

# Coalition PLUS

A COVID-19 Emergency fund to support the community-based response to the health crisis



An international union of community-based NGOs in the fight against AIDS and viral hepatitis founded in 2008, Coalition PLUS operates in 52 countries and works with approximately one hundred civil society organizations.

## Context

*“As of March 2020, our associations reported a number of service closures and a monopolization of health services by COVID-related activities. We immediately realized the major risk this represented for the HIV epidemic.”*

Vincent Leclercq  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Interim Executive Director,  
Coalition PLUS

## Implementation of a COVID-19 Emergency fund

Faced with the need to maintain essential services for prevention and retention in care, Coalition PLUS decided to implement an Emergency fund. To this end, in April 2020, the Union presented a plan to its financial partners – Robert Carr Fund (RCF), the French Development Agency (AFD), L’Initiative/Expertise France, Unitaïd – to reallocate some of its budgets.

Thanks to this reallocation, and the mobilization of the Union’s own funds, the total amount of the Emergency Fund reached **€1.5 million in 2020**, of which **€1.2 million** was provided by Coalition PLUS’ financial partners and **€300,000** from its own funds. The implementation of the Fund had **three specific objectives**:

- 1 Minimum package of HIV prevention services<sup>1</sup>
- 2 Minimum package of psychological support and treatment for people living with HIV
- 3 Responding to the vital needs of key populations in terms of food, financial aid and treatment

### A DEDICATED WORKING GROUP

The Emergency fund was coordinated by a Task Force created at the end of March 2020, composed of directors and managers within the Coalition PLUS secretariat, as well as a financial controller.

### A SCALABLE IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The Task Force first identified and evaluated the urgent needs of the members and partners in developing countries (end of March 2020). The associations were invited to present budget estimates for their actions and received funding in three consecutive installments based on the evolution of their needs (April-June-August 2020).

### COMMON MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING TOOLS

The Task Force developed common rules for the use and management of the funds for beneficiary organizations. It implemented dashboards, monitoring tools and a common framework for activity reporting.

## Results of the implementation of the Emergency fund: contribution to the continuity of services and care

**25,000** BENEFICIARIES

### EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID

- Distribution of 7,560 food kits and 11,421 hygiene kits
- Distribution of transportation allowances: 2,474 beneficiaries
- Distribution of emergency financial aid: 6,923 beneficiaries

**5,841** BENEFICIARIES  
VIRTUAL PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

**15,514** BENEFICIARIES  
REMOTE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS

### MAINTAINING TREATMENT AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND KEY POPULATIONS

*“Community-based provision of ARV for over 1,500 people living with HIV in lockdown due to the COVID-19 health crisis is a first in Morocco, both for ALCS and the public health system.”*

Dr. Lahoucine Ouarsas - Head of Programs Department, ALCS

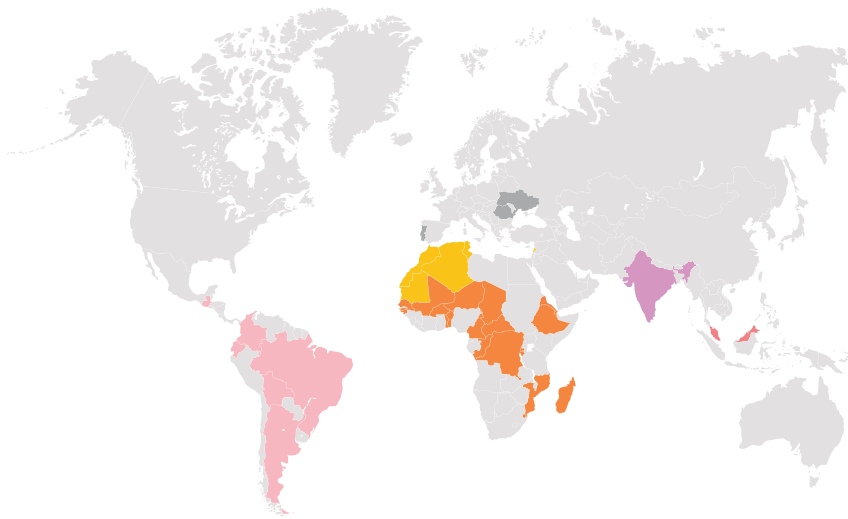
### DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 PREVENTION EQUIPMENT

*“The Emergency fund allowed us to draw up a contract with a local company approved by the Health Ministry for the distribution of washable masks adapted to the economic situation of Cameroonians and recommended by the Ministry.”*

