



## **ICW Argentina Strategic Plan**

**Stream Network Argentina work team**

**2024 - 2028**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	3
<b>BACKGROUND .....</b>	4
<b>WHO WE ARE.....</b>	4
<b>WHY WE HAVE BECOME ENTWINED.....</b>	5
<b>OUR VISION, MISSION &amp; VALUES.....</b>	5
<b>INTENDED GROUPS.....</b>	7
<b>MEASURING OUR PROGRESS.....</b>	9
<b>NEXT STEPS .....</b>	10

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ACE</b>	Adverse Childhood Experiences
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immuno- Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ALIV[H]E Framework</b>	Action Linking Initiatives on Violence Against Women and HIV Everywhere Framework
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CUSP</b>	Community for Understanding Scaling Processes
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>MOHCC</b>	Ministry of Health and Child Care
<b>NAC</b>	National AIDS Council
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>VAW(G)</b>	Violence Against Women (and Girls)

## **BACKGROUND**

The STREAM Network of the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW Argentina) was formed with the aim of defending the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of women living with HIV, children and people living with HIV regardless of our HIV status. This takes place in a very particular context in the country, in the midst of a recently elected anti-rights and fundamentalist government. STREAM also recognizes that violence against women and children is a key part of children's and women's lifelong vulnerability to both contracting HIV and living with HIV

STREAM stands for *Stepping Stones Trainers Engaging with Activist Movements*. We took this name from the international workshop which launched the STREAM Network, held in Nairobi in September / October 2022. We took the same name, to have a sense of linkage with the international implementation and coordination team.

## **WHO WE ARE**

A group of dedicated members of ICW Argentina. Together we decided to unite our diverse professional, activist and life experiences to create the STREAM Argentina work team coordinated by ICW Argentina.

Throughout this document, we refer to the natural world around us as a source of inspiration to guide our work. We want to achieve a Greater Involvement of Affected People (MIPA) who are trained as *Stepping Stones* facilitators and trainers, to guide others through *Stepping Stones* programs in their own communities.

We are committed to making a significant contribution to the national response to HIV, working within the framework of the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS, ensuring that we maintain close contact with the National HIV Directorate and the Ministry of Health, among other agencies.

## **WHY WE HAVE BECOME ENTWINED**

All women with HIV in ICW Argentina seek to defend and promote the human rights of women and girls, especially the right to health, sexual and reproductive rights. We all recognize that violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC) form a key part of the vulnerability of children and women both in terms of the risk of acquiring HIV and living with HIV throughout their lives. We all recognize that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) often pose a challenge to a person's physical, mental and economic health and well-being throughout their lifetime. We recognize that these ACEs often include violence against women and against children. We recognize that children who have experienced violence in their own lives often grow up to become recipients and/or perpetrators of violence in their adult lives, thus perpetuating the challenges they have faced in later generations.

We recognize the link of HIV transmission through gender-based violence. And how the health care situation of women and infants with HIV is put at risk by being victims of violence.

## **OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES**

We are a network of women activists who actively participate to harmonize national efforts, promote the exchange of information and experience, promote the formulation of public policies that stimulate the mobilization of resources, influencing decision makers to ensure respect for our human rights and access to health, education, employment opportunities, mainly among girls and adolescents, in situations that affect our lives, in order to achieve real equality for women with HIV.

**Our Vision** is that all women with HIV in Argentina, in all our diversities, enjoy quality of life in just societies and states that respect and protect our rights, our health and guarantee us a life free of violence, stigma and discrimination.

## **Values & Principles**

We have identified 8 values and 5 principles that are the foundation on which the network was built and guide our work in Argentina:

**Respect:** Recognizing, accepting and valuing our differences and qualities, experiences or simply our inherent value as persons, with the right to be respected by society, regardless of economic conditions, age, sexual orientation, gender identity; as well as respect for the different allies, since stopping the epidemic requires the effort of all sectors, regardless of their religion or political condition.

**Honesty:** Being congruent between what we think and what we do, according to the values of truth and justice, in relation to the world, the facts, mainly related to adult women, adolescents and young people with HIV.

**Sorority:** Our purpose is to act in favor of other women unselfishly, it is to act from the sisterhood among us to ally, share, unite and act to change our reality.

**Responsibility:** Fulfill the commitments we assume, recognizing the consequences of our actions, contributing to the solution as subjects of law for an egalitarian coexistence.

