

THRIVE Consortium Meeting Report

3-5 February 2026, Nairobi, Kenya



#THRIVEwithUs



Copyright © 2026 GATE

This work may be reproduced and redistributed, in whole or in part, without alteration and prior written permission, solely for non-profit advocacy and/or educational purposes, provided all copies contain the following statement:

© 2026 GATE. This work is reproduced and distributed with the permission of GATE. No other use is permitted without the express prior written permission of GATE. For permission, contact gate@gate.ngo

Translations into other languages may be undertaken and republished with written permission from GATE. However, GATE is not responsible for translations of this work and cannot be held liable for any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations in translated versions. The English-language version published by GATE remains the official text.

Author: GATE

Suggested citation:

GATE (2026) THRIVE Consortium Meeting Report: 3-5 February 2026, Nairobi, Kenya. New York: GATE.

Acknowledgments:

With appreciation to all GATE staff who supported the development of this report.

About GATE

GATE works to advance global justice for trans and gender diverse communities. Our vision is a future where trans and gender diverse communities live freely, safely, and with dignity. We are community-led and community-centered, working with integrity and innovation to create opportunities for shared learning and resource equity in order to advance global solidarity across borders and movements.

Find out more about GATE by visiting www.gate.ngo

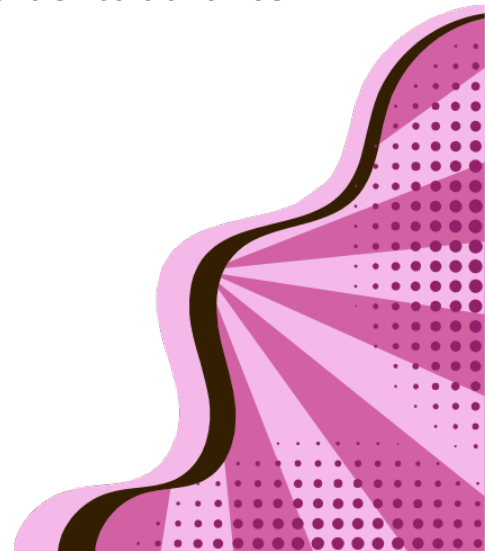
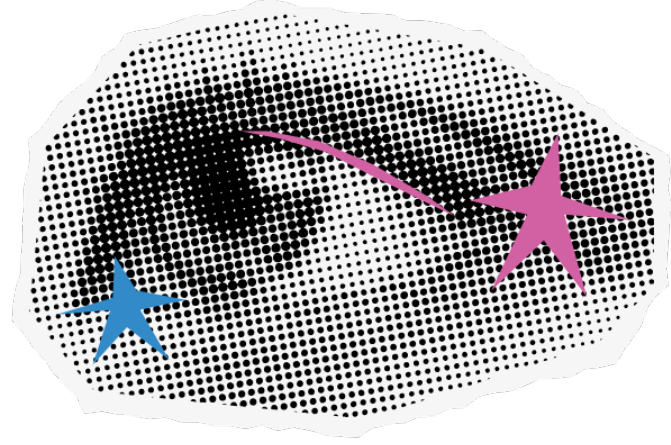




Table of Contents

Overview	4
Regional updates	5
Severe funding contraction and structural precarity	5
Escalation of anti-gender attacks	5
Consistent innovation	5
Retrospective and reporting	6
Ways of Working	7
Consensus-based decision-making	7
Membership expansion	7
Positioning beyond resourcing	8
Joint messaging and communication materials	8
Looking forward: collaboration roadmap	9
AIDS 2026 coordinated engagement strategy	9
Emerging strategic focus beyond 2026	10
Summary	11








Overview

The **THRIVE Consortium** is a global coalition of trans-led organizations working to advance trans rights, healthcare access, and human rights. Through advocacy, research, and capacity building, THRIVE unites trans communities worldwide to counter anti-rights agendas and drive systemic change.

From 3 to 5 February 2026, members of the THRIVE Consortium convened in Nairobi, Kenya, for their annual in-person meeting. The gathering brought together regional trans-led networks representing diverse regions: **EATHAN** (Eastern Africa), **EKPC** (Eastern Europe), **TGEU** (Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia), **RedLacTrans** (Latin America and the Caribbean), and **UCTrans** (the Caribbean).

