

IAS Educational Fund summary report 2024



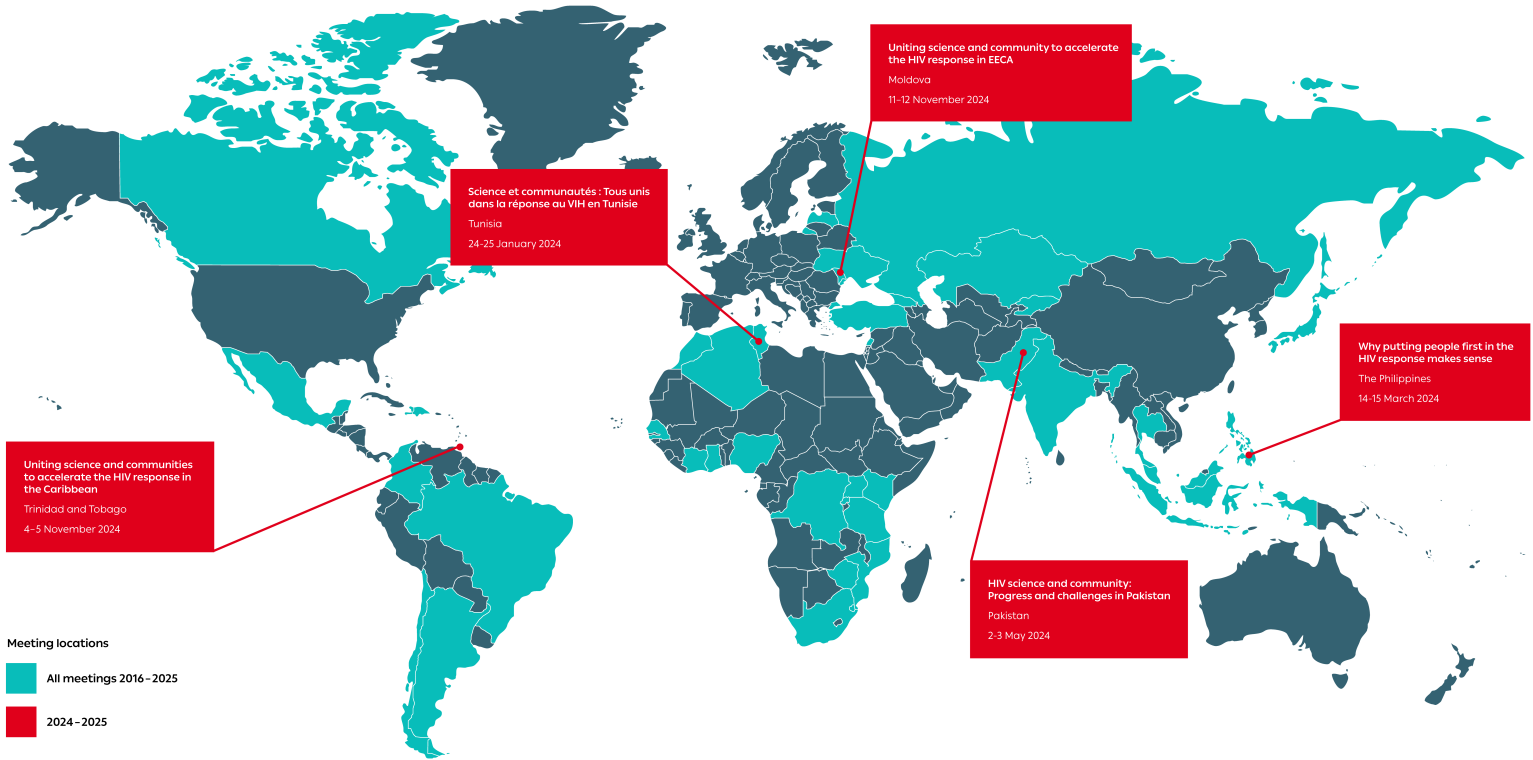
Mission:

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 almost 32,000 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 primarily targets HIV professionals in resource-limited settings.

