Sol. In. em Saúde Sexual e Reprodutiva (Reprolatina Sol In Sexual and Reproductive Health); Paulínia, São Paulo state

Project: Melhor idade, sim; Aids, não: Informação é Prevenção! (Better aging yes, AIDS no: Information and prevention!)

Target population: Elderly

South Region

13. Rede Mulheres Negras (Black Women's Network); Curitiba, Iguazu Falls, Parana state

Project: Prevenção combinada para promoção da vida longa, com saúde e sem racismo (Combination prevention promoting long healthy lives without racism)

Target population: Black, LGBT, youth, women and elderly communities

14. APVHA; Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul state

Project: #NosOtras – A caminho da Prevenção com Autonomia (#NosOtras -- The autonomous prevention path)

Target population: Youth, women and Black population

15. Igualdade RS; Porto Alegre Metropolitan area, Rio Grande do Sul

Project: Prevenção e Cidadania (Prevention and Citizenship)

Target population: LGBT community

The grant required eight months of activities beginning in May and continuing through December.

The projects selected were monitored in real time through a whatsapp group chat, enhancing communication and networking between selected organizations.

"Sexual and Reproductive Health in the context of the Zika virus"

Fundo PositHiVo launched a third public grant call for projects in the second semester of 2017 with a focus on sexual and reproductive health in the context of the Zika virus.

This grant initiative is aimed at improving community-led interventions in Zika-related sexual and reproductive health issues in Pernambuco, the epicenter of the epidemic in Brazil.

In September, Fundo PositHiVo selected proposals from Recife, Olinda, Caruaru, Petrolina and Goiana, all cities in Pernambuco. This grant prioritized community-based initiatives that seek to raise awareness and develop integrated Zika virus prevention strategies.

The projects target populations are women, mothers, children with microcefalia, young people, health professionals, educators and public administrators.

This is the third public grant offered by Fundo PositHiVo, but the first to have a focus other than HIV/AIDS or viral hepatitis.

The board of directors decided to widen the scope and embrace related issues like Zika, where sexual transmission prevention is also crucial.

In all, six civil society organizations were selected to carry out their respective projects with Fundo PositHivo's financial and administrative resources. The projects are in effect for eight months from October 8, 2017 until May 8, 2018.

Selected organizations and Zika virus prevention projects

Organization: GTP+ – Grupo de Trabalho em Prevenção Positivo (Positive Prevention Working Group)

Project: "Lampião e Maria Bonita Superprevenidos na Luta Contra o Zika Vírus" (Lampião and Maria Bonita Superpreventors in the fight against the Zika virus)

Objective: To carry out prevention education and promote human rights defense among the youth population affected by the Zika virus.

Organization: Instituto PAPAI

Project: "Homens e o Cuidado no Contexto da Epidemia de Zika Vírus" (Men and care in the context of the Zika virus epidemic)

Objective: To promote greater involvement of men in prevention and care activities within the context of the Zika virus epidemic in Caruaru.

Organization: Instituto Mara Gabrielli

Project: "Cadê Você? Um Olhar para Recife no Contexto do Zika Vírus" (What about you? An eye towards Recife within the Zika virus context)

Objective: To create a protection and support network for the disabled population and their families, as well as disseminate health promoters that raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights within the context of the Zika virus epidemic.

Organization: Casa da Mulher do Nordeste (Northeast Women's Home)

Project: "Mulheres da Periferia de Recife no Combate ao Zika Vírus" (Women from the outskirts of Recife in the fight against Zika virus)

Objective: To promote community-based action by training women and young students as health promoters as part of the integrated mobilization and prevention strategy between the community, educators and health professionals.

Organization: Grupo Curumim Gestaçã e Parto (Curumim Pregnancy and Birth Group)

Project: "Saúde, direitos sexuais e reprodutivos: novas e velhas demandas em tempos da epidemia do vírus Zika." (Health, sexual and reproductive rights: new and old demands in the era of the Zika virus epidemic)

Objective: To carry out campaigns along with the municipal administration that facilitate technical and political training with health professionals and educators, as well as political education training with teenagers, young people, women and the LGBT community in Goiana and Petrolina.

The projects selected were monitored in real time through a whatsapp group chat, enhancing communication and networking between selected organizations.



Specific Results

1. Associação Arte e cultura do Bairro Baianão – Porto Seguro – BA

Art, Citizenship and STI/HIV/AIDS prevention

The project developed HIV/AIDS prevention actions with young people in Porto Seguro from the Baianão neighborhood. They facilitated art education and awareness raising workshops, a seminar that included the couples-based approach, condom and other safe-sex material distribution, as well as promoting discussions about new prevention technologies like post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and harm-reduction policies.

Population directly reached: 100,000 people: young people, students, families, the child welfare system, court system and health and education administrators.



2. APVHA - Porto Alegre – RS

Project: #NosOtras – The autonomous prevention path



The project developed workshop series at primary healthcare facilities, city and district councils, neighborhood associations, municipal elementary schools, pregnant women experiencing homelessness groups, as well as interventions with "Fique sabendo Jovem" (Know what's up homey). In addition, the project organized the annual permanent education seminar for health boards where combination prevention was addressed, encouraging frequent testing, civic action and stronger links between institutions, care networks and individuals. How gender inequality impacts the spread of the epidemic and bringing awareness to what it means to live with HIV/AIDS were also key components of the seminars. The most recent advocacy guide was shared with MNCP members, qualifying them to defend emerging demands in relevant decision-making spaces.

Population directly reached: 10,000 people: community leaders, people living with HIV/AIDS, health and education administrators, social workers and families of people living with HIV/AIDS.





3. Associação GDA - Grupo de Diversidade LGBT de Anápolis – GO

Project: #JovensAntenados –Combined prevention, political action and advocacy

The project contributed to the reduction and control of STI's, AIDS and viral hepatitis in Anápolis and surrounding cities. Actions included combination prevention (rapid testing, PEP, PrEP, etc), distribution of informational materials, as well as safer sex workshops and lectures that encouraged discussion on the importance of combined prevention through political action and media advocacy. New methodologies and the practice of early diagnosis and treatment within the national health system (SUS) were also implemented. After orientation and rapid HIV testing, if reagent cases were detected, individuals were referred to health and treatment retention services (treatment education). Furthermore, educational actions were based on couple-education methodology, STI, HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention and health promotion in partnership with other CSO's, state and local governments.

