

Educational Fund summary report 2023



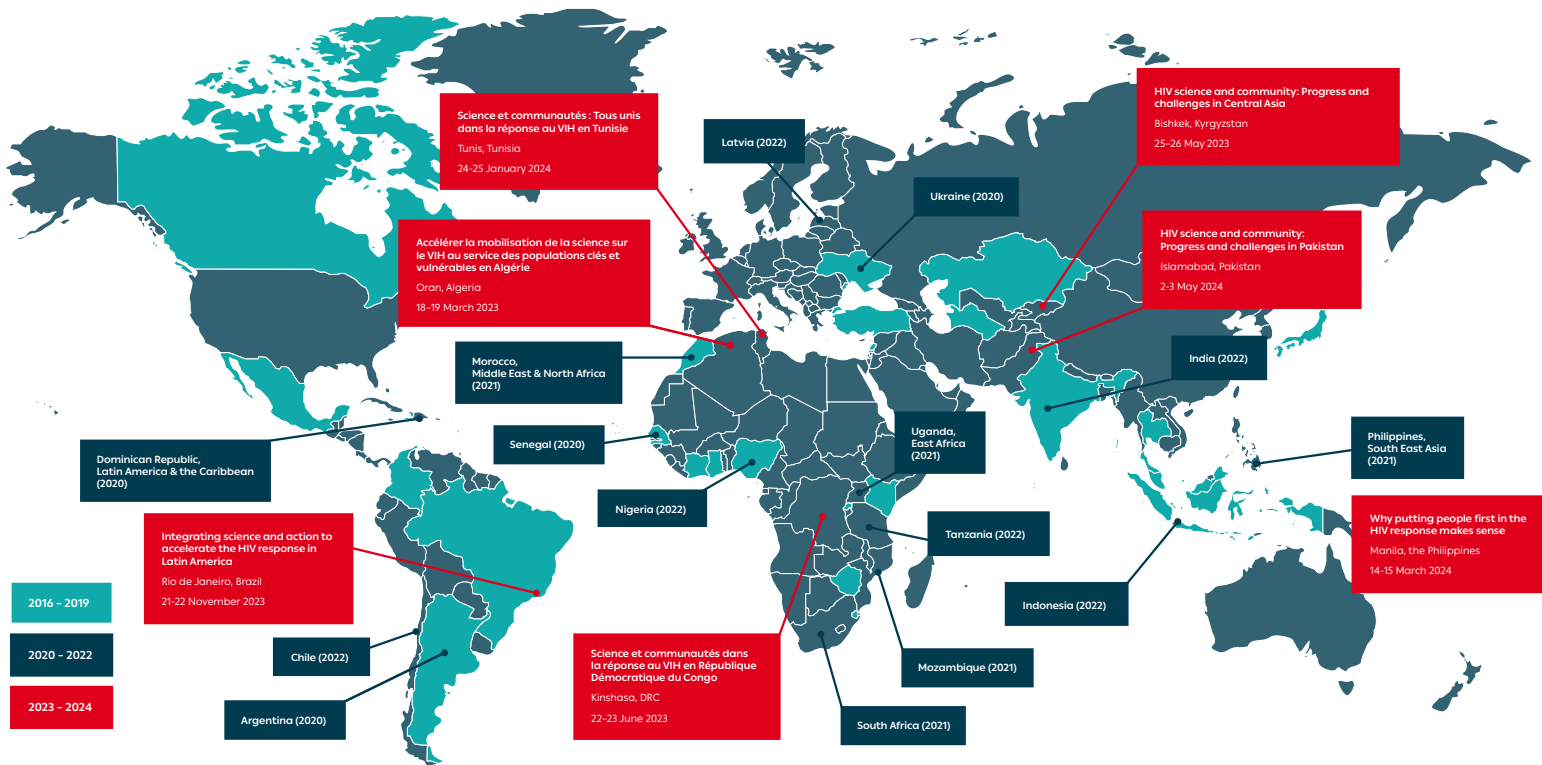
Mission:

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

The Educational Fund has reached more than 28,000 people since its launch in 2016. The Fund aims to improve access to the latest scientific advances on HIV and AIDS and support their translation into practice. It targets primarily HIV professionals in resource-limited settings.