Kevin Evina Ambah - Executive Director, Affirmative Action, Cameroon

1. Within the context of HIV, key populations include: men who have sex with men, transgender people, especially transgender women, sex workers, people who inject drugs, people living with HIV, people in prison and detention. These populations are socially marginalized, often criminalized and face a range of human rights abuses that increase their vulnerability to HIV.  
Source: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/fr/key-populations/>

# 50 COALITION PLUS MEMBER AND PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS



## African Region

Affirmative Action, Alternatives Cameroun, ADN, AJPC, ANJFAS, ANSS, FFP, WAFH, ANCS, AIDES Sénégal, ACS, AKS, ARCAD Santé PLUS, WALE, ALAVI, REVS PLUS, EVT, MVS, Racines, AFSA, AILES, CUT, Parapli Rouz, PILS, MATRAM, RENAP, ADPP, VERDEFAM, ASFEGMASSI

## Region of Americas

Fundación Huésped, CAS, IFARMA, FOAESP, Kimirina, IDH, Red Somos

## Middle East and North Africa Region

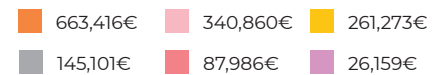
ALCS, AnisS, APCS, ATL, ATP+, MARSA, SOS PE

European Region 100% Life, ARAS, GAT

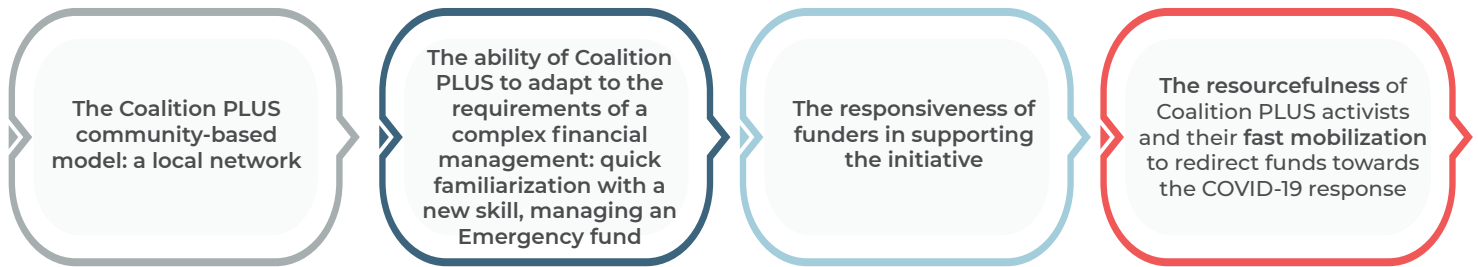
Western Pacific Region MAC, MTAAG+

South-East Asia Region DNP+, CoNE

## BREAKDOWN OF THE EMERGENCY FUND EXPENDITURES BY WHO REGIONS



## Success factors in the implementation of a COVID-19 Emergency fund



### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST KEY POPULATIONS

"We recruited an additional observer to identify and monitor cases of discrimination towards LGBTI+ people, and to compensate for these refusals of access to care."

Joséphine Mandeng - Finance and Administration Director, Alternatives Cameroun

### COVID-19 AWARENESS-RAISING AND INFORMATION

"More than 1,732 volunteers, from communities and cultural and sports associations, gave their support to ANCS and to the implementation of awareness-raising activities and the distribution of protective equipment."

Safiétou Sokhna Traoré - Programs Assistant, ANCS, Senegal

### EMERGENCY SUPPORT

"The majority of people who inject drugs who worked with us as mediators are currently unemployed. The same is true for sex workers, who have also stopped their activities due to the curfew. But thanks to the Emergency fund, we were able to distribute over 500 food kits to these people, in Dakar and in other regions."

Safiétou Sokhna Traoré - Programs Assistant, ANCS, Senegal

## Conclusion

"The efforts to maintain health services during the lockdowns due to COVID-19 once again highlighted the vital role of community-based organizations addressing the needs, priorities and rights of vulnerable populations."<sup>2</sup>

With the support of the Emergency fund, the associations in the Coalition PLUS network complemented the services of their public health and social protection systems, such as information provided to people living with HIV and key populations on access to treatment and care in this exceptional context, and material support for key populations left without any means of subsistence due to the crisis and its social and economic consequences.

### WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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### Contact information

E: [coalitionplus@coalitionplus.org](mailto:coalitionplus@coalitionplus.org) [www.coalitionplus.org](http://www.coalitionplus.org) [coalitionplus](https://www.instagram.com/coalitionplus)

2. Source: UNAIDS Report "Preventing HIV infections at the time of a new pandemic. A synthesis report on programme disruptions and adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020". July 2021, p.18