Population directly reached: 300,000 people: Youth, LGBT, people living with HIV/AIDS or viral hepatitis, women and the elderly.





4. Grupo Conexão G de Cidadania LGBT de Favelas – Rio de Janeiro

Project: Affirming voices and identity

The project expanded and improved STI/HIV/AIDS/viral hepatitis prevention actions for black trans women residing in favelas in Rio de Janeiro, reducing the risk of infection and consequently contributing to the reduction of registered cases.

Population directly reached: 28,000 people: transgender favela residents, families and local communities





5. ECOS-Comunicação em Sexualidade – São Paulo:

Project: Prevention Signs

The project strengthened political advocacy related to STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis in deaf communities by raising awareness within deaf organizations and community groups, thus closing the gap between young people and adults on an issue that is such a part of daily life. The project organized discussions on issues related to sex education and STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention, aiming to effectively reach young deaf groups and their contact networks. The project trained deaf peer health educators and developed and distributed educational materials specifically for this population, including a survey.

Population reached: 4,000 people: deaf, young and LGBT communities.





6. Associação Ilê Ache Omo Odê – São Paulo

Project: Traditional communities preventing HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis

The project fomented the leadership of traditional communities, people living with HIV/AIDS/STI's and viral hepatitis, as well as black, young, LGBT, elderly and female populations. Training was given to community leaders with the potential to share information regarding combination prevention and STI/HIV/AIDS/viral hepatitis assistance without disregarding each groups specific needs and/or deducing sexuality/sex to sexually transmitted diseases. There is an understanding that each population segment and/or individual should discern which combined prevention strategies they can or should adopt. This practice includes overcoming and transcending the technical and scientific language within the Ministry of Health's protocols, as well as a critical reflection of the possible strategies that would align most with their lifestyle.

Population directly reached: 35,000 people: community and religious leaders, health and education administrators, child welfare system workers, young, black, LGBT, female and elderly populations.





8. GRUPO MATIZES - Teresina – PI

Project: We want to live within our rights

The project strengthened HIV/AIDS prevention actions on two fronts: education and advocacy. The strategy combined educational actions (workshops, printed materials, social media dissemination) and advocacy (rights guaranteed when incident reporting with public authorities, measures to prevent rights violations when incidents occur). As a result, the project increased awareness and mitigated discrimination and violence against the LGBT and PLWHA communities.

Population directly reached: 87,000 people: LGBT, PLWHA, deaf, elderly, incarcerated people.



7. Igualdade – Rio Grande do Sul

Project: Prevention and citizenship in the LGBT population

The project developed a communication and information strategy to reduce the rates of HIV and other STI's among transgender people through activities aimed at increasing civic and human rights action; combined prevention practices; self-esteem; access to the healthcare network and awareness of AIDS as a social justice issue.

Population reached: 6,000 people: young and LGBT populations.





9. APROS-PB Associação das Prostitutas da Paraíba

Project: Combining prevention and advocacy

The project improved the quality of life and sense of empowerment among prostitutes through discussions about their rights as well as healthy self-esteem in order to confront social stigma and prejudice. The project also promoted advocacy, public accountability and access to HIV/AIDS/viral hepatitis combined prevention information in the municipalities of Sapé, Itabaiana, Patos and Cajazeiras.

Population directly reached: 3,000 people: prostitutes, healthcare and service workers.





10. Associação de Bem com a Vida – ABV - Boa Vista – RR

Project: Lets go women!

The project designed and launched an HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention network among women, widening access to information, building knowledge with the community and strengthening women's leadership in Boa Vista and the border city of Pacaraima. The project also established partnerships with the state and municipal health departments to create short and long-term strategies that consider the socio-historical context of which individuals are part of as well as diverse inclusion methods like working with community action groups and training people as prevention health promoters in Roraima state.

Population directly reached: 20,000 people: girls and women between 13 and 65 years of age, public school students, women from feminist groups and collectives, users of national public health system (SUS), sex workers, participants from the women's group Bem com Vida Association in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, border city with Santa Elena de Uairén, Venezuela. The importance of prevention and women's leadership in academic spaces has also been noted and undergraduate and graduate students at the Federal University of Roraima were included in the project, carrying out actions in the university setting.





11. Rede Mulheres Negras – Paraná

Project: Combination prevention promoting long healthy lives without racism

The project trained black and non-black women in STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive and sexual rights, civic action and human rights in order for them to share accurate information about the health of the black population in language accessible to different populations, especially those in the most vulnerable situations. The aim was to increase community participation in and public accountability of public health policies and cross-sectoral programs aimed at promoting the rights of the black population in general, and black women in particular.

Population reached: 15,000 people: women.



13. DPAC Fronteira (Desenvolvimento, Prevenção, Acompanhamento e Cooperação de Fronteiras) - Oiapoque – AP

Project: Oiapoque-Cooperation and Health:

The project was fundamental in the fight against the HIV epidemic at the French-Brazilian border, reducing the rate of infections through educational initiatives, diagnostic testing, condom distribution and by raising awareness about the importance of adhering to treatment.

Population directly reached: 26,000 people: People living with HIV and their families, youth, women and men, sex workers, fishermen, miners and tourists.





14. Palco Comparasaria Primeira de Talentos - Distrito Federal

Project: Scavenger Hunt - Young gay and bisexual leadership in STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention

The project confronted STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis infection among young gay and bisexual men in the federal district by training 40 young people through the scavenger hunt missions that had as a focus combination prevention, political advocacy and social assistance. Pillars of this initiative were peer-education, youth leadership and fundraising efforts aimed at individual and institutional partners interested in the projects long-term sustainability, making donations beyond requested amounts.

Population reached: 600 people: LGBT youth

15. Coletivo Difusão - Amazonas – AM

Project: Positive film club

The project strengthened youth leadership amidst the current challenges of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Brazil through workshops based in film showings

Population directly reached: 500 people: Youth, LGBT, sex workers, drug/substance users, MSM, Black and indigenous populations





Key Advances in Networking

Men and women prison populations; CSO networks that work with deaf youth; CSO networks that work with landless settler populations.

