

HIV prevention and support for Latin American communities

Aymara Social Enterprise, 2022

Objective

- > The program aims to contribute to significantly reducing new HIV infections and **hopefully reaching zero new HIV transmissions in the long term through promotion of HIV preventive behaviours**
- > The program includes interventions for HIV early diagnosis, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake and adherence, and the provision of added value services to ensure high rates of retention to care

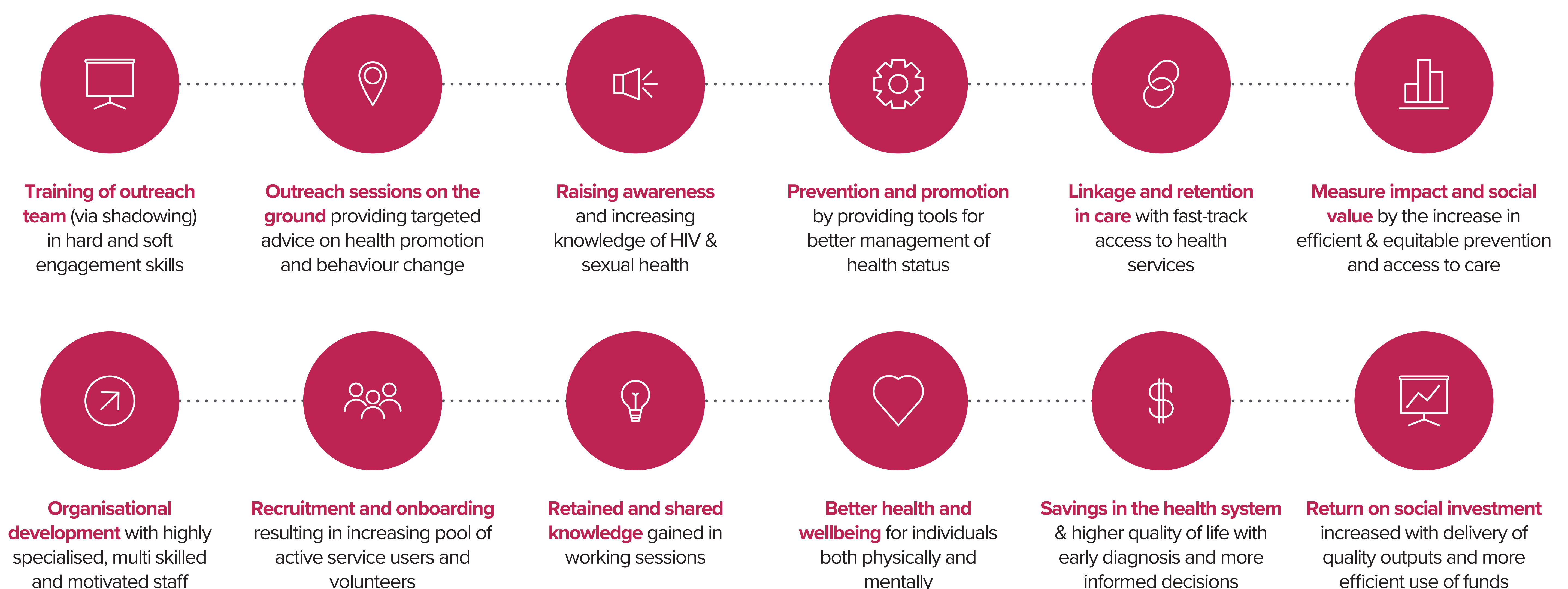
Need/s addressed

- > **Getting to Zero new HIV transmissions** through targeted testing, retention to treatment, and promotion of PrEP and the use of condoms as a HIV prevention strategy for the Latin American community in London
- > **Getting to Zero difference in HIV health outcomes** through outreach, educational workshops and empowerment activities to tackle inequalities amongst the Latin American community in London
- > **Getting to Zero persons lost to care** through a clear retention strategy and a strong focus on invisibles (inc. trans & sex workers)

Actions taken

The project has overcome the most challenging aspect of health provision, which is to **attract the right individuals who need the services most** and keep them engaged and tracked to effectively change their lives.

The innovative aspect of the project relies on Aymara's **integrated healthcare model** where vulnerable individuals are offered added value services, through a person-centred approach, as part of each HIV related intervention.



Outcomes

- > **Increase in people's awareness and self-confidence** by taking control over their HIV status, which results in an increase in individuals quality of life, whilst generating savings in the health system
- > **Access to care becomes more equitable** as vulnerable individuals are more willing to proactively use HIV services and preventive measures, which brings about a better control on prevalence of HIV

Key learnings

- > **Working across London, rather than borough based**, provides Aymara with much **more flexibility to find and engage with the right individuals** (male sex workers, of different socio-economic background, concentrated in Westminster and Brent)
- > **No need for an exit strategy** for the project as Aymara's model ensures service provisor and follow up to all service users involved in any project, as we identify synergies between projects to run peer support groups and empowerment activities

Impact towards the shared ambition of 'Getting to Zero'

- > **Many very vulnerable individuals' lives have radically changed**, by finding a simple route to health services, making more frequent use of them, and meeting people in the same circumstances who have overcome their fears and stigma
- > There is a **better control on prevalence of HIV in London** (7 reactive cases), releasing pressure on public health services