2024 key highlights	Focus	HIV professionals reached
Five country and regional meetings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tunisia, Philippines, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Moldova 	637
Three follow-up activities relating to previous meetings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil 	159
Digital resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three webinars (STIs, HIV cure and mpox) AIDS 2024 sessions in multiple languages Materials from regional meetings 	2,393 12,273 views
AIDS 2024 scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 106 scholarships granted 75 in-person and 31 virtual Professional development and networking sessions 	106
IAS Mentorship Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth edition completed (10 mentees/10 mentors) 	20
Virtual scientific publishing workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to write and submit a research manuscript 	935 515 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 2024, the IAS reached 637 HIV professionals with its regional meetings.



Workshop participants, Tunis, Tunisia, January 2024

"A huge thank you for everything I learned during this workshop! I am grateful for this enriching opportunity that not only broadened my knowledge, but also transformed my way of looking at things."

Participant in the 2024 IAS Educational Fund workshop in Tunisia



Workshop participants, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, November 2024

"Being in spaces like this meeting provided education on new information related to HIV ... A takeaway for me is how beneficial these kinds of [meetings] are for us to enrich ourselves with knowledge [and] experiences."

Participant in the 2024 IAS Educational Fund workshop in Trinidad and Tobago

The power of collaboration and inclusivity in tailoring HIV responses to local needs

Impact in the Philippines and Pakistan

Although the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed a decrease in new HIV acquisitions and AIDS-related deaths since 2010, this progress is not evenly spread across the region. In the Philippines, new HIV acquisitions and AIDS-related deaths are rising rapidly, and the epidemic is concentrated and largely affecting key populations. In Pakistan, weak coordination between stakeholders, lack of effective community engagement and inadequate inter-provincial information sharing, among other challenges, continue to impact the HIV response. The epidemic in Pakistan is also primarily concentrated in key populations, including people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, sex workers and trans people.

In this context, the IAS Educational Fund hosted meetings in the Philippines and Pakistan in 2024, providing a safe and important platform for local actors to convene, collaborate and learn from each other.

In the Philippines, participants highly appreciated the workshop format of sharing best practices and designing practical group work on implementing them in the local context. Participants from the Visayas and Mindanao regions who collaborated during the activities formed a lasting connection; they continued communicating through an active group chat, establishing an informal service delivery network and supporting each other to respond to challenges they encounter with clients. Others also collaborated to advocate for policy changes in the areas of HIV prevention and paediatric HIV and on the implementation of recommendations based on the science and best practices presented during the workshop.

"I felt happy to have found new mentors and colleagues who share the same vision for Filipinos living with HIV and that is to provide them with better HIV-related healthcare service despite the many barriers. Together with my colleague and our newly-found mentor, [we] are working on a project to address the psychosocial needs of young people living with HIV. It's through IAS that we were able to build this connection and start advocacy to promote mental health for our young clients."

Female healthcare worker in a hospital/clinic

"The attendees were given a platform to voice out their concerns and, through collaborative work, they were able to come up with possible solutions and policies."

Male working in an NGO



Workshop participants, Manila, the Philippines, March 2024

In Pakistan, the involvement and active participation of all stakeholders were consistently highlighted as a significant positive outcome by participants. There was widespread satisfaction that such an event was held in Pakistan, organized in partnership with local organizations Nai Zindagi Trust and Aga Khan University and focusing on carefully selected themes.



Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, May 2024

Following the meeting, government bodies and other key stakeholders in the HIV response in Pakistan have strengthened their coordination, allowing for recommendations from the meeting to be implemented. The meeting also provided an avenue for a learning exchange on best practices between Malaysia and Pakistan. One of the post-meeting aims and learnings from the Malaysian experience is that stakeholders will focus on the establishment of a Pakistani AIDS Council to unify community voices in the country.