Fundo PositHIVo was successful with the projects supported in all 5 regions of the country, contributing to prevention, civic action, public health policy advocacy and lobbying efforts in the HIV/AIDS field. These CSO's were the Rede Mulheres Negras (Black Women's Network); ABGLT-Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Association; RENAFRO - Rede Nacional de Povos de Comunidades Tradicionais (The national network of traditional communities); Rede de Mulheres Vivendo com HIV (Women living with HIV network); Youth network; Network of CSO's that work with immigrant populations; CSO networks that work with teenagers in juvenile detention facilities;

The results have the greatest impact when actions involve related issues and partners as well as exchanges in technical, academic and popular knowledge. Tying all this together results in acquiring new skills and behavioral changes, as well as a greater impact beyond the individual and local to the collective and societal.

The greatest impact the selected projects made was without a doubt the expansion of STI/HIV/AIDS/viral hepatitis prevention actions, and strengthening the efforts in community-led advocacy and organizing on public health policies.

The projects implemented actions that fomented discussions about new prevention technologies (PrEP and PEP) with young populations. Testing that considers the serological status in prevention was also employed. Training new leaders strengthened social service and health policy advocacy CSO's and increased youth leadership.

The actions reached highly vulnerable populations like the transgender and sex worker communities, women and the black population. It is worth noting the unprecedented HIV/AIDS/STI/viral hepatitis prevention work done with hearing impaired communities (We had two projects that worked with this population) where materials and approaches were designed specifically for this population. These actions subsequently increased discussions about safe sex and prevention in deaf groups and organizations, closing the gap between young deaf people and prevention awareness.

It is also important to highlight the project done within the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. The project expanded and improved HIV/AIDS prevention actions aimed at black transsexual women, reducing the risk and registered rates of infection within this population.

The project carried out by traditional and quilombola communities (black populations) greatly improved prevention actions by disseminating up-to-date information on combined prevention strategy as well as intensifying advocacy work. The project focus was to train black women in STI/HIV/AIDS/viral hepatitis prevention, sexual and reproductive rights, combined prevention, civic action and human rights.

They then disseminated accurate and up-to-date health information to different communities.

Another unprecedented action worth mentioning was the project with the elderly population with a goal of training men and women over 60 as HIV-AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention educators.

Finally, there were projects executed in the extreme northern border regions of the country--Oiapoque in Amapá state borders French-Guiana and Boa Vista in Roraima state borders Santa Elena de Uairén, Venezuela--an area where the public health apparatus doesn't meet community needs, generating a huge lack of access to public health. These projects implemented actions geared towards reducing the incidence of HIV in areas with a high influx of immigrants from other countries. The organizations coordinated oral HIV testing drives, condom distribution and treatment adherence awareness-raising activities for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The 15 projects Fundo PositHivo supported reached a total of 660,000 people in all 5 regions of Brazil, of which 452, 261 were women and 207,739 were men.

Social Inclusion: Welfare and Education

The projects networked mostly with public agencies, dialoguing and establishing direct partnerships with administrators in the health, education, public assistance, sexual diversity, sports and culture departments. They also focused on drafting and/or improving prevention and care public health policies for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The 2017 funded projects were not only innovative in scope, but were also bold in character, mobilizing and raising awareness in the legal and child welfare system about the relationship between sexual violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS; **according to the IPEA survey composed of data from the 2011 Ministry of Health Infringement Notification Information System (SINAN), 70% of rape victims in Brazil are children and adolescents.**

Every 11 minutes and 33 seconds, a person is raped in Brazil (5 people every hour). According to the survey from the Brazilian Annual Public Safety report, the country registered 45,400 rape cases in 2015, hence the importance of the judicial and child welfare institutions participating in the projects training actions.

Both agencies adopted combined prevention strategies in order to follow the necessary PEP protocols and refer victims of sexual violence (rape) to specialized health services.

"Stronger than Zika Caravan"

It's very rewarding to see ideas and projects on paper become reality, especially when the goal is the well-being of others. This is the kind of spirit that defines all those involved in the projects in our third public grant "Sexual and reproductive health in the Zika Virus context."

The six civil society organizations (CSO) met in October in Recife, Pernambuco to create a collective workplan for the project activities. A highlight is the "Stronger than Zika caravan," which visited five cities in November and December: Recife, Olinda, Goiana, Caruaru and Petrolina. The caravan presented playful educational activities in each city that alerted populations in vulnerable situations about the sexual transmission of the Zika virus and prevention strategies.

The press in Pernambuco gave plenty of coverage to the projects! During two days of meetings with the organizations selected for the public grant, coordinators from Fundo PositHiVo gave interviews to large communication outlets.



O coordenador geral do Fundo PositHiVo, Harley Henriques, concede entrevista para a Rede Globo de Recife (PE) a respeito dos projetos aprovados no edital público "Saúde Sexual e Reprodutiva no Contexto do Zika Vírus".



VISUAL IDENTITY

**LAMPIÃO E MARIA BONITA
SUPER PROTEGIDOS CONTRA
ZIKA VIRUS**

O *Aedes aegypti* é o mosquito transmissor da dengue e da febre amarela urbana. Recentemente foi descoberto que o vírus da zika pode ser transmitido através da relação sexual.

Para evitar a transmissão:
Use preservativo



SAÚDE DO PARCEIRO AFIDIO FORTES POSITIVO MATS FORTES QUE A ZIKA inata!



MATS FORTES QUE A ZIKA

Educação, respeito e
saúde da mulher

Realização
Fundação
POSITIVO

Apoio
MATER





Advances and Challenges Civil Society Organizations Identified

The CSO network identified the following main advances:

Having a fuller understanding of the realities of women migrating to Roraima from Venezuela.

Making a huge stride in disseminating information on new prevention technologies in Roraima, a state where many health professionals still do not accept widespread communication about PEP and PrEP.

Projects predominantly focusing on reducing the risk of HIV/STI/ viral hepatitis infection.

Encouraging behavioral practices that ensure STI/HIV/viral hepatitis prevention.

