Joining together against HIV in Mexico.

A transformative collaboration to increase access to HIV rapid testing.

In 2020, as the world faced the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries' health efforts and resources were redirected away from HIV support.

According to the official journal of the British HIV Association and the European AIDS Clinical Society, HIV testing in Latin America decreased by 44.6% in 2020*. Fewer people getting tested meant fewer HIV cases were being diagnosed, and access to HIV prevention methods were stalled.

inelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.111/hiv.13180
e - The official journal of the British HIV Association (BHIVA) and the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) seus 2 February 2022 oact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the numbers of consultations for people living with HIV oliments in HIV care between January and August



To help address this shortfall in Mexico's HIV prevention and treatment efforts, Gilead supported Ashoka—a non-governmental organization in Mexico that connects and supports an ecosystem of young, influential people and institutions.

Through support from Gilead, Ashoka created the campaign "De la Mano contra el VIH," or "Hand in Hand Against HIV," through which several organizations stepped up to help increase HIV testing throughout Mexico's many communities.

"The partnership with Ashoka began from the need to identify and assemble several different civil organizations in Mexico that were already working in HIV screening, who could help us reach more people while we provided them with the critical resources and support they needed."

- Geomara Fernández

Gilead Sciencies México - Senior Manager Public Affairs



With support from Ashoka and Gilead, each organization applied their own

Seeking Progress through Partnerships

expertise and experience in serving Mexico's communities to help break through the stigma of HIV and get more people tested for HIV.

With a significant portion of Mexico's health resources shifted to handling the

COVID-19 pandemic, Ashoka stepped in and provided valuable capacity-building and technical assistance to help the partner organizations achieve operational sustainability and set themselves up for long-term success. "In addition to providing them with HIV rapid tests, we worked

hand in hand with the organizations, providing helpful input, training, and development, giving them above all the very specific support they need to hone their system."



Transforming Outreach

patient-centric solutions to be brought forward. A challenge accepted by Inspira Cambio A.C.—one of the civil organizations that joined the "Hand in Hand Against HIV" program.

Forging new partnerships in Mexico was the first step. Ramping up HIV testing in a vast country like Mexico would require innovation, optimized tools, and ground-breaking

people of Mexico, Inspira Cambio A.C. transformed their traditional face-to-face HIV counseling meetings into virtual experiences by offering testing appointments and follow-up consultations through WhatsApp or Telegram.



"Fortunately, we have always been very familiar with the technology. So, since it was easy for us to move from a face-to-face model to a virtual context, we started to develop virtual counseling appointments on everything that had to do with HIV. The follow-up was done on mobile applications." - Aarón Rojas Cortés

For Inspira Cambio A.C., the digital world is more than just a convenient way to counsel people living with HIV and those

to reach younger people and help normalize HIV awareness.

who may benefit from Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis; it's also a way

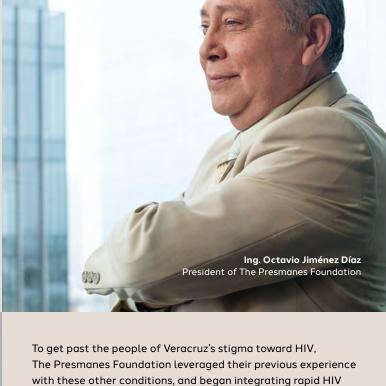


For the "Hand in Hand Against HIV" program to be successful, it couldn't be limited to just the major urban centers. The program would need to reach people in more remote

provinces like Veracruz as well. That is why Ashoka partnered with The Presmanes Foundation —a Vergcruz-based non-governmental organization that assists resource-limited families and educates them on preventive health.

diabetes or obesity to help explain the importance of prevention, diagnosis, and early treatment for living a healthier life with HIV.

The Presmanes Foundation uses other treatable diseases like



health services. "People would not feel stigmatized or stared at while waiting because no one else would know they were being tested for HIV."

testing and treatment services alongside their patients' regular

- Ing. Octavio Jiménez Díaz



and seamless distribution to all partners in the "Hand in Hand Against HIV" program. "Whether they'd be going to public sector institutions, agencies, or even non-governmental organizations, we worked to distribute them in the shortest time possible so that their programs could be attended to in a timely manner."



- Carlos Pacheco

We know that it will take more than medicine to end the HIV epidemic. Together, Gilead wants to ignite change by collaborating with fearless partners like Ashoka, Inspira Cambio A.C., The Presmanes Foundation, and Maypo.

Gilead has been dedicated to developing innovative HIV medicines for life-threatening illnesses all over the world for over 35 years. However, HIV prevention and treatments alone are not enough to end the HIV epidemic. Partnerships are essential for connecting with individuals and organizations all over the world who can help us advance equity for all. To achieve our goal of eliminating HIV, we will need to combine science with people dedicated to creating positive change in their communities.

"This is a global mission. We can't put it all on a single organization. And for the success of this collaboration, we must thank Gilead and Ashoka."

- Ing. Octavio Jiménez Díaz

Our dedication to innovation applies not only to how we approach making medicine, but to how we aim to support systems and policies that help facilitate broader access to prevention and medicines. Gilead will continue to champion programs and partnerships that support the wellness of all people impacted by HIV.