

# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF THE COALITION PLUS CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA PLATFORM (PACE)



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## The ANSS, association supporting the PACE

The Association Nationale de Soutien aux Séropositifs et malades du sida (ANSS) was founded in 1993 to defend the rights of people infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS in Burundi. Its main objective is to promote the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission and to improve the well-being of individuals infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. A pioneering structure, the ANSS was the first association in Burundi to provide comprehensive care for people living with HIV, including antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and medical follow-

up (viral load, CD4 count, etc.). It was also the first association to put in place patient treatment education through an adherence cell. In 2017, the ANSS had an active file of over 7,100 people, of which over 84% living with HIV and 100% of the latter under antiretroviral treatment. 84% of people having benefited from viral load monitoring provided by the ANSS now have an undetectable viral load.

## The Platforms, Coalition PLUS geographic networks

True to the community-based approach that guides all of its actions, Coalition PLUS develops and coordinates a set of networks to promote synergies and the exchange of best practices between structures in order to better respond to the challenges encountered by the populations most affected by HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. Today, Coalition PLUS deploys linguistic, thematic and geographic networks around the world. In particular, its geographic networks currently take the form of 6 sub-regional Platforms on the African continent, in Europe and in

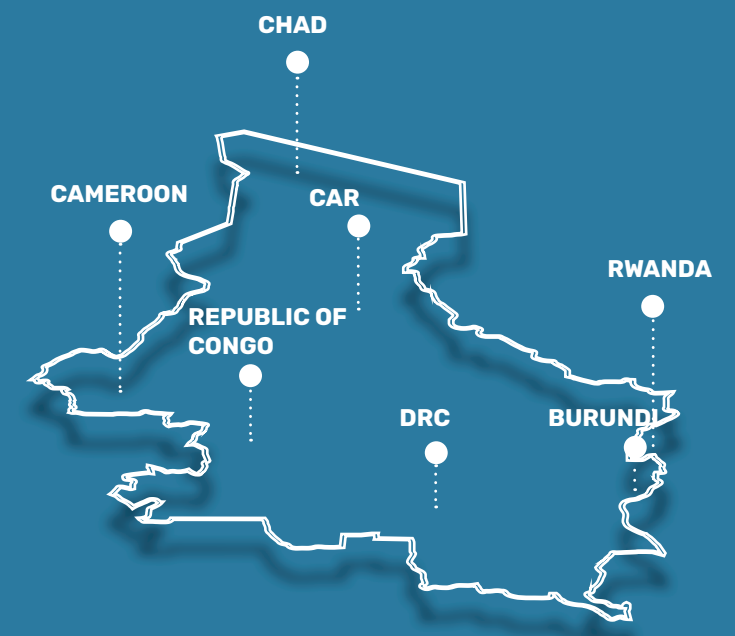
the Americas-Caribbean area. In cooperation with the other networks and with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), these Platforms now aim to strengthen and capitalize on community-based expertise in the fight against HIV/AIDS through capacity-building, support for advocacy and the structuring of community-based research in the Global South.

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**COALITION PLUS**  
**CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA PLATFORM (PACE)**  
*Strong civil societies to build a world without AIDS*

## COALITION PLUS

An international union of community-based NGOs in the fight against AIDS and viral hepatitis founded in 2008, Coalition PLUS now operates in 52 countries and works with some one hundred associations. Through its principle of shared governance, our union involves 16 organizations from the Global North and Global South in its strategic decision-making.

Promoting the community-based approach lies at the heart of our union's actions, and requires the systematic involvement of people infected with, affected by or particularly vulnerable to HIV and viral hepatitis at the very core of decision-making processes and the implementation and evaluation of health programs concerning them

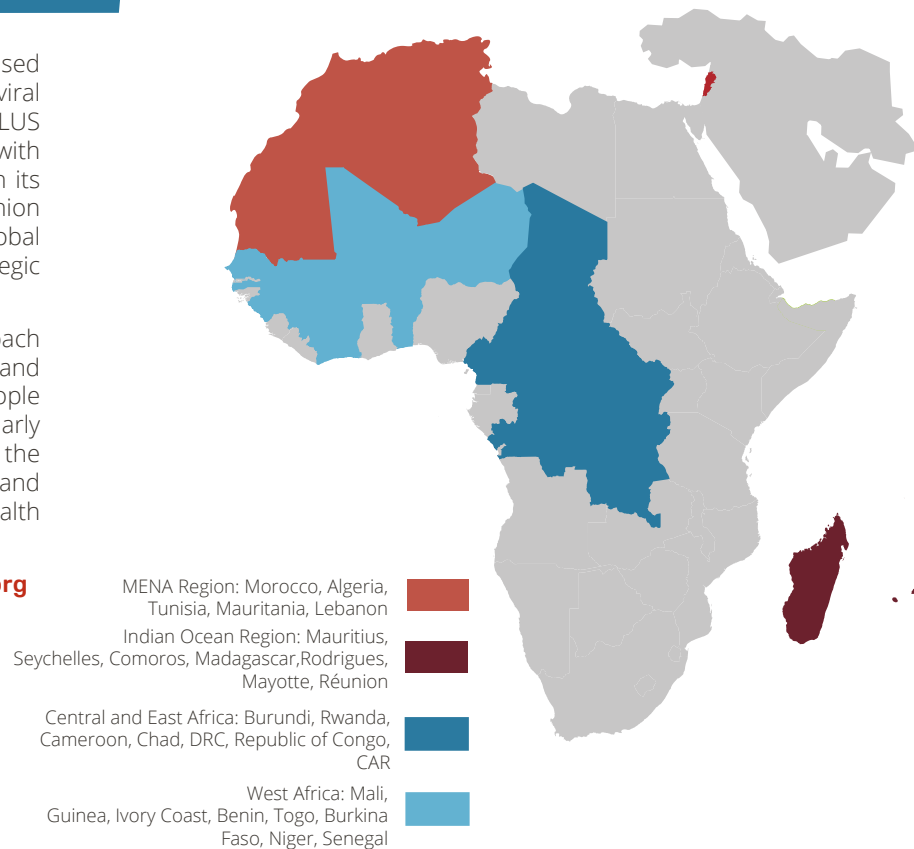
Find out more at: [www.coalitionplus.org](http://www.coalitionplus.org)