Stimulating and fortifying civic action, defending individual and collective rights guaranteed by the national health system.

Actions in places we had never accessed before nor would have been able to access without the funding support for the project.

- Solidifying ties with public service workers and administrators that proved useful in implementing activities

Improving our relationship with the media, creating a favorable climate to publish and disseminate our informational materials to our target populations.

Establishing partnerships with service agencies in the less populated and rural regions.

A good reception of our project activities from prostitutes.

Prostitutes interest in participating in the advocacy training seminar.

- The partners from the Porto Seguro municipal departments of health, education, sports, tourism and culture committed to the same goal of bringing information, awareness and respect to life.

The partnership and support established with school directors.

Participants reflecting on and understanding how gender inequalities negatively impact women that access social/health services.

Through the course of the workshops, many of these women recognized for the first time how different kinds of violence are normalized, and they were subsequently motivated to shift their attitudes to a more autonomous stance in their romantic relationships.

Health and service workers also recognized the difficulties that arise as a result of the absence of consultation services, non-adherence to treatment, in short, recognizing the challenges in changing attitudes on both sides (clients/patients and social service/health/professionals).

Lessons learned about street populations where women are most vulnerable to sexual violence, HIV/AIDS and STI infection.

·Participants understanding combined prevention strategies and technologies and the importance of testing, HIV/AIDS/STI treatment, harm reduction, vertical transmission, hepatitis B and HPV immunization, prophylactic measures pre and post exposure, using male and female condoms and knowing where PEP and PrEP sites are located. In other words, knowing the range of prevention possibilities shifts realities.

Health and street outreach workers also learned about living with HIV/AIDS, the existing challenges in accessing health services especially for women, where inherent gender inequalities generate challenges like not having childcare available for women with children needing to see a doctor, or the various kinds of violence women are subject to.

Denouncing human rights violations and the lack of representation and technologies for HIV/AIDS/STI prevention.

This stimulated sharper and more informed civic action among people who access local healthcare facilities

Creating a space for critical reflection on sexuality and its psychosocial dimension, giving participants the opportunity to understand the importance of restricting the exercise of defining sexuality in the context of care selfcare, prevention and the search for health services as a part of the practice of physical and psychological well-being.

The sharing of knowledge, information and experiences between participants that no doubt contributed to greater leadership in taking on the individual and collective fights as health promoters in the communities they are a part of.

As a result of discussion about the project with the São Paulo municipal AIDS program, they took on the responsibility of developing prevention materials specifically for the deaf community.

In terms of Fundo PositHiVo's specific responsibilities in implementing projects, we had no unexpected challenges that impacted project completion. However, the CSO's did share some of the following challenges that arose and impacted project implementation:

"Fighting homophobia, transphobia and all forms of violence should be a banner of permanent struggle."

Violence against trans and LGBT communities continues to be a huge challenge in Brazil. It is with regret that we received news at the beginning of December from the group Conexão G: LGBT civic action in the favelas, that yet another crime was committed against the LGBTQI+ population in Brazil. The young trans woman Luany Aquamarine was a resident of the Maré neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro, and participated in Conexão G's project "Affirming voices," funded by Fundo PositHiVo. She was sadly beaten by a group of men and died from her injuries.

According to a report from Transgender European NGO focused on defending trans rights primarily in Europe but also some other countries-- Brazil has the highest rate of transgender murders in the world. Fighting homophobia and transphobia must be a banner of permanent struggle. Fundo PositHiVo is in solidarity with friends and family and reaffirms the fight for justice.



“O enfrentamento da homofobia, da transfobia e de todas as formas de violência deve ser uma bandeira de luta permanente”.

Lack of schedule availability at the primary healthcare units where project activities were to take place in partnership with the departments of health.

The absence of epidemiological data on the transgender populations in the favelas of Brazil complicated the drafting of public human rights policies aimed at guaranteeing, expanding and maintaining the rights of trans people in the public health system.

Convincing young people that using condoms and safe sex are important. The youth generation of today didn't live through the AIDS panic of the 80's and they therefore don't fear the implications of contracting the disease

Dialogue with young people, speaking their lingo and managing to convince them. This generation was practically born with the cell phone in their hands producing a new reality and whole other way of seeing the world.

Convincing the elderly to use condoms. This wasn't part of their sexual practices when they were young and they therefore see them as unnecessary.

Promoting awareness among healthcare administrators with regard to care for prostitutes in primary care settings.

During the project outreach period, some public school directors voiced opposition in working with these kinds of projects because it is still taboo to talk about safe sex and sexuality.

The difficulty of the Portuguese language. The need for sign-language interpreters, although very good, always brought up comprehension challenges;

·There is a shortage of educational and preventive materials that can be presented at workshops with the deaf community



Project Anecdotes

After the end of an activity with teenagers, a young person shared that he had learned about how to use a female condom and that he was now more confident to use it;

A young person came to the project staff and asked for help on what to do after receiving HIV positive test results because a family member was living with the virus but had never begun treatment.

Obs: The institution is monitoring the PLHIV.

"Now I know you can't get HIV from kissing."

An intense experience was when we had to give the "reactive" test result to a young gay man. He was not aware of his serostatus and was particularly shocked. It's not easy news to give someone and we need to be grounded to offer the council and psychological support the person needs at that first moment.

There was another difficult moment sharing a reactive test result with a young gay man who was shocked but didn't show any reaction. This left the health promoter apprehensive, for that silence could have signaled an unthinkable future act.

Bringing prevention and testing actions to small country towns is rewarding because young people bring many questions and are particularly interested in clarifying information.

At the end of a lecture, a student shared that they were really happy to have gotten clarity on their questions regarding unprotected sex since a majority of their peers shared that they don't like using condoms because they are annoying, uninteresting and don't feel good. However, after they participated in the workshops, they went to get rapid testing to not worry and after that, would use condoms more frequently.

A student shared that when she had heard about the workshop she became interested because she had had unprotected sex but she didn't have the courage to tell her parents. She shared that she is 16 years old from a totally traditional evangelical family. After today's workshop she saw that sex has no age limit, but does have consequences if a person isn't mature enough or doesn't practice sex with the proper care.

