# **Politicisation, depoliticization and re-politicisation of HIV financing in Uganda**

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The response to HIV/AIDS has been among the dominant global development issues over the last years, but faces an uncertain outlook. In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the future of financing of the AIDS response is at a crossroads. Positing that economics and politics are co-determined, and using Uganda as a case study, this paper analyses the politicisation, depoliticization and re-politicisation of HIV and AIDS financing. In Uganda, HIV/AIDS politics, policy, and activism has shaped and, in turn, has been influenced by, HIV financing. We show how AIDS exceptionalism thrust HIV and health financing into the realm of national and international politics where it rightly belongs. We show that decisions to allocate resources, redistribute income, or stabilize the economy have a strong political component. Consequently, the rise, fall and revitalisation of HIV financing (that follows the exceptionalism path implicit in the epidemic curves experienced in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)) can best be explained by the scale and scope of the actions (or inactions) of existent political systems and the government in Uganda, the realities of policy and policymaking amidst national realities and external influences, and the ongoing opportunities for - and limits of - activism and community mobilization. In conclusion, regarding global HIV/AIDS policies, the findings of this paper will inform strategies for addressing the fiscal sustainability of HIV response in Uganda and elsewhere in high HIV-burdened SSA countries.