The meeting took place at a time of escalating attacks on the human rights of trans and gender diverse people and shrinking funding for the global HIV and human rights response. In this context, the THRIVE Consortium annual meeting sought to strengthen trust and political alignment across regions and to coordinate collective strategies for the years ahead. **The meeting resulted in five key outcomes:**

-  Regional updates, providing a consolidated overview of the 2025 achievements and challenges of each member organization.
-  Completion of the 2025 reports, developed collaboratively with technical support from GATE and accompanied by updated reporting guidance and administrative requirements.
-  Refined Consortium's Ways of Working, strengthening our shared governance and decision-making processes.
-  Joint messaging and communication materials were developed to increase the visibility of the Consortium and its members throughout the year.
-  A forward-looking collaboration roadmap, including a coordinated engagement strategy for the AIDS 2026 Conference that takes place in R o de Janeiro, Brazil, in July 2026, and initial ideas for future joint initiatives.

Regional updates

The first day of the annual meeting centered on organizational presentations, providing space for each regional network to reflect on 2025 challenges and achievements, and to identify common priorities among members for 2026 and beyond.

Across regions, common themes emerged:

Severe funding contraction and structural precarity







Several members reported the loss of major institutional funding. In Eastern Africa, the end of a historic partnership represented nearly half of one network's operational budget. In EECA, Global Fund support was completely cut in some contexts, with additional criminalization of healthcare providers offering trans-related services. Across regions, members described burnout, reduced staffing and rising costs of living with direct impacts on trans communities.

Escalation of anti-gender attacks

Members reported retroactive legislation targeting legal gender recognition, criminalization of healthcare provision, deportations of trans people to even more hostile contexts, increased State- and religion-led anti-gender mobilization and digital censorship, including account suspensions on major social media platforms. The shift in discourse within the UN and regional institutions was also noted, with concerns about changing language and weakening commitments. Finally, across all regions, communities are operating in a state of trauma and emotional exhaustion. Although technical capacity remains strong, support needs to include digital security skills and trauma-informed approaches.

Consistent innovation

Despite constraints, members reported significant achievements and bold experimentation with innovative strategies. These include:

-  The development of 24/7 online networks of healthcare providers across countries to provide access to healthcare services despite constraining contexts.
-  The establishment of an Emerging Support Fund in Eastern Africa to make up for the loss of funds resulting from the 2025 global funding cuts.
-  Expansion of regional membership-based networks to new countries encompassing a greater diversity of languages.
-  Climate justice mapping amidst environmental emergencies, building evidence on the impact of such disasters on trans health.
-  Increased strategic engagement at the EU Parliament and the UNAIDS PCB at a time when regional and global bodies are undergoing restructuring processes.
-  Development of ambassador programs to strengthen community connections on the ground.

Retrospective and reporting

Building upon lessons learned from previous annual meetings, we ensured that we dedicated time across the three days to completing the **THRIVE members' 2025 reports**, with technical support provided by GATE.

Beyond strengthening our members' capacity to produce high-quality reports, these coworking sessions are important opportunities to share reflections on achievements and challenges, identify cross-regional trends and reinforce transparency and accountability within the Consortium.

Our members also received a practical walkthrough of GATE's grant-making and reporting platform, with a refresher on reporting requirements.



Ways of Working




A substantial portion of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing and validating the Consortium's Ways of Working. The purpose of the Ways of Working is to outline **how the THRIVE Consortium collaborates across programs, resource mobilization and communications** to ensure our joint work is fair, efficient and streamlined. The discussion touched upon three main themes, outlined below.

Consensus-based decision-making

The group reaffirmed a commitment to consensus-based decision-making rather than majority voting. While acknowledging that consensus requires more time and deliberation, members emphasized that **it better reflects the Consortium's collective ethos and avoids replicating competitive dynamics imposed by donors**. GATE was mandated to develop further and clarify the section on decision-making processes, including how consensus is operationalized in practice, e.g., how disagreement is raised and resolved or when working groups may be formed to develop proposals for the group's consensus.

Membership expansion

A nuanced discussion emerged around **adding new members**. Elements taken into consideration included caution against rapid expansion, highlighting the risks of resource dilution and political misalignment, on the one hand, and the risk of nurturing a 'scarcity mindset' rather than fostering solidarity and regional representation to strengthen collective power, on the other. Consensus was reached on three conditions for considering new members:

-  Clear eligibility criteria, including trans leadership, defined regional scope and representativity, demonstrated financial accountability, and meaningful community engagement.
-  A transparent consensus-building process for admission decisions.
-  Legal risk evaluation to ensure that new additions do not inadvertently expose existing members to compliance risks in hostile jurisdictions.