A student shared that she had a 16-year-old friend that got HIV at last year's carnival from a handsome guy she lost her virginity to. This story shared at the end of the workshop was a wake up call to a lot of the students present because it reinforced the fact that the disease doesn't care about anyone's physical appearance, and she stressed how important it is for everyone, regardless of social conditions, race or any other characteristic, to use condoms indiscriminately.

"These workshops and the 'about me' actions shared in the workshops should be shared with the youth groups served by the Fé e Alegria Foundation in the Ação Rua Program since many of them have issues with delinquency at school and should have access to all the rich information this project and the other reports shared."

Ângela Bernardes - Ação Rua program coordinator.

"We found the information from the workshops very relevant to our work and it would be ideal if my entire staff could have the information, is that possible?"

Cáren Rodrigues, ESF Vizeu/Fradique coordinator speaking at the district council meeting.

«If in my day those technologies existed, I would not have been infected with HIV. May this information be shared with the greatest number of people possible so that we can prevent our young people from infection." - Neiva Fernandes, woman living with HIV/AIDS.

"Aside from working here at Fé e Alegria, I am part of afro-religious groups in the area outside of this region where I live, Partenon. You guys can do these workshops at the temples because it would be a very important health space where many people could participate and access this information."

Carmen Lucia Souza, Ação Rua/ Fé e Alegria staff member.

After years of struggle, we got retirement through social security for one of our group members.

I have the great satisfaction of working with a motivating and militant staff. One of the most rewarding processes was participating in prevention actions in schools and neighborhoods where we used a participatory approach with the target population to disseminate information. The DPAC staff demonstrates a close and trusting relationship with the target population and knowledge of Oiapoque and border region context, which is key in addressing STI issues. (Carolina Nakano).

Our staff is a team of warriors whose daily efforts in social work in our region are immeasurable, and that is why I am proud to work with and be a part of such a winning team. (Simião Mendes – DPAC).

Working in a CSO project is motivating, helping people and always being in a group setting is a great learning experience where each day we become stronger, never giving up on our ideas. (Jane Miller – DPAC).

Participation and interest up to this moment surpassed our expectations before starting the workshops. Neivaldo Zovido, the regional director of Feneis/Sao Paulo shared the following relevant testimony (recorded on film with a sign-language interpreter): "...The prevention signs project is really important for us...the students participate a lot because they don't know about these things (diseases and prevention) and they really want to know...they don't know how to use condoms for example... this is all really important for them..."



Rede Nacional de Pessoas que Vivem com HIV/AIDS Núcleo de Uberlândia - MG

Success Stories

As mentioned, at the beginning of the project we saw a lack of awareness on the issue among deaf people. For example, they didn't know that AIDS is not spread by kissing. Throughout the workshop series, we could already see the progress and its national potential. After the specific material we produced, we translated it into Brazilian sign-language with the intent of sending the material to deaf people across Brazil.

Two CSO's that received funding from Fundo PositHivo's 2016 grant also received grants in 2017.

Grupo Orgulho, Liberdade e Dignidade-GOLD (The Pride, Liberty and Dignity Group) from Vitória in Espírito Santo state implemented the "Straight talk about AIDS" project where actions were developed with adolescents in juvenile detention. The project received the state human rights award and the youth presented testimony about their participation in the projects' actions at the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

The Uberlândia (Minas Gerais state) chapter of the National Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS implemented the project, "Hey homey, know what's up with prevention," which received the State Citizen Seal of Excellence award.

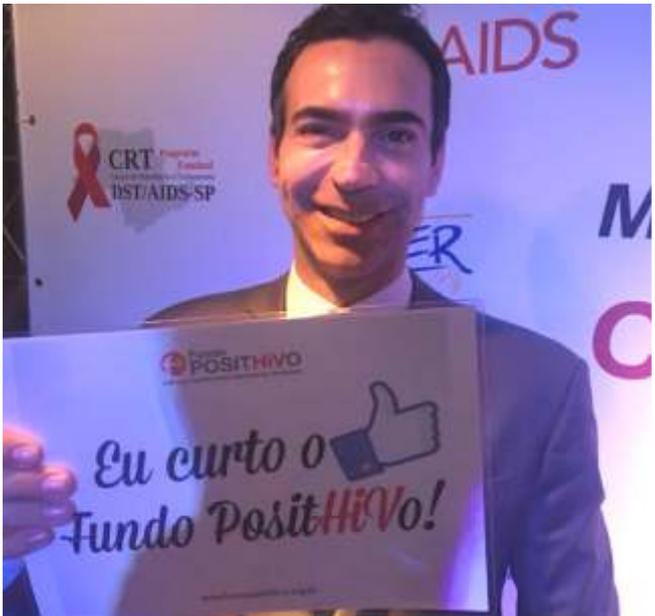
Grupo Orgulho, Liberdade e Dignidade-GOLD (Vitória-ES)





Artist that support Fundo PositHiVo

Given the fact that celebrities have a power in shaping public opinion, we decided to continue our awareness-raising campaign aimed at celebrities, expanding our team of artists and celebrities that support Fundo PositHiVo.





Partnerships

Fundo PositHiVo had the honor of co-organizing with the **Instituto de Infectologia Emílio Ribas** for the second consecutive year the virtual campaign against AIDS. Yesterday we were at the campaign launch and it was a great success! In the photo are directors **Harley Henriques** and **Élida Miranda** (center) and board members **Antonio Alci Barone** e **João Abrahão**.





Institutional Representation and Event Participation

The fund participated in the Ministry of Health's HIV/AIDS prevention campaign launch for Carnival 2017. The event was held in Salvador, Bahia with Fundo PositHivo's General Coordinator Harley Henriques and fiscal board member Carlos Tufvesson in attendance.



In April, the coordinators met with board members and collaborators to review and approve the 2017 public grant call for projects.

HUMAN RIGHTS | | Fundo PositHiVo is part of the Social Justice Philanthropy network (Rede de Filantropia para a Justiça Social), which brings together diverse foundations focused on supporting humanitarian and environmental issues across Brazil. General coordinator Harley Henriques attended network convenings in Rio de Janeiro at the beginning of 2017, where discussions were focused on human rights violations in recent years in the country.



