

Case Study: Fiji – Community Organisations Leading the Response to Rising HIV Cases

As HIV cases rise sharply across Fiji, it's the country's community-led organisations, run by and for the people most affected, who are on the frontline of the response. A small network of grassroots groups carries much of that work, supported by a regional network that helps coordinate and resource their efforts. Their reach into the communities most at risk is something no external organisation can replicate.

Health Equity Matters has partnered with these organisations to support them to meet this moment on their own terms. Rather than imposing a single model from outside, this work began by listening: structured workshops with each organisation's leadership, followed by validation sessions to confirm what mattered most to them, informed a set of capacity strengthening plans built around each group's own priorities and ways of working.

That partnership is now shaping a genuinely community-led response. With the support of the Australian Government, this work has opened up a unified, community-led HIV prevention and outreach model, and a stronger role for community voice within national HIV governance, ensuring the people delivering frontline care also have a say in how the response is run.

“For many years, community organisations have carried the weight of HIV prevention with our own communities. It is encouraging to see the Government now working in genuine partnership with us to strengthen a community-led response. With support from Health Equity Matters, we can finally build on our experience in a sustainable way. The new outreach model gives us real hope for the future, and we are deeply grateful for walking alongside us.”

— Asaeli Sinusetaki, Interim CEO of Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji

This is community leadership in the truest sense: the people closest to the crisis, shaping the response to it, with the backing to make that response last.

With continued support, Health Equity Matters can keep backing Fiji's community organisations as they lead the response to rising HIV cases, ensuring the people who understand this crisis best have what they need to meet it.