## 4 Sub-regional platforms on the African continent

In 2014, with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French member of Coalition PLUS AIDES, four sub-regional Platforms for the capacity-building of civil society were established in the Maghreb, West Africa, Central and East Africa and the Indian Ocean. They are respectively led by the ALCS (Morocco), ARCAD-SIDA (Mali), the ANSS (Burundi) and PILS (Mauritius), also Coalition PLUS members. These four African Platforms act in complementarity with all the Coalition PLUS networks, and in particular with the Lusophone network, coordinated by GAT, the

Portuguese member of the coalition. This Lusophone network is present in five African countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.

The Platforms support over 50 associations in the fight against AIDS spread across 23 African countries. The technical assistance they provide to their partners covers technical operations (screening, care, key population services, etc.) as well as community structuring (financial management, resource mobilization, follow-up/evaluation).



## THE COALITION PLUS CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA PLATFORM

### *Using the expertise of pioneering community-based associations to help the most vulnerable*

The Coalition PLUS Central and East Africa Platform (PACE), led by the ANSS (Burundi), brings together 16 associations in the AIDS response from 7 countries in the sub-region. The PACE is governed by a Steering Committee responsible for decision-making and strategic guidelines.

The PACE's capacity-building for CSOs mainly takes the form of placements in other associations in the Global South, on-site support missions and national and regional workshops. Advocacy, the second major component of the activities run by the PACE, consists of supporting the member organizations of the Platform in structuring their strategies to influence their institutional, technical and financial partners.

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: TRAIN PEERS IN DEMEDICALIZED TESTING

In order to disseminate best community-based practices, the PACE trained 27 peer educators in demedicalized community-based testing in the CAR.

Plunged into insecurity, the CAR is lagging seriously behind in the HIV/AIDS response. In this specific context, the sharing of tasks between carers and community-based actors makes it possible to multiply the number of stakeholders and to reach the most isolated communities.

As such, following the peer educator training run by the PACE, but also thanks to the Platform's advocacy, its partner association in the CAR, the ANJFAS obtained authorization to open a voluntary testing center. In one year, the ANJFAS tested 929 people, with a positive result rate of 4.52%, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of demedicalized testing.

#### REPUBLIC OF CONGO: STRENGTHEN THE INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO ACCELERATE THE HIV/AIDS RESPONSE

Actively working to promote community-based expertise, the PACE advocated for greater participation of civil society in the HIV/AIDS response, and notably within the framework of the emergency plan for West and Central Africa

In the Republic of Congo, for example, this participation is vital to bring an end to the country's recurrent medical shortages. Indeed, community-based associations play a monitoring role and act as an alert system for authorities.

The PACE therefore drew on this advocacy to help stakeholders in the AIDS response in Brazzaville. This was followed by a regional workshop on structuring advocacy, attended by all of the PACE partners, including government representatives.

## STRATEGIC AREAS OF ACTION

### COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING

Strengthening the development capacities of services with the most impact in terms of reaching populations with the least access to testing and advocacy for task shifting and the demedicalization of the care continuum.

### ADVOCACY

In addition to the capacity-building activities, advocacy vis-à-vis decision-makers, with the involvement of the media, to improve the operating environment.

### COMMUNITY STRUCTURING

Support for monitoring & assessment, project methodology and financial management.

### OUTLOOKS

Despite a relatively low HIV prevalence in the general population, West and Central Africa are disproportionately affected by AIDS-related mortality. Indeed, only half of people living with HIV currently have access to treatment. The cause: the lack of healthcare professionals and infrastructure, which hinders the testing of people in the most remote areas, but also the socio-cultural environment. In order to remove these barriers and promote community involvement as a lever for a more effective AIDS response, the PACE aims to consolidate advocacy and to structure community-based research within the region.

With the support of:



A solidarity-based public financial institution, AFD is the central stakeholder in France's development policy. It is committed to projects that tangibly improve the daily lives of populations in developing and emerging countries and in French Overseas Territories. Present in 109 countries via a network of 85 agencies, AFD currently supports over 4,000 development projects. In 2018, it committed 11.4 billion euros of funding to these projects. Find out more at: [www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)



Advocacy workshop organized by the PACE