Fundo PositHiVo accompanied the launch of the application "Cuide-se Bem," (Take care of yourself), an app for people living with HIV or viral hepatitis. The app has numerous resources to support PLHIV and promises to aide in adherence to treatment. The app was developed by the São Paulo State AIDS and STI program (CRT DST/Aids SP - Centro de Referência e Treinamento DST/Aids - SP)

Fundo PositHiVo was present on the first day of the 10th Hepatoaids event in São Paulo. This important event brings together more than a thousand health professionals to exchange new information and innovations in HIV/AIDS, liver diseases and co-infections. PrEP was extensively discussed, approved and well received as a new combined prevention method against HIV.



Fundo PositHiVo's general coordinator Harley Henriques attended the 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science in France put on by the International AIDS Society from the 23rd to the 26th of July, 2017. Gatherings like these are fundamental in sharing not only scientific advances, but also prevention and awareness-raising innovations.

Fundo PositHiVo coordinators Élide Miranda e Noêmia Lima participated in the I Seminário Internacional Juventudes e Vulnerabilidades: homicídios, encarceramento e preconceitosto (1st International Seminar on Youth and Vulnerabilities: Homicides, Incarceration and Prejudice), an initiative organized by the Health Institute in partnership with the College of Law at the University of São Paulo.

The general coordinator Harley Henriques, participated at the ABGLT convening in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais). It's important to sustain and expand the action network that fights for all the rights relevant to the LGBT community Thank you!



Élide Miranda attended the evento #EseFosseComVocê? (And if it was you?) organized by UNAIDS-Brazil and the British embassy. The event shed light on inspiring conversations regarding HIV, young people and human rights.

Noemia Lima attended the 11th HIV/Aids Congress - 4th Viral Hepatitis conference (Hepaids2017) in Curitiba, Paraiba. Innovations in treatment, testing and combined HIV/AIDS prevention were presented and discussed. The congress was also a space for activists, administrators, health professionals and the general public to exchange experiences. The photo is of Adele Benzaken, directo of the STI, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis department (Departamento de IST, Aids e Hepatites Virais).





Élida Miranda participated in the Southeast Regional Combined Prevention for youth workshop organized by the Department on AIDS.

Élida Miranda participated in the Trans network southeast regional workshop "Education and Work as opportunities for social inclusion." The inclusion of trans people in the labor market, schools, universities and health settings is key in moving towards a society more inclusive of this population.



Harley Henriques accompanied the Stronger than Zika Caravan in Olinda, Pernambuco.



Noêmia Lima represented Fundo PositHivo at the Ministry of Health's Department of Strategic Participatory Management meeting (Ministério da Saúde). The goal of the meeting was to discuss strategies for implementing the National Integrated Health Policy for the Black population.



Élida Miranda and board member João Abrahão accompanied the Stronger than Zika Caravana in Recife, Pernambuco





Project Site Visits

We made numerous monitoring visits with the 2017 grantees. The first visit was made with the Paraná Black Womens Network (RMN-PR). The organization was founded in 2006 and develops programs that serve Black women in Paraná state. The networks mission is to promote political action among black women in the fights against racism, sexism, classism, lesbophobia and other forms of discrimination, in order to transform power relations and build a more just and equal society.

Through support from Fundo PositHiVo, the CSO implemented the project "Combination prevention promoting long healthy lives without racism" which developed an STI/HIV/AIDS and hepatitis prevention health education workshop in Curitiba.

The projects target population included the diverse communities that make up the Brazilian Black population like PLHIV; representatives from CSO's that work directly on STI/AIDS/Viral Hepatitis prevention, health promotion and the health of the black population; public health administrators; Black health and racial equality agencies.

Project actions were carried out through training workshops held in Curitiba and Iguazu Falls. The project also organized the VII Lai Lai Apejo Convening, where the strategic action was to subsidize the federal government in drafting proposals that implement Combined Prevention initiatives from a racial lens.



We concluded our site visit by citing as accomplishments the open dialogue established with the community in the surrounding region of the networks headquarters, as well as increased coordination between young black women in Paraná state. Lastly, the CSO pointed out that a key marker of success was the information and knowledge shared in the workshops, as access to STI/HIV/AIDS/Viral Hepatitis combined prevention information encouraged individual behavior shifts. This was the most relevant point we could perceive.



We made another field visit at Grupo Conexão G in the Maré favela in Rio de Janeiro. Grupo Conexão G is a CSO that was founded in March, 2006, by a group of youth that wanted to facilitate reflective discussions about homosexuality in favelas. The groups' trajectory is defined by the common interest among youth members to reduce in an integrated and comprehensive way, the discrimination this population faces by focusing on human rights and promoting the health of the LGBT favela resident populations in Rio de Janeiro.

The project funded by Fundo PositHivO, "Affirming Voices", developed STI/HIV/AIDS/Viral Hepatitis prevention workshops for Black transgender women residing in the following favelas: Penha, Maré, Rocinha, Alemão, Jardim Palmares e Cidade de Deus. The overarching goal was to reduce risks of infection and the number of recorded incidence rates.

The project used the 3MV methodology, a behavioral intervention for groups aimed at HIV/STI prevention among Black trans women. This methodology is part of a set of 29 intervention methodologies scientifically proven effective with this target population.

Furthermore, they have been evaluated and used by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The project's activities were grounded in the goal of strengthening the political and social mission in solidarity with the fight against transphobia. From this perspective, the project made an assessment of the current political situation within which the national healthcare systems new guidelines for care and treatment of the trans population were presented. They included the "Test and Treat" policy, prevention with more vulnerable populations, new prevention technologies, new studies and joint strategies to increase diagnostic services for groups most affected by HIV, like the oral fluid sample test.

The project had institutional support from the STI/HIV/AIDS State Management (SES-RJ) and Municipal Management (SMS) boards as well as other public bodies and civic groups like the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB)-Rio de Janeiro, the Rio de Janeiro Public Defender and national entities like the Brazil Trans Network. The project has a strong commitment with the local community and for this reason networked with the National Transvestite, Transexual and Trans Men and Women Movement in order to increase political action around the policies that affect this community in the favelas. The project provided political education training that acted as a springboard in forming organizers and institutional development support for the community-based organizations and networks the project served. .