2023 key highlights	Focus	HIV professionals reached
Four country and regional meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil* <p><i>*Virtual participants reached in the hybrid regional meeting for Latin America</i></p>	461 331*
Seven follow-up activities relating to previous meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigeria, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Asia, Indonesia, Chile, Lebanon 	1,198
Digital resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two webinars (HIV prevention, HIV and TB co-infections) IAS 2023 sessions in multiple languages Materials from regional meetings 	2,043 12,082 views
IAS 2023 scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 scholarships granted 78 in-person and 72 virtual Professional development and networking sessions 	150
IAS Mentorship Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 3 completed (10 mentees/10 mentors) 	20
Two virtual scientific publishing workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to write and publish a scientific manuscript Get ready to submit scientific abstracts 	1,178 1,704 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 and national levels. In 2023, the IAS reached 792 HIV professionals with its in-person and hybrid regional meetings (461 in person, 331 online).



Workshop participants, Oran, Algeria, March 2023



"The meeting was a blessing ... There were young government representatives, young researchers, community representatives, as well as interested and interesting health professionals who came from all corners of Algeria, sometimes from 2,000km away! They made this journey because they were ... motivated to learn, to exchange and to share."

Participant in the 2023 IAS Educational Fund workshop in Algeria

The convening power of the IAS Educational Fund regional meetings

Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean

The unique added value of the IAS Educational Fund in the region is its ability to convene stakeholders, who often work in silos, from across the spectrum of the HIV response. In the past two years, the following meetings took place in the region:

Strengthening national collaborations and building bridges in Chile

In October 2022, the IAS Educational Fund partnered with the Chilean Society of Infectious Diseases to organize a scientific symposium in Santiago, Chile, titled "All united in the response to HIV: Science, government, and civil society". This was the first event of its kind in Chile, with the IAS being instrumental in bringing together communities, the government, scientists and healthcare workers, who until then had not worked in partnership. Scientists and healthcare workers were often disconnected from the communities and populations they were directly serving. The scientific meeting played a strong role in building new collaborations and bridges between them and influenced their work:

"As a healthcare worker, it was an invitation to empathize better with the various populations we serve, to open our eyes to the needs that they see, to notice the gap in scientific advances and people's priorities."

Female healthcare worker in a hospital/clinic

"We were able to make contacts with people involved in the care of people living with HIV for potential working partnerships. For example, an infectologist from the north supported us with the dissemination of a project we were doing in the region II of Antofagasta in 2022."

Male healthcare worker in an NGO

The impact of this scientific convening led to the organization in December 2023 of a workshop for civil society organizations engaged in the response to HIV in Chile. The workshop, designed by communities for communities, with the support of experts, healthcare workers and researchers from academic institutions, illustrates the strong impact that the IAS Educational Fund symposium had on creating connections that did not previously exist, as well as on strengthening the capacity of civil society representatives.



Symposium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22 November 2023

Strengthening regional collaborations and building bridges in the Latin America region

A meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November 2023, highlighting the importance of convening regionally to set the agenda and priorities for the upcoming year and beyond. It was stressed that this event was unique in the region in that it would: provide a space where government representatives received the latest scientific updates and high-quality information that would influence public policy; inform scientists about the state of public health; and include communities in the conversation.

IAS President-Elect Beatriz Grinsztejn emphasized the relevance of this meeting as "a safe space for people who do not usually attend international meetings and conferences to participate and express their opinion openly". One of the aims of the IAS Educational Fund – to bridge the gap by bringing the latest science from the international conferences and translating it into local contexts – remains pertinent.

"The trajectory of the IAS Educational Fund consists of giving the opportunity to more health professionals, researchers and communities to access the state of the art of the medical response to HIV in their own language as we know how difficult it is for Latinos to access international conferences."

Activist and online journalist

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.