**Commitment:** Beyond fulfilling an obligation, it is putting into play our capabilities to carry out the proposed goals; transforming intentions into reality, it is the action that speaks beyond words, dedicating time when there is none, it is fulfilling what has been promised even when circumstances are adverse, to generate the desired changes.

**Tolerance:** Accepting the points of view of different perspectives, adopting flexible and diverse ways, facing the different realities and experiences, to avoid or reduce conflicts. It is a state of mind of openness towards the ways of thinking and acting of others, even if they are different from our own.

**Confidentiality:** So that the information provided or used to retain the epidemic, is based on the ethical value of disseminating the necessary data but not the access to information about people without their consent.

**Equality:** In the access to services, benefits and protection, according to human rights, without discrimination related to gender, social, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, in order to achieve gender equality.

## INTENDED GROUPS

STREAM Argentina aims to serve children, caregivers, girls and women in their diversity especially those living with and affected by HIV disadvantaged people regardless of their faith, culture and locality in Argentina. Among them are;

- People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
- Adolescent Girls and Young Women
- Children living with VIH HIV
- Caregivers
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Adolescent mothers
- Women
- Men

### **Our strategies for working together over the next 5 years are as follows:**

1. Train future facilitators and trainers
2. Harness the power of Stepping Stones as a key communication and relationship program to advocate for the human rights, sexual rights and reproductive rights of people living with HIV, including reducing VAW, VAC and strengthening resilience.

3. Increase the resilience, confidence and self-efficacy of people living with HIV in the face of the many complex and intertwined adverse challenges.
4. To bring more women living with HIV into the work of ICW Argentina and the work to implement *Stepping Stones*.
5. Strengthen our capacity on *Stepping Stones* as trainers and coordinating team.
6. Conduct pilot workshops so as to work through the adaptation, initial training of facilitators as well as the initial implementation and evaluation processes of the *Stepping Stones* program.
7. Trainers and networks work together to mobilize resources for the implementation of the STREAM strategic plan in Argentina.
8. Conduct process analysis and documentation of the results of the adaptation, implementation and scaling up of *Stepping Stones*; and the progress of STREAM Argentina.
9. Jointly engage in dialogue, advocacy and action at national, regional and/or global levels.

## **MEASURING OUR PROGRESS**

We recognize that it is essential to measure our progress in everything we do together. To do so, we use objectives and indicators for ourselves in our daily lives that reflect the less visible but critical psychosocial dimensions of daily life development.

Based on a participatory action methodology (PAR) we will take the SPICED indicators. SPICED indicators are usually identified by the community members themselves. Community members can use them to measure the progress of an initiative over time from their own perspective. This makes it possible to involve in this action members who, with a previous learning experience, can be part of the monitoring.

**Subjective:** Personal, what we want.

**Participatory:** Developed by us.

**Interpretable:** Understood by us and other stakeholders.

**Verifiable:** Can be verified.

**Evaluable:** They can be measured by us.

**Diverse and Disaggregated:** They recognize our diversity.

## NEXT STEPS

Domain		Ideas/ Actions
1	Completion of the Strategy	Develop, review and implement our strategic plan.
2	Capacity Building	<p>Refresher sessions for <i>Stepping Stones</i> members: Stream Network Argentina work team.</p> <p>Training: women and men living with HIV introduced to the <i>Stepping Stones</i> program in the provinces where it is defined to be implemented and trained as facilitators and then (some) trainers.</p>
3	Network Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National coordination mechanism: coordination of learning and experience sharing through ICW Argentina national coordination, advocacy, quarterly virtual coordination meetings, etc.</li> <li>• National committees composed of the focal</li> <li>• institutions (coordination of the process of adapting the global strategy to national contexts, dissemination of the strategy and resource mobilization, etc.)</li> <li>• Division of tasks of the ICW Argentina team</li> <li>• involved in the implementation.</li> <li>• Design of information flows</li> </ul>

4	Resource Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint mobilization of resources at the national level (between partner and affiliated institutions)</li> <li>• Include costs of national processes/meetings (covering all provinces/districts)</li> <li>• <i>Stepping Stones</i> programs - shared budget templates</li> </ul>
5	Communication: Establish communication flows and communication channels for implementation.	Develop and implement the communication channels and communication flows for the project implementation.

## **PARTNERS**

- STREAM GLOBAL
- STEPPING STONES
- SALAMANDER TRUST
- UNAIDS ➤ UNICEF ➤ Ministry of Health
- UN WOMEN

## **NETWORKS**

- Women's networks and organizations
- Networks and organizations of people living with HIV
- Civil society organizations

