

The Alliance accreditation system: delivering effective community responses to HIV



About the International HIV/AIDS Alliance

We are an innovative alliance of nationally based, independent, civil society organisations united by our vision of a world without AIDS. We are committed to joint action, working with communities through local, national and global action on HIV, health and human rights. Our actions are guided by our values: the lives of all human beings are of equal value, and everyone has the right to access the HIV information and services they need for a healthy life.

Together, our 40 Linking Organisations, seven Technical Support Hubs, extensive regional programmes and international secretariat work on a range of activities such as support for good practice programme development, South–South cooperation and learning, operations research and fundraising, as well as policy analysis and advocacy.

Why is accreditation important?

Our accreditation system is the backbone of a strong Alliance. It's how we guarantee standards and ensure a shared vision and values across the Alliance. Using assessment teams from peer organisations, we rigorously assess national organisations against the highest standards. At the Alliance, we want to build donors' confidence in the ability of our Linking Organisations to deliver quality HIV programmes. We also want to ensure that the meaningful involvement of people with HIV and other marginalised groups, together with gender equality, are central to the work of all Linking Organisations. A robust accreditation system provides a vital opportunity for Linking Organisations to learn from each other. Peer assessment teams identify areas where improvements are needed to meet accreditation standards, which are then included in each organisation's capacity development plan. The Alliance is committed to upholding these principles, ensuring each organisation has a shared vision and values.



An outreach worker from Promoteurs d'Objectif Zerosida (POZ) in Haiti working in the temporary camps set up following the 2010 earthquake © POZ.





What is accreditation?

The Alliance accreditation system promotes good governance, organisational management and good practice HIV programming across our Linking Organisations. It guides the admission of new organisations and maintains standards for existing Linking Organisations. The accreditation certification is valid for four years.

Alliance Linking Organisations are required to meet 9 principles containing 38 standards. In addition, there are 7 programme-related HIV and health technical areas containing a further 28 standards. Linking Organisations are required to select two technical areas and meet all the standards these contain.

In this way, the Alliance accreditation system ensures that our Linking Organisations are able to demonstrate and adhere to their commitment to using appropriate governance and organisational management systems to implement specialist HIV programming targeted to the epidemic within the country.



Top: Participants from a meeting at an Avahan HIV prevention programme, Andhra Pradesh, India
© Satya Prabhu for India HIV/AIDS Alliance.

Left: Marc and Ricardo relaxing at home. Ricardo is a prominent advocate for LGBTI rights, Namibia
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The Alliance accreditation principles

A Governance and sustainability

Principle 1	Our organisation is well governed	Standards 1–5
Principle 2	Our organisation and our programming are strategic and relevant	Standards 6–10
Principle 3	Our organisation takes steps to ensure financial sustainability in support of its programmes	Standards 11–12

B Organisational management

Principle 4	Our organisation manages its finances effectively and efficiently in the planning and implementation of its work	Standards 13–17
Principle 5	Our organisation recruits skilled staff and has good employment and working conditions	Standards 18–23
Principle 6	Our organisation has effective communications and information technology systems	Standards 24–25

C HIV programming

Principle 7	Our organisation has a functional and effective monitoring and evaluation system	Standards 26–29
Principle 8	Our organisation promotes learning and knowledge sharing	Standard 30
Principle 9	Our programmes are evidence based, promote human rights and prioritise the needs of communities most affected by HIV	Standards 31–38
	HIV technical area A HIV and human rights	Standards A1–A4
	HIV technical area B HIV prevention	Standards B1–B3
	HIV technical area C Integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights	Standards C1–C5
	HIV technical area D TB and HIV	Standards D1–D3
	HIV technical area E Family-centred HIV programming for children	Standards E1–E3
	HIV technical area F HIV and drug use	Standards F1–F4
	HIV technical area G HIV treatment, care and support	Standards G1–G6

Definitions

A **non-accredited Linking Organisation** is an organisation that has not yet been accredited. If after two years the organisation has not achieved accreditation, the Linking Organisation status will be reviewed.

An **accredited Linking Organisation** has demonstrated strong governance and organisational management. Its HIV programming is good practice programming – effective, targeted and human rights-based.

The accreditation process



Self-assessment

Each Linking Organisation and the secretariat assess how well they meet the accreditation principles via self-assessment review.

At this stage the Linking Organisation proposes two HIV technical areas based on their programming profile.

Desk review

A team in the Alliance secretariat reviews the self-assessment. Where standards are not yet met, an action plan is prepared by secretariat staff with the Linking Organisation to assist the Linking Organisation to reach these standards.

This stage should take between one and six months depending on the capacity development work outlined in the action plan. Once the Linking Organisation is confident it meets all standards, a peer review visit is arranged.

Review visit

The peer review team consists of two senior representatives from Linking Organisations and one senior staff member from the Alliance secretariat. The peer review team visits the Linking Organisation to complete the assessment.

Follow-up action

If required, the peer review team agrees on any remaining areas to address capacity-building needs.

Accreditation

Once a Linking Organisation adheres to the accreditation principles, the accreditation committee awards the accreditation certificate, which is valid for four years.

At this point the Linking Organisation defines itself as an accredited Linking Organisation.

Who is involved?

The Alliance is keen to ensure that accreditation is based on learning and development and a strong emphasis is placed on the people involved in the accreditation process. In order to do this, great care is taken when selecting the peer review team. The team members are chosen for their complementary skills and expertise in the three main areas covered by the accreditation standards: governance and sustainability, organisational management and HIV programming. The varied and balanced experience of the field review team ensures that a constructive dialogue will occur when the team visits a Linking Organisation. This enables the review team to gain a better understanding of the organisation, and ensure that recommendations are practical and effective.

Alliance accredited Linking Organisations

A list of Alliance accredited linking organisations can be found on the Alliance website at www.aidsalliance.org/accreditation. Accredited Alliance Linking Organisations are entitled to a wide range of benefits, all designed to keep them up to date with the latest programming, policy and fundraising news. Accredited Linking Organisations will be assessed every four years. However, within this time it is the responsibility of the organisation to ensure that Alliance principles are adhered to.

Civil society strengthening

The accreditation process is designed to guarantee quality in service delivery and promote South–South learning and development. Accredited Linking Organisations are representative of the communities they serve and naturally diverse. The HIV technical areas in accreditation are designed to build on organisations' strengths. The principles of accreditation ensure that work is carried out to essential standards and that our vision and mission are upheld. Together, these features ensure that the Alliance can continue to support marginalised people, and work together to ensure that communities have brought an end to HIV transmission, and secured their health and human rights.



For more information about accreditation:

Visit our website:
www.aidsalliance.org/accreditation

Email:
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