"We integrated evidence-based approaches discussed during the meeting, such as expanding access to HIV self-testing and enhancing linkage-to-care pathways. Additionally, the meeting's emphasis on community engagement inspired us to initiate a new project, titled "Accelerated Response to HIV", focusing on high-risk area surveillance and treatment support."

Male advocate/activist in an NGO

IAS Educational Fund meetings continue to serve as vital platforms for fostering national and regional collaborations, strengthening the HIV response, and supporting efforts to address local needs.

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.

Ten mentors and 10 mentees from 15 countries were selected for the fourth edition of the programme, interacting and collaborating with an additional cohort of mentors and mentees focusing on HIV vaccines as part of the IAS Global Vaccine Enterprise Mentorship Programme. The 2024 cohort reported on planning exciting projects after participating in the programme, including collaboration on advancing the implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)-related policies in Russia, supporting mentees in their PhD and grant applications, and building capacity for young people in the United States by fostering closer relationships with young people on the African continent impacted by HIV.

"The programme's biggest impact on my career was that it brought out a talent in mentoring which I thought I did not have."

Wilson Box

Policy researcher, IAS Member and mentor from the 2024 programme, Zimbabwe

AIDS 2024 scholarships

For AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference, the IAS Educational Fund provided support to 106 scholarship recipients (76 clinicians and HIV service providers and 28 advocates) from 44 countries.



Educational Fund scholarship recipients, AIDS 2024, Munich, Germany, July 2024

In the voice of scholarship recipients

"For the first time, I had the privilege of meeting leading HIV professionals from around the world, including teams from Africa. Their resilience and ability to achieve remarkable results despite limited resources taught me invaluable lessons about innovation and determination. This experience motivated me to expand our HIV awareness project in the underserved South Punjab region of Pakistan, where illiteracy is prevalent. We plan to leverage the same WhatsApp-based awareness technique that has proven effective in other areas."

Non-binary social worker
South and Southeast Asia



Educational Fund scholarship recipient, AIDS 2024, Munich, Germany, July 2024

"Attending AIDS 2024 has significantly impacted my work and academic pursuits, leading to the initiation of two master's projects under my supervision. The first project focuses on the profile of [people] lost to follow-up in antiretroviral therapy at a hospital in Rio de Janeiro. The second project investigates the knowledge, attitudes and practices of people living with HIV from three Brazilian hospitals regarding long-acting antiretroviral therapies."

Male physician
Latin America

"Attending AIDS 2024 was a transformative experience that has significantly shaped my approach to HIV-related advocacy and community engagement. One impactful moment was participating in a session on integrating TB and HIV responses, which inspired me to reframe our strategies for addressing co-infections in underserved communities. Returning home, I collaborated with community-based volunteers to implement a series of community dialogues, emphasizing the link between TB and HIV and the importance of preventive treatments like TPT."

Male community health worker
Central, eastern, southern and western Africa

Scientific publishing workshops

In 2024, 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.

"I was privileged to have your webinar enlighten me with the ingredients of publication – its preparation, submission, feedback and ethics. It was great experience. My research is focused on HIV epidemiology, diagnostic and therapeutics, so this was an exciting engagement."

**Male healthcare worker
Africa**

"As a former teacher, I can say that your webinars are some of the best in the research community. Useful, interactive, attractively presented and clearly organized. I appreciate the hard work that goes into them."

**Female researcher
North America**

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 selected sessions from AIDS 2024 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 ([STI prevention](#), [HIV cure](#) and [mpox](#)) requested by IAS Members and responding to global events.

"My participation in the webinar has equipped me with valuable insights and strategies that will directly inform our efforts to address STIs in our work. I am confident that by applying this knowledge, we can make meaningful contributions to promoting sexual health and reducing the burden of STIs in our community."

Participant in an IAS Educational Fund webinar