For the third edition of this capacity-building programme, 20 mentors and mentees from 17 countries were selected. The 2023 cohort reported on planning exciting projects after participating in the programme, including a systematic review of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in South America, a research project on key population networks and health facilities in West Africa, and submitting research to major scientific conferences.



"The IAS Mentorship Programme was a great opportunity to broaden my network and gain experience and knowledge about the HIV response. If you are interested in becoming a leader in the field of HIV and AIDS, the IAS Mentorship Programme is a perfect fit for you."

Jean-Claude Ndayishimiye
 Researcher, IAS Member and mentee from the 2023 programme, Burundi

IAS 2023 scholarships

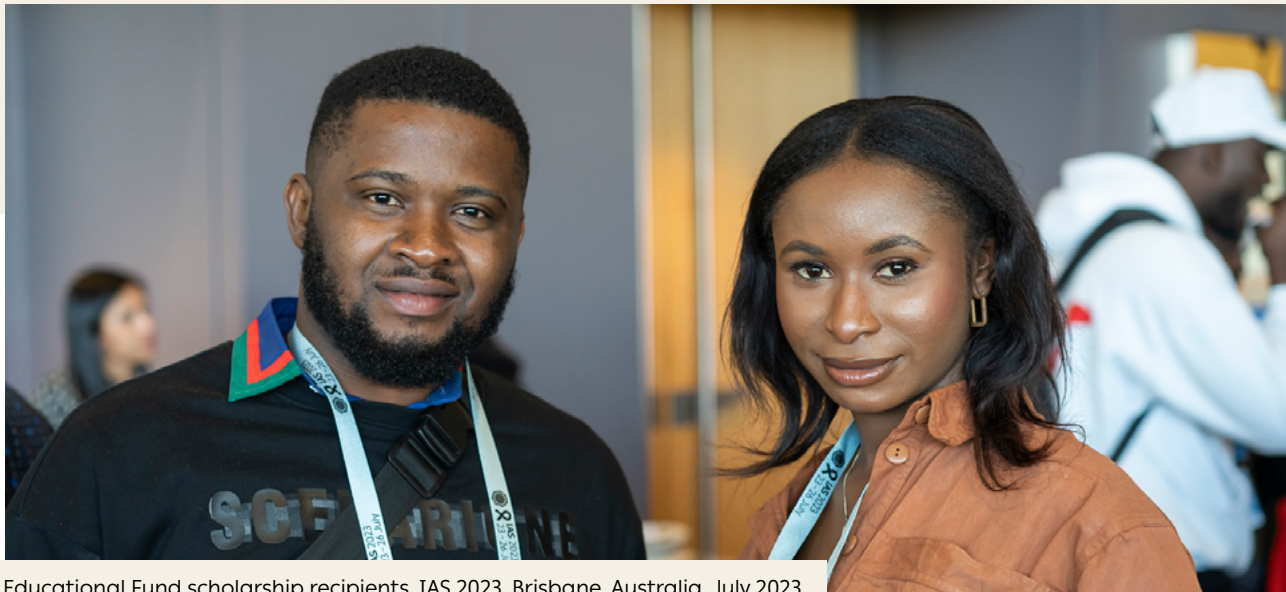
For IAS 2023, the 12th IAS Conference on HIV Science, the IAS Educational Fund provided support to 150 scholarship recipients (112 clinicians and HIV service providers and 38 advocates) from 44 countries.

In the voice of scholarship recipients

"IAS 2023 proved to be a transformative experience for me as a young advocate. Previously, I perceived my potential on a smaller scale, but post-conference, I unearthed collaborative opportunities. Interacting with researchers and funders, who were previously distant figures in virtual meetings, has ignited a motivation to deepen my knowledge. My goal is to connect fellow youth in my country with learning, collaboration and networking opportunities. This, in turn, will empower them to influence change, becoming informed change makers well-versed in HIV programmes and acting as catalysts to strengthen their countries' health systems."