The CSO staff pointed out how relevant this project is in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, emphasizing that the LGBT population in the favelas are not a priority on the government agenda. This is highlighted by the fact that epidemiological data exists on Gay and MSM populations, but little if any data exists for the trans population.

We concluded our site visit by identifying the following project accomplishments:

The creation of a trans kitchen project with the goal of increasing employability for transvestites and transsexuals, as well as to discuss the importance of adopting preventive practices and adhering to treatment;

Clinical care for trans girls in the primary care health units in the favelas;

Creating a healthcare and services referral network for trans girls in the favelas;

Rapid testing offered to trans girls in the favelas, where rapid testing is not an offered public health service;



We made our third visit to the Reprolatina office-- Innovative Solutions for Sexual and Reproductive Health-- in Campinas, São Paulo. The CSO was founded on May 28, 1999 and develops strategic innovative actions to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health for adult and adolescent men and women from the most disadvantaged countries in Latin America (Brasil, Bolívia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Panamá, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay). The CSO works in partnership with private, municipal, state and federal institutions to create and strengthen local, sustainable technical skills that bring together ideas in health promotion, sexual and reproductive rights and gender equity.

Initially the CSO implemented the project: Better Aging Yes, AIDS no. Information is Prevention! This project proposed training men and women that frequent the Paulinia County Elderly Center as "HIV-AIDS and viral hepatitis prevention health promoters."

The training discussed sexuality, gender, sexual rights, elderly rights, HIV combination prevention, HIV/AIDS/STI diagnostic and treatment measures, education methodologies that encourage behavioral changes by adopting self-care and prevention practices and eliminating discriminatory attitudes and behaviors towards people living with HIV.

With the administrative change in office in the Paulinia municipality, the CSO was unable to get the needed signature of agreement establishing the partnership. The project had to then restructure its program and thus created the "Youth Yes, AIDS No: Information is Prevention!" action in Campinas.

The prevention peer health educators training program covered health, body and sexuality, gender, empowerment, risk and STI/HIV/AIDS, HIV and Viral Hepatitis rapid testing, combined prevention, self-esteem and what it means to be a peer health educator.

Peer health educators organized and carried out the following prevention activities: informative minute, information booth, an educational mural, challenge in the dark (how to properly use a condom), educational messages promoting self care and health self-esteem, video debates, round table discussions, informational talks, condom distribution, installation of condom dispensaries and referrals to primary care clinics and testing and counseling centers for youth.

The "green card" system was implemented, which is a card that gives young people priority in getting tested at Testing and Counseling centers (CTA) in Campinas. The cards were distributed by the peer health educators trained in this project, doing face to face prevention outreach at the biggest nightclub in Campinas on Saturdays in a designated area specifically designed to hand out prevention materials and tips.

The CSO implemented this project in partnership with the Campinas Municipal STI/HIV/AIDS/viral hepatitis program and with education administrators.

We ended our CSO monitoring visit emphasizing that the projects activities contributed to:

The spread of more accurate information among young people about STI/HIV-AIDS prevention

An increase in access to and distribution of condoms within the youth population, especially among LGBT and MSM people.

An increase in youth getting tested for HIV, Syphilis, hepatitis B and C.

An increase in youth participation in prevention actions





We also visited the Anápolis LGBT Diversity Group (GDA) in Anápolis, Goiás. GDA is a CSO based in Anápolis whose mission is to prevent STI/HIV/AIDS/Viral Hepatitis infection, defend human and civil rights, eradicate discrimination and prejudice, end violence, and finally protect the environment.

The project "#Jovens Antenados -Prevenção Combinada, Ação Política e Advocacy," (#YouthAntennae- Combined prevention, political action and advocacy) funded by Fundo PositHiVo, raised awareness among the most vulnerable groups about the AIDS epidemic within Youth, LGBT, PLHIV, women and elderly populations, the importance of practicing safe sex, rapid testing and early treatment for STI/HIV/Hepatitis.

Activities were carried out at sites frequented by the target populations. The project distributed prevention tips and informative materials about STI transmission and the combined prevention practices relevant to each kind, including PEP and PrEP.

After establishing an initial point of contact with target populations, discussion groups were developed for people to share knowledge and information with their partners and social circles.

The CSO organized diverse activities like Prevention Checkpoints, rapid oral testing, legal assistance for LGBT communities in schools, public plazas, on the street and in landless squatter encampments.

We ended our site visit by highlighting the following project accomplishments:

The project allowed us to reach places we had never reached before and implemented actions we previously didn't have the resources to do.

The project strengthened our ties with public administrators and this dialogue has been very useful in executing the organizations demands and actions.

The project also facilitated an improved relationship with the media and the creation of a more favorable climate within which to publish and distribute information benefiting our programs and target populations.



We visited the Ilê Ache Omo Odé Association in the city of Tiradentes, an association in existence since the founding of the neighborhood in the 1980's and considered one of the largest housing developments in Latin America. The Ilê was formally established in 1994 with the development of various partnerships and projects in social assistance, education, health and culture. Since the late 80's, the association has welcomed people socially excluded because of mental health illness (mostly tied to alcohol and drug abuse) and HIV/AIDS infection (predominantly gay men at the time). The organization closely accompanied the designing of public policy in these areas, adopting step-by-step strategies relevant to each historical moment.

