



AFRICAN ALLIANCE | **DISRUPTOR'S DIGEST** | AUGUST 2025

Kigali hosted the world at IAS2025 this August, and the **contradictions could not have been sharper**.

On one hand, the retreat of **U.S. government funding cast a long shadow**, a reminder of how fragile progress becomes when it is tethered to the whims of donors.

On the other, **African scientists, advocates, and communities refused to be eclipsed**, asserting a future where HIV cure research, prevention, and health systems are led and owned here at home.

The conference made one thing undeniable: **global health is at a crossroads**. While right-wing governments slash commitments and anti-gender movements redraw the terrain of rights, communities continue to organise, innovate, and resist.

The **HIV Cure Consortium's** work in Zambia, the courageous testimonies of people living with HIV, and the insistence of African organisations on African solutions all stood as defiance in the face of abandonment.

**But our struggle does not exist in isolation.**

From the deliberate destruction of **Gaza's** health system to the **erasure of queer lives** across our continent, to the creeping normalisation of authoritarian politics worldwide, we are reminded that health justice is inseparable from broader struggles for dignity, safety, and freedom.

In this moment, **we are called to speak with clarity, to protect our safe and loved spaces**, and to find the collective bravery needed to imagine and defend a different future.

Keep well,

**Tian Johnson**

Founder and Strategist

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Did you see our team's coverage of IAS2025 in Kigali?

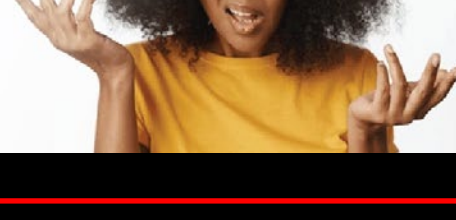
The **global funding crisis** was impossible to ignore, but so was the grit of community organisations.

Despite the wreckage left by the retreat of US government funding, many groups are clawing their way back, this time with **African-led, African-funded solutions**.

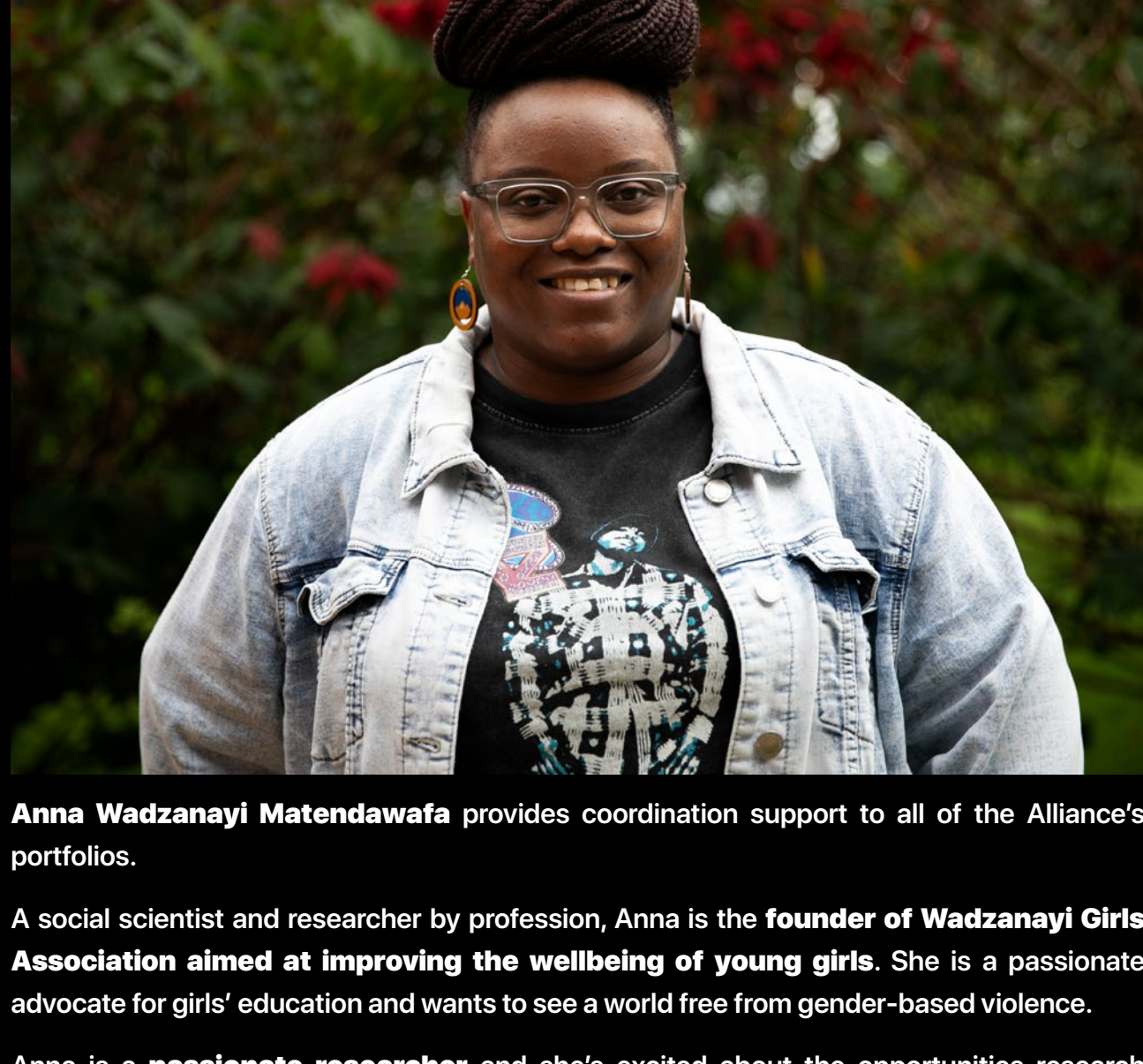
We loved presenting the work we're doing as part of the **African HIV Cure Consortium (AHCC)**. Barrack Owino, who leads partnerships and advocacy for the Alliance, presented findings from the groundbreaking pilot of the HIV CUREiculum, which we hosted in Zambia in June.

