

Photograph by : Mobarak Saad / Egypt

INTERNATIONAL
**TESTING
WEEK**
18-24 NOV. 2024

IMPACT REPORT

 **we GET
TESTED**

 **COALITION
PLUS**

WWW.COALITIONPLUS.ORG

JOIN THE MOVEMENT IN 2025!

Become a partner of the sixth edition of the International Testing Week

Throughout the year, the partner associations of Coalition PLUS organize testing activities for the key populations most affected by HIV, viral hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections. **For an entire week in November**, these initiatives are stepped up to achieve a peak in the run-up to World AIDS Day.

In five editions, International Testing Week (ITW) has become the largest testing operation on a global scale.

IN 2024, OVER 5 DAYS, 84,704 TESTS WERE CARRIED OUT.

The event supports the efforts to reverse the curve of infections.

- by focusing media attention on testing through local and global communication campaigns,
- by advocating for peer education,
- and by ensuring comprehensive care for the positive cases detected.

Two peer educators from SISAL walk through the narrow streets of unprivileged neighborhoods in Antananarivo (Madagascar) to raise awareness and encourage residents to get tested.



Photograph by : Viviane Rakotoarivony / Madagascar

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2024 EDITION

5
days

November
18-24,
2024

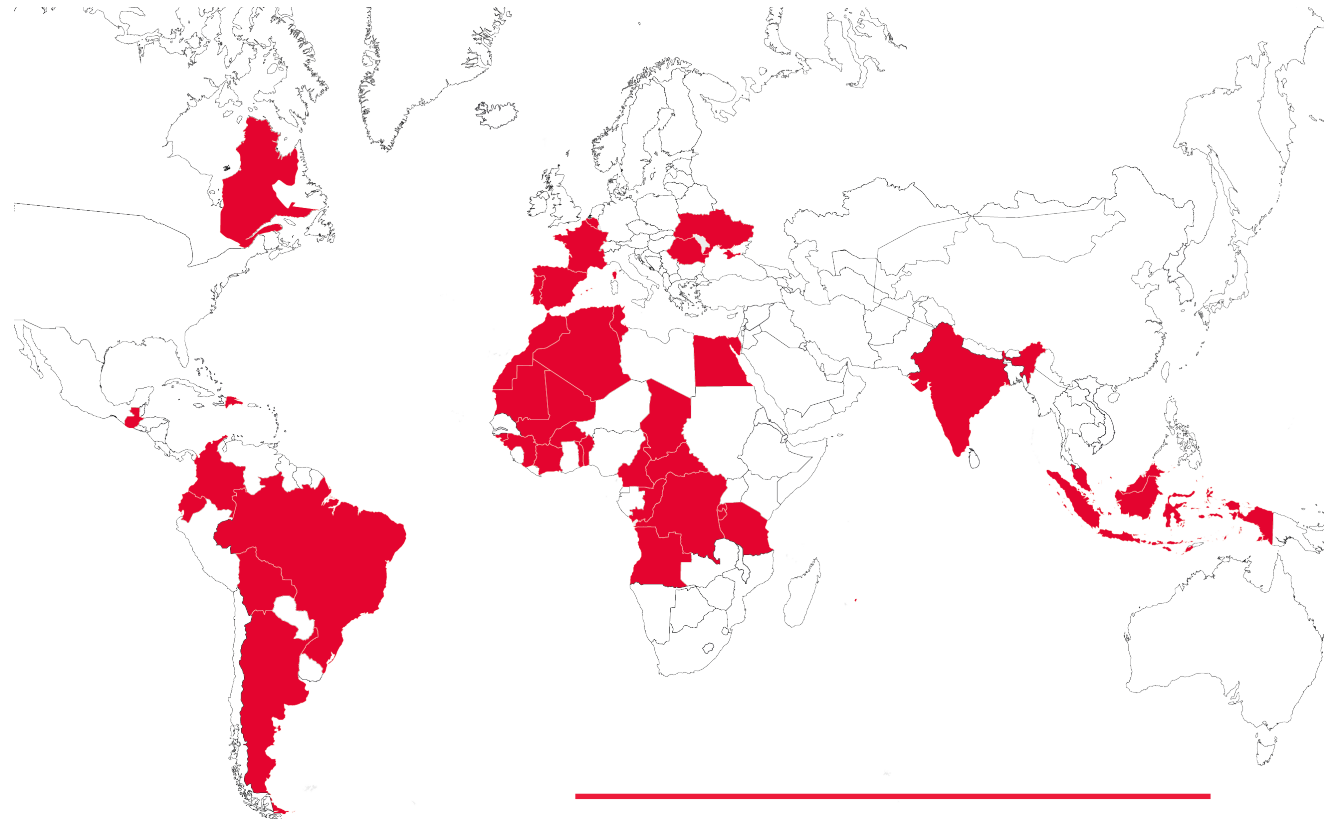
In 2024, the ITW opened up to community-based organizations outside the Coalition PLUS network, marking a new milestone in its International reach. On this occasion, the community network Tachis, based in Tanzania, joined the mobilization.