The project Povos de Comunidades Tradicionais na Prevenção Combinada do HIV/AIDS e Hepatites Virais (Traditional communities in HIV/AIDS/Viral hepatitis combined prevention), held training workshops in combined prevention for religious leaders from African-based religious traditions in the east zone of São Paulo. The strategy was for religious leaders to disseminate health information to the general population since the defining character of

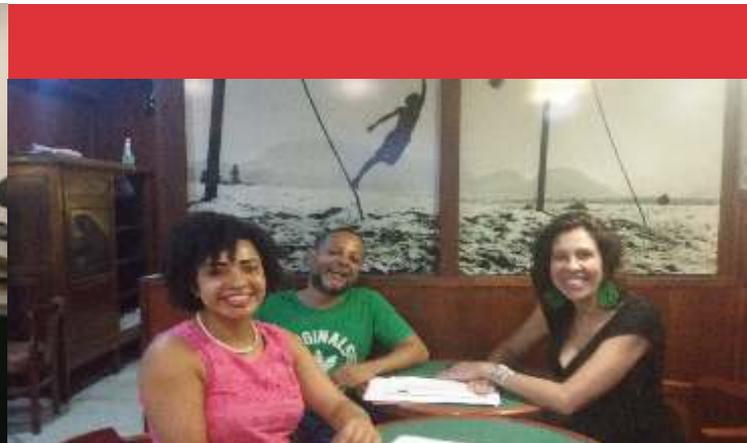
these religious houses has been to always welcome anyone in a personal or socially vulnerable situation.

The project had support from the director of the Tiradentes Testing and Counseling Center who participated in all of the projects training actions and carried out rapid oral testing in the religious houses. The project also encouraged participation from the child welfare system, education administrators, samba school representatives, popular legal aid promoters and other community leaders that systematically participated in the projects actions.

The results from project actions were:

Mobilization around a greater understanding of the issue which gave rise to a possible consensus in the complex debate on adopting preventative/safe practices (and/or harm reduction) in specific rituals in the religious houses of african-based religions.

The spreading of information outlined in the combined prevention strategies between partners, especially the importance of adhering to treatment, and understanding and demystifying PEP and PrEP strategies and other preventative and diagnostic actions.



We made a technical visit at ECOS-Comunicação em Sexualidade (Communication in Sexuality). The CSO was founded in 1990 with the mission of defending human, sexual and reproductive rights among women and youth. The organization produces and utilizes knowledge from diverse fields, working in education, health, communication and community development to expand "a culture of rights," gender equality, civic action, respect for diversity and free and healthy human development. The organization has also always had strong visibility in defending human rights in the fight against AIDS, voicing the demands from the women's movement and recognizing sexual diversity.

The project Sinais da Prevenção (Prevention Signs) was done in partnership with the Sao Paulo regional board of directors of FENEIS - Federação Nacional de Educação e Integração dos Surdo (National Deaf Education and Integration Federation), establishing all of the necessary agreements in order to execute the workshops and outreach actions. The prevention workshops were carried out with the students from EMEBS Helen Keller in the Aclimação neighborhood. Deaf people from the various greater São Paulo regions participated and showed the potential in becoming peer health educators because of their intense and recognized militancy in social networks across Brazil.

The results of the project actions were: an awareness by peer health educators to participate in communication workshops because of the great difficulty deaf people have with the Portuguese language. The project's technical staff took note in the first workshop of the great distance and the lack of knowledge about STI/HIV/AIDS prevention among deaf participants.

Another result was identifying the need for informational materials on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention that is accessible to the deaf community in partnership with the Secretary for disabled persons and the municipal STI/HIV/AIDS program. After meeting with both entities, a work plan was drafted to develop materials specifically for the deaf community. The municipal program developed these materials and are complimentary to the materials ECOS developed which include a video about prevention produced by the young deaf participants in the Prevention Signs project.

The project coordinator pointed out that among the great challenges faced today in the creation of STI/HIV/AIDS guidelines and public policies is making prevention campaigns and actions accessible to people that are deaf or hearing impaired. The lack of information for the deaf population makes this population even more vulnerable to STI/HIV/AIDS infection. The lack of epidemiological data on the deaf population makes it difficult to draft more targeted STI/HIV/AIDS/Viral hepatitis public policies and contributes to a lack of civic action from this population.

This is an alarming fact that isn't always considered in designing public health policies.



Evaluation

In 2017, Fundo PositHiVo supported 21 initiatives in rural areas, remote regions on the border with Argentina, French Guyana and Venezuela and other areas with little public policy oversight like the semiarid regions. Some of the populations supported included young students, LGBT, incarcerated adult and juvenile men and women, landless squatter settlements, young people living with HIV/AIDS, women victims of violence, the hearing impaired and the elderly. Today, Fundo PositHiVo is the only organization in Brazil that financially supports actions aimed at prevention in partnership with CSO's that focus on HIV/AIDS issues.

Fundo PositHiVo is a strategic institution for donors that can only invest in just one institution because their donation will have a multiplying impact throughout the country, benefiting many CSO's in regions where a donor would not be able to access on their own.

The social response of AIDS CSO's in Brazil is based on an innovated three-pronged model of strong public policy advocacy, massive educational and awareness-raising actions and support and care services for people living with AIDS. Fundo PositHiVo has as a

central premise to expand support for CSO's and strengthen and spread this model as an example of best practices in the HIV/AIDS field. All of Fundo PositHiVo's supporters, despite being aware of the great challenges that lie ahead, are inspired and happy about the accomplishments already made like: the contribution to the reprioritization of HIV/AIDS in the national agenda, especially in partnership with diverse financing sources; the development of an independent private donor funding source to finance projects developed by CSO's currently active in the field, with a focus on small organizations based in regions with the greatest difficulty in accessing financial resources; financing support for socially marginalized populations like LGBT, sex workers and psychoactive substance users who in the current conservative context would not have another resource; most importantly, reinforcing the joint responsibility society has in its role to support the HIV/AIDS cause,

remembering the saying at the beginning of the epidemic, where "AIDS is everybody's problem and only solidarity can overcome it."

2017 was intense primarily because the current political and economic situation in Brazil has threatened to take away rights gained, requiring the entire Fundo PositHivO team of coordinators, collaborators and partners to join their efforts in mobilizing resources and commitment to the cause.

Fundo PositHivO coordinators frequently participate in seminars and debates about the current state of HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis in Brazil. This is fundamental in learning about new actions and demands from CSO's so that we can contribute to further development and autonomy.

Despite all of the difficulties that CSO's confront given the current economic and political context in Brazil, we can assert that Fundo PositHivO was proactive and had positive results in our third year in operation. We closed the 2017 cycle optimistic and happy with the results of our work and with an eye towards continually expanding support for CSO's in 2018, enhancing our role in the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis, strengthening advocacy, lobbying and public policy accountability actions by especially supporting CSO network actions.



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