We know that civil society is vital to the HIV response. While more and more people can access digital information, many young people still have to rely on peer educators and other more traditional sources of information to get the knowledge they need to take control of their sexual health.

We engage with a range of partners across the HIV response. In 2018-19 this included collaboration with 12 new civil society organisations working in Southern Africa and a new, externally funded project working in partnership with the South African technology foundation Praekelt.org.

**Supporting community health workers**

Community health workers support millions of people living with, or at risk of HIV in Southern Africa. They are often people’s first point of contact with the health system and play a pivotal role as advocates and change agents in the HIV response. To play an effective role, they need access to up-to-date, clear, accessible, and accurate information on HIV.

Our new project, Boost, is developing a tailored digital knowledge platform (which will launch in January 2020) with a range of materials and resources, filling current information gaps, to improve their knowledge and ability to support individuals in their communities.
Supporting community-based organisations

We also work with community-based organisations in Malawi, Lesotho and Zambia to empower young people with knowledge and skills, and increase HIV testing and uptake of services. Through this support we enabled over 17,800 young people to access HIV services in 2018-19 and over 21,000 people to get tested for HIV.

Find out more about our work in Malawi, Lesotho and Zambia.

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