Female, nurse

Central, eastern, southern and western Africa



Educational Fund scholarship recipients, IAS 2023, Brisbane, Australia, July 2023

"They say being a good leader means being a good speaker, and this year, you gave me an opportunity to be better and excel at that ... Kudos to the entire team for helping advocates like me improve ... what we do, to equip us more so we can contribute more to the community."

Female, advocate

South and Southeast Asia

"Attending IAS 2023 was the gateway to a change in the institution that I represent ... The teachings, goals and innovation in the management of people living with HIV were completely replicated, achieving a positive impact on health and prevention."

Male, physician
Latin America

"Joining IAS 2023 provided me with a new perspective ... Now I can assess HIV and AIDS and related issues in a more integrated and comprehensive way. Thank you."

Male, researcher
Eastern Europe and central Asia

Educational Fund scholarship recipient, IAS 2023, Brisbane, Australia, July 2023



Scientific publishing workshops

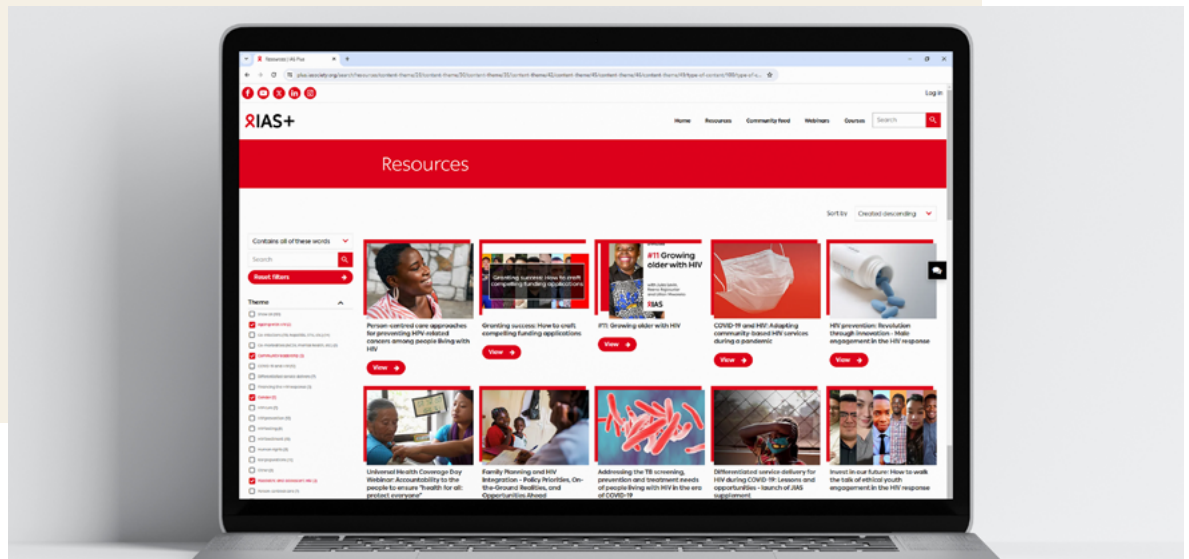
In 2023, the IAS Educational Fund organized two scientific publishing workshops for scientists and researchers from resource-limited settings. The intention was to improve their ability to compete successfully for [acceptance of their abstracts at international conferences](#) and to [publish their research findings](#) in international peer-reviewed journals. These workshops are delivered by Editors of the [Journal of the International AIDS Society \(JIAS\), the official journal of the IAS](#).

"I was able to finalize and submit a manuscript and [am] currently working on other manuscripts. The workshop gave me valuable skills I could practically apply in my work and overall boosted my writing confidence."

**Female, researcher
Southern Africa**

"After attending the workshop, I was able to use the knowledge and my abstract was accepted for poster presentation. I hope the next one will be accepted for oral presentation."

**Female, researcher
West 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 the organization's new digital platform, [IAS+](#). Among these are selected sessions from IAS 2023 that were translated into [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).

The IAS continued promoting best practices and strategies from HIV experts around the world through key webinars on topics ([HIV prevention](#) and [co-infections](#)) requested by IAS Members.