

IAS Educational Fund summary report 2025



Mission

The IAS Educational Fund aims to provide inclusive educational opportunities for key stakeholders to facilitate bridging the gap between evidence-based science, policy and action.

The IAS Educational Fund has reached over 37,000 people since its launch in 2016. The programme aims to improve access to the latest scientific advances on HIV and AIDS and support their translation into practice. It primarily targets HIV professionals in resource-limited settings.

2025 key highlights	Focus	HIV professionals reached
Five in-person country and regional meetings and one virtual regional symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person: Mozambique, Togo, Thailand (Southeast Asia), Ecuador (Latin America and the Caribbean), Albania Virtual: Southeast Asia 	863 <i>627 in person</i> <i>236 virtual</i>
Four follow-up activities relating to previous meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pakistan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines 	228
Digital resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six webinars in multiple languages (HIV in global crises; Opportunistic infections; Prevention in constrained settings; Key messages from IAS 2025; HIV in Indigenous populations) Materials from regional meetings 	2,787 3,070 views
IAS 2025 scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 106 scholarships granted 93 in person and 13 virtual Professional development and networking sessions 	106
IAS Mentorship Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fifth edition (20 mentees/20 mentors) 	40
Virtual scientific publishing workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to write and submit a research manuscript 	144 177 views

Regional meetings



Through its [regional meetings](#) and partnerships, the IAS Educational Fund encourages healthcare workers, researchers, community actors and policy makers to collaborate and catalyse action at global, regional, country and community levels on key recommendations presented and discussed during the meetings. The meetings aim to improve strategies, policies and HIV clinical practice at local, national and regional levels. In 2025, the IAS reached over 860 HIV professionals with its in-person and virtual regional meetings. This marked a special year, with the programme celebrating its 50th regional meeting in Mozambique in June.¹

"The event provided a valuable platform for meaningful dialogue around key issues in the HIV response in Mozambique. I was particularly inspired by the diversity of perspectives shared and the commitment of all participants to improving health outcomes."

Female researcher in an NGO – Participant in the 2025 meeting in Mozambique



Meeting participants, Maputo, Mozambique, June 2025

"Thanks to this symposium, I can now position myself as an activist with a thorough understanding of HIV and can immediately organize educational talks to share my knowledge with others."

Female in a community-based organization – Participant in the 2025 meeting in Togo



Meeting participants, Lomé, Togo, October 2025

¹ Quotes have been lightly edited for clarity and style.

Community leadership at the heart of resilient HIV responses

In 2025, the IAS Educational Fund continued to strengthen national and regional HIV responses by convening diverse stakeholders in southern and western Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and the Balkans. Across all regions, a unifying message emerged: community leadership is essential for building sustainable, resilient HIV responses in times of transition.

Reinforcing local ownership in Mozambique

In Mozambique, where reductions in external funding have deeply affected the national HIV response, the June meeting created a timely platform for collective reflection on how to sustain progress in a rapidly changing landscape. Stakeholders from government institutions, civil society, health facilities and implementing partners came together to discuss how the country could navigate this new landscape and ensure the durability of hard-won gains.

Participants highlighted the critical importance of cultivating a locally led and locally relevant response. Community representatives consistently underscored that key and affected populations must be at the centre of the response, emphasizing that service delivery and decision making should be increasingly driven by Mozambican actors themselves to remain resilient.

Momentum continued to build after the meeting, and stakeholders from national programmes expressed strong interest in the workshop's recommendations. Participants noted that having government, technical partners, and communities present at this critical moment of transition was transformative, helping establish shared priorities and reaffirming the vital role of communities in guiding a sustainable national response.

"One major takeaway was the value of civil society's active involvement ... in coordinating stakeholder efforts, especially for more vulnerable groups."

Male healthcare worker in an NGO



Group work, Maputo, Mozambique, June 2025

Reviving regional coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, where reduced funding and limited coordination have strained national HIV responses, the regional meeting in Ecuador re-established an important space for cross-country dialogue. For many participants, this was one of the few opportunities to meet in person with government representatives, civil society leaders, scientists and multilateral partners.