Positioning beyond resourcing

Members stressed the importance of distinguishing the THRIVE Consortium from its current funder. While the Consortium is currently financially supported, the political and strategic identity of **THRIVE must extend beyond any single funding relationship**. The Consortium agreed to expand the introduction of the Ways of Working to articulate better the Consortium's purpose and mandate, its political relevance, the communities it serves, and its evolution to date. GATE was mandated to ensure that all approved changes are reflected in the final version of the Ways of Working by the Consortium's next quarterly meeting.

Joint messaging and communication materials

Time was dedicated to developing communications materials to increase the visibility of both individual regional partners and the THRIVE Consortium as a cross-regional coalition model. GATE documented the meeting through photography and short-form video content, with informed consent procedures in place. We recorded brief interviews highlighting key achievements, challenges, and forward-looking priorities, and participated in a **“vox pop” format centered on dignity and visibility**. These materials support the Consortium's outreach and narrative-building in **portraying trans leadership as joyful and solutions-driven**.



Looking forward: collaboration roadmap

AIDS 2026 coordinated engagement strategy

A key forward-looking discussion focused on aligning the Consortium's engagement at the AIDS 2026 Conference in Río de Janeiro, Brazil, in July 2026. An overview of the current global HIV landscape was provided by GATE and TGEU, with insight from their respective roles on the Communities Delegation to the Global Fund and the UNAIDS PCB. This included information on the restructuring of UNAIDS and political shifts in global health governance.

AIDS 2026 is a key strategic opportunity to increase trans representation and priorities in global HIV policy-making spaces. The THRIVE Consortium agreed to support GATE's *Trans Networking Zone* in the Global Village and to submit abstracts and workshop proposals to raise awareness across common issues (funding volatility, healthcare barriers) and hold space to bring forward innovative solutions (e.g., alternative resourcing models). There was also a commitment to sharing information about and attending closed-door invitations as the THRIVE Consortium, practicing collective resource sharing and mutual support. Additional ideas have been discussed, such as exploring the possibility of developing shared merchandise under the banner "**#THRIVEwithUs**," including QR codes linking to Consortium resources. Each member has committed to internally assessing priorities and bringing concrete proposals to the Consortium's next quarterly meeting.



Emerging strategic focus beyond 2026

The final day focused on defining shared priorities for 2026 and beyond. We started by revising the [Consortium's core advocacy priorities](#) as defined in 2025 and reaffirmed our three pillars:

- ✿ health and HIV advocacy,
- ✿ legal and policy advocacy, and
- ✿ movement building and sustainability.

We also had an opportunity to take stock of side conversations held throughout the meeting in more informal settings and identify common themes. These included advocacy strategies in rapidly shifting geopolitical conditions, digital security, organizational and governance sustainability, particularly at a time when so much relies on free labor, and alternative resource mobilization. These discussions during meals and informal moments demonstrated growing political trust and willingness to share internal challenges.

Across the collective and breakout sessions, a unifying concept emerged: replicating and adapting the **Trans Vivir model**, previously piloted in the Latin American region in collaboration with RedLacTrans. The proposal envisions regional teams of **'trans health promoters'**, trained in HIV prevention, treatment and care, gender-affirming care standards, community-led research and data collection and advocacy and rights monitoring. The role of these promoters would entail linking communities to care, contributing to service-delivery innovation, and generating field-based evidence (priorities, best practices, challenges, human rights violations, etc.) for regional-level advocacy. Members suggested that the **model combine capacity-building components**, such as training-of-trainers sessions, **and cross-regional synergies**, such as the development of a structured data system for cross-regional comparability.

This discussion led to the brainstorming of an ambitious initiative, providing an important step towards consolidating the next THRIVE Consortium project. It reflects a shift toward integrated approaches that combine service delivery, research, and policy advocacy. GATE committed to circulating a draft collaboration roadmap as a living document by the next quarterly meeting for further refinement and approval.

Summary

The Consortium's annual meeting provides an ever-more critical space to maintain and nurture in the context of escalating anti-gender attacks, severe funding cuts across the global HIV response, the restructuring of UNAIDS, and increasing restrictions on civic space.

Against this backdrop, the Consortium positions itself as a model for cross-regional coalition-building and as a political space for solidarity and strategic alignment. The 2026 THRIVE in-person meeting confirmed the Consortium's value, demonstrating that regional networks continue to innovate and lead in extremely constrained contexts. In the current context of fragmentation and scarcity, radical cross-regional solidarity and global coordination are essential to moving forward.

The next quarterly meeting will focus on refining the Consortium's Ways of Working and further developing the 2026 and beyond Collaboration Roadmap. This will include further fleshing out the regional health promoter concept into a structured proposal and continuing the preparations for AIDS 2026.



#THRIVEwithUs