Check out what Barrack presented and catch up on our **full coverage** of other stand-out moments of the gathering **here**.

Did you get our  
last  
*Digest*?



## GET TO KNOW THE TEAM



**Anna Wadzanayi Matendawafa** provides coordination support to all of the Alliance's portfolios.

A social scientist and researcher by profession, Anna is the **founder of Wadzanayi Girls Association aimed at improving the wellbeing of young girls**. She is a passionate advocate for girls' education and wants to see a world free from gender-based violence.

Anna is a **passionate researcher** and she's excited about the opportunities research provides for ongoing learning and personal development and the role that research can play in transforming lives and shaping advocacy. With a rich history in clinical trial research, **Anna brings a thoughtful eye to the community ownership of research work in the Alliance**.

Her favorite African city is Cape Town, and she loves the saying "The job may be lengthy, but, in the words of the great Kung Fu Tze, **a man can eat an elephant if need be, one bite at a time**".

## WHAT WE ARE READING

**'medicide'**

med-i-cide [mɛd.ə.said] *noun*

**Israel's targeted and systematic destruction of Gaza's healthcare system.**



**MAP**

Source: UN Special Rapporteurs  
Tlaleng Mofokeng & Francesca Albanese

If you read one thing this month, it should be **Tlaleng Mofokeng and Francesca Albanese's** report that outlines the systematic destruction of Gaza's medical system. Find out why these two experts have deemed the atrocities Israel is committing there constitute "medicide" **here**.

## ALLIES IN ACTION

FIND OUT WHAT ARE OUR PARTNERS ARE UP TO

**HEALTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

Five years down, a lifetime to go: **The Health Justice Initiative (HJI) turned five!** Thank you for being the thorn and the balm. For choosing justice when "collaboration" would've been easier. **We're right beside you**. Here's to five more years of **inconvenient questions, airtight affidavits, and victories** that belong to the people.

Watch this **short video** for a snapshot of the HJI's achievements under the leadership of **Fatima Hassan**.

## CHAMPIONS OF THE CAUSE

THE DONORS THAT POWER OUR WORK

We're proud to introduce one of our donors, **Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)**.

CIDRZ is a non-profit with an impressive track record. They conduct cutting edge, community-oriented research that has delivered numerous impactful solutions to health issues facing Zambia.

Recently, CIDRZ supported our HIV Cure workshop in Lusaka, during which members of the African HIV Cure Consortium (AHCC) accepted a radical invitation to take their rightful place at the centre of the African cure science.

Read why our **Tian Johnson** says the pilot event in Lusaka marked a distinct shift in the global HIV research architecture.