Community organizations stressed that the meeting restored their ability to meaningfully advocate within their countries, noting that they returned home with updated and relevant information that strengthened their engagement with national authorities.

One participant described the meeting as essential in a context where spaces for coordination have "significantly decreased", emphasizing that regional exchanges remain crucial to sustaining



Symposium participants, Quito, Ecuador, November 2025

"These spaces remain critical to advancing a more coordinated and comprehensive HIV response. For many community-based organizations, they are essential to reactivating institutional relationships and facilitating technical and political dialogue."

Female lawyer in a people living with HIV and AIDS group or network

the HIV response. The meeting also created momentum needed for broader alignment. A new regional alliance on HIV was presented and endorsed, demonstrating how Educational Fund convenings can catalyse shared commitments and long-term collaboration.

Connecting lived experience, science, and policy in the Balkans

In the Balkans, the 2025 workshop brought together government representatives, healthcare professionals and community members in an open, inclusive environment that participants described as rare and deeply valuable. The meeting encouraged actors to reflect on how national HIV responses could better incorporate lived experiences into policy and programming.

Participants reported feeling more confident in advocating for inclusive approaches and more capable of bridging gaps between institutions and communities. Regional examples shared during the meeting helped inform ongoing national conversations, including efforts to expand access to such prevention tools as PrEP and strengthen community-centred communication strategies.

"The workshop created a structured space for exchange, where evidence, regional experiences and community perspectives were discussed on equal balance."

Female manager/director in a people living with HIV and AIDS group or network



Workshop participants, Tirana, Albania, November 2025

Communities leading the way

Across all regions, the 2025 meetings reaffirmed that community engagement must not be symbolic, but central to how HIV programmes are designed, implemented and evaluated. The 2025 meetings reaffirmed the Educational Fund's core mission: to convene diverse actors, translate the latest science into meaningful action, and elevate community leadership as a cornerstone of sustainable HIV responses.

IAS Mentorship Programme

The IAS Mentorship Programme provides a forum for experienced and younger participants to develop an ongoing relationship by meeting regularly and discussing matters related to the area of HIV within an organized and supportive framework. The programme provides skills development opportunities through virtual learning events and space for discussion during mentoring circles and team-building activities. Participants benefit from an increased awareness of the importance of community involvement and a better understanding of factors influencing career progression.

Twenty mentors and 20 mentees from 28 countries were selected for the fifth edition of the programme, which was held in both

English and French for the first time. The mentors and mentees participated in 16 capacity-building activities over the course of six months.

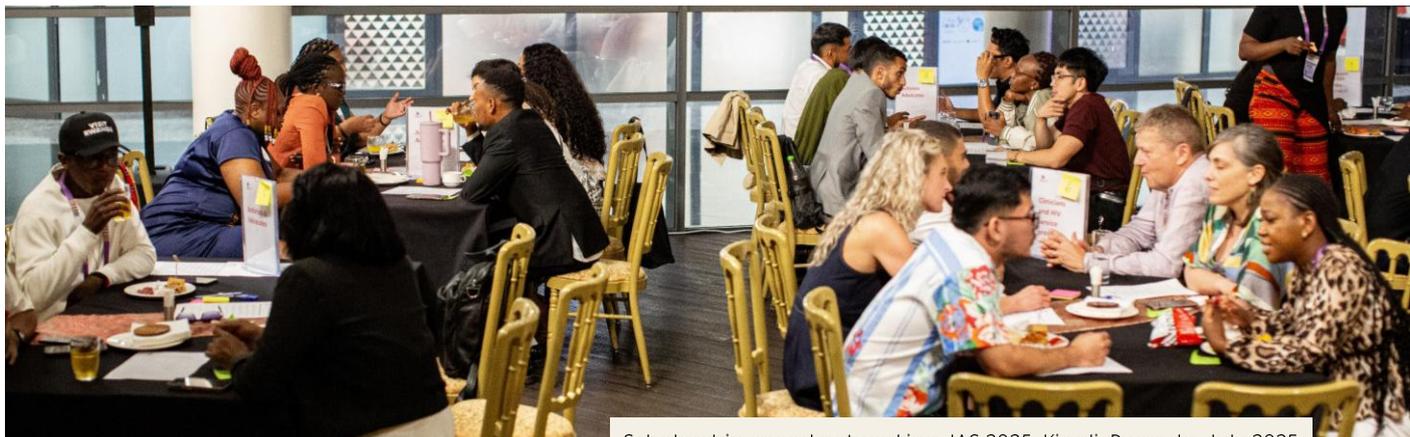
The 2025 cohort reported on planning exciting projects after participating in the programme. These included: implementing an AI-powered chatbot in Burundi; initiating the establishment of a free HIV clinic in Pakistan; internationally expanding a collaboration in HIV and family care research; and submitting research protocols to Ethics and Research Committees in Mexico and Colombia. Multiple mentoring pairs also reported that they intended to collaborate on abstract submissions to major regional and international conferences.

