



## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV EASTERN AFRICA (ICWEA)

### **Advocacy Position Statement: Protecting UNAIDS Is Protecting Vulnerable Population of Women & Girls Living with HIV**

#### **The HIV Response Orphaned: At the Cost of Women Living with HIV**

##### ***Who Pays When the HIV Response Is Orphaned?***

As global discussions consider the future of UNAIDS, women living with HIV across Eastern Africa issue a clear and urgent warning and plea: AIDS is not over, and accountability remains essential. UNAIDS has played a unique and irreplaceable role in aligning global HIV targets, elevating community evidence, and holding governments accountable particularly for women, adolescent girls, and key populations who continue to face disproportionate risk.

***“An HIV response without UNAIDS is an HIV response without a mirror.” — Movement voice, women living with HIV***

For decades, UNAIDS has ensured that HIV remains a human rights and gender justice issue, not merely a technical health concern. Its data architecture has exposed inequalities, legitimised community-led monitoring, and connected local realities to global decision-making. For women living with HIV, this has meant visibility, voice, and leverage in spaces of power.

***“Data without people is dangerous; data with conscience saves lives.” — Community accountability leaders***

Any move to weaken or sunset UNAIDS risks reversing hard-won gains. Without strong global accountability, stockouts may increase, prevention options may shrink, and stigma, discrimination, and violence may persist without consequence.

***“When accountability disappears, inequality becomes normal.” — Feminist HIV advocates***

Newly infected children and girls cannot advocate for themselves, and women facing violence cannot rely on silence to protect them. “You cannot end AIDS by erasing the people most affected.”

Communities are ready to lead but community evidence requires global legitimacy to shape policy and financing. The future HIV response must be community-led, feminist, rights-based, and data-driven, with accountability mechanisms that centre lived experience.

***“There will be no sunseting until we finish the job.” — African women leaders***

We stand with African women leaders in affirming: ***“There will be no sunseting until we finish the job.”*** AIDS is not over. Protecting UNAIDS is not about preserving an institution, it is about safeguarding lives, dignity, and accountability.