

Program outcomes

The LAASER-HIV/AIDS program will enhance capacity for the quality of HIV treatment in Africa and Asia by:

- *Providing surveillance of HIV drug resistance in patients newly infected with HIV*
- *Monitoring HIV drug resistance in patients starting first-line antiretroviral therapy or switching to second line antiretroviral therapy*
- *Implementing a quality assurance scheme for HIV drug resistance monitoring for regional reference laboratories*
- *Assembling a network of clinics, laboratories, research centers, governments and non-government stakeholders*
- *Building the capacity of laboratories and clinics in the region to monitor HIV drug resistance*
- *Bringing together civil society stakeholders to join efforts to scale up access to HIV treatment*



Photos: Adriaan Backer (Aids Fonds) and Peggy van Leeuwen (PharmAccess)



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LAASER-HIV/AIDS
Enhancing Africa's and Asia's Response to AIDS



International Civil Society Support

HIV/AIDS – A global emergency

Currently, more than 40 million people are living with HIV worldwide, 25 million in sub-Saharan Africa and more than 8 million across Asia. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has led to dramatic declines in life expectancy, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Expanding access to HIV treatment is critical to saving the lives of around 7 million people worldwide who are in immediate need today.

HIV drug resistance

If HIV treatment is not supported by medical and other infrastructure, the risk of developing drug resistance is imminent: the failure of HIV to respond to treatment. Controlling HIV drug resistance is therefore critical to the long-term success of treatment scale-up efforts both in Asia and Africa.

Capacity building to ensure quality and durability of HIV treatment

HIV treatment is a lifelong affair that requires a functioning health care system. With limited health infrastructure and large-scale antiretroviral programs, countries in Africa and Asia need to enhance capacity around HIV drug resistance monitoring and surveillance.



Mobilising civil society

Civil society can play a crucial role in achieving the international targets for access to comprehensive HIV treatment. To date, civil society's response is fragmented and lacks cohesion, while opportunities for synergy are unexplored.

The LAASER–HIV/AIDS program

Linking African and Asian Societies for an Enhanced Response to HIV/AIDS

The aim of the LAASER program is to build capacity to strengthen and improve the quality and durability of HIV/AIDS treatment in Africa and Asia. The LAASER program will build capacity on the monitoring and surveillance of HIV drug resistance in African and Asian countries. It will thereby make available knowledge on new resistance patterns, in order to support policy makers in undertaking public health action. The role of civil society stakeholders to enhance and improve their role as key actors in efforts to scale up access to treatment will be facilitated through knowledge exchange and effective collaboration. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main funder of this program with a grant of more than 10 million Euros.

Implementing partners

Aids Fonds

Aids Fonds is responsible for the overall coordination of the program.

PharmAccess Foundation

Capacity building of the monitoring and surveillance of HIV drug resistance will be implemented in the African region by PharmAccess Foundation.

TREAT Asia

TREAT Asia is a cooperative network of clinics, hospitals, research institutions and laboratories working together with civil society to build capacity for monitoring and surveillance of HIV drug resistance in Asia and the Pacific.

International Civil Society Support (ICSS)

ICSS will strengthen the response of civil society in collaboration with national governments, the private sector and international institutions in the global response to HIV.