"I truly am grateful for the opportunity. This experience truly impacted the way I approach my life, as well as my work. I remain truly in love with the HIV response and hope to keep contributing in meaningful ways in the future."

Participant in the 2025 Mentorship Programme

IAS 2025 scholarships

For IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science, in Kigali, Rwanda, the IAS Educational Fund provided support to 106 scholarship recipients (85 clinicians and HIV service providers and 21 advocates) from 36 countries.



Scholarship speed networking, IAS 2025, Kigali, Rwanda, July 2025

In the voice of scholarship recipients

"One of the most meaningful outcomes was the direct application of conference learnings to strengthen early infant diagnosis of HIV among children born to mothers living with HIV ... Inspired by these discussions, I initiated targeted post-conference counselling interventions for pregnant women and new mothers living with HIV within our consultative HIV care setting."

Female physician
Eastern Europe and central Asia

"Attending IAS 2025 has had a tremendous impact in my ability to mobilize the local community of key populations and people living with HIV in Ghana. Leveraging on the experiences and learnings from the conference, we have a virtual platform with over 200 members from across six regions, which is helping to improve treatment adherence and address [issues] affecting them."

Male activist
Central, eastern, southern and western Africa

"Attending the IAS meeting reignited my passion for research, as well as increased my advocacy in creating new policy for PrEP in Jamaica. It enabled me to learn more about new PrEP options like lenacapavir and coordinate the NGO HIV community to request that the government of Jamaica adapt the new guidelines and add lenacapavir as a part of PrEP services in Jamaica."

Female physician
Caribbean

Scientific publishing workshops

In 2025, the IAS Educational Fund offered a capacity-development workshop to improve the ability of scientists from resource-limited settings and/or in early-career stages to [compete successfully and publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journals](#). The workshop was delivered by the Editors of the [Journal of the International AIDS Society \(JIAS\), the official journal of the IAS](#), and reached 144 participants live, strengthening their knowledge on writing and submitting a research manuscript in academic journals.

"I learnt a lot on how to structure my manuscript and what is needed in each section. The training really helped me with the discussion section, a section I struggled with."

Female researcher
Central, eastern, southern
and western Africa

"I have been able to write and submit a manuscript. I did a scoping review on HIV prevention strategies among young women who sell sex in sub-Saharan Africa, and the manuscript is under consideration."

Female student
Central, eastern, southern
and western Africa

Digital resources

The IAS Educational Fund also provides digital resources for HIV professionals to access the latest scientific evidence, contributing to the resources available on IAS+. Among these are the recordings from the country and regional meetings, which are available in the languages in which the meetings were held.

The IAS continued promoting best practices and strategies from HIV experts around the world through key webinars ([HIV in global crises](#); [Opportunistic infections](#); [Prevention in constrained settings](#); [Key messages from IAS 2025](#); [HIV in Indigenous populations](#)) requested by IAS Members and responding to global events. In 2025, the IAS Educational Fund provided interpretation into Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish during its webinars.



Webinar, "Prevention in constrained settings", June 2025

"I will use the knowledge gained [from this webinar] to boost advocacy to integrate the new WHO guidelines in my country's guidelines to advance towards the elimination of HIV acquisition."

Participant in an IAS Educational Fund webinar