46
countries

74
participating
associations

Initiatives implemented

- testing
- distribution of self-tests and self-sampling kits
- awareness raising
- promotion and communication
- training and capacity-building
- advocacy
- research



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Sub-Saharan Africa : Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of the Congo, Rodrigues, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Zanzibar

North Africa & Middle East : Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia

North America : Canada

Latin America : Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala

Asia : India, Indonesia, Malaysia

Europe : Belgium, France, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ukraine

In the underserved neighborhoods of Cairo, a peer educator from El Shehab raises awareness about HIV and STI testing. Here, a mother and her child listen attentively to her message.



Photograph by : Mobarak Saad / Egypt

KEY LESSONS

Women still outnumber men in terms of access to testing (7,236 compared with 5,353), while **transgender and non-binary individuals are still poorly represented**, highlighting the persistent barriers to access to care for these groups.

The **overall test-positivity rate was 3.4%**, with a higher proportion among men (5.4%) than women (4.7%), and a **particularly alarming rate among transgender women (6.5%)**.

Despite **referral to treatment in 63,9% of cases following a positive result**, significant disparities remain: 73% of women diagnosed were treated, compared with just 52% of men. Support transgender women was exemplary (100%); but **trans men and non-binary individuals remain marginalized**, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted and inclusive actions.

The **innovations** put in place - such as self-testing, assisted approaches and the use of digital tools - helped to strengthen access to testing, **with 26% of tests performed thanks to digital devices**.

HIV TESTING PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF THE TEST RESULT

Testing is a prerequisite for the fight against HIV as it opens up access to treatment, which both considerably improves quality of life and life expectancy for people living with HIV and is also a method of prevention. The fact is that HIV-positive individuals under effective treatment do not pass on the virus.

But that's not all! Testing can also make a real difference to people who receive a negative HIV result: they can be advised to start taking PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), an anti-viral medicine that is highly effective in preventing HIV.

Regular testing is the key to ending the

Reaching out the populations most isolated from health systems...

Stigmatization and discrimination, as well as punitive laws and policies increase vulnerability to HIV and restrict access to prevention services for **key populations***, **despite the fact that they account for 55% of new infections** (*sex workers and their customers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and their partners, transgender women and their partners).

...

5.4 million

people worldwide do not know that they are living with HIV

... Thank to community-based testing, performed by and for people from the communities most exposed to the risks of infection

Because they are part of these marginalized communities, **peer educators** are best placed to reach out to key populations through a non-medicalized approach across the entire care continuum.

It is precisely because they understand these lifestyles, practices and social codes that they are able to **identify people who have never been tested before and convince them to take the leap**. This ensures regular testing and/or early diagnosis, and systematic referral to health systems.



RESULTS 2024

84,704

tests performed

(HIV, HBV, HCV, syphilis)

3.4%

positive tests

(HIV, HBV, HCV, syphilis)

The organizations ran **testing activities in a wide variety of settings:** at community level, outreach testing, testing in healthcare facilities, online (dispatch of self-tests), in prisons, in schools, and in youth centers.

Types of tests performed

The main aim of ITW is to target populations with a high risk of infection. This approach explains the high usage rate of rapid tests, which are particularly practical to enable fast and effective deployment by community workers and testing activities outside of a hospital and/or community clinic setting. **Indeed, rapid tests account for 80.9% of the tests performed.**

14,554

HVB tests performed

73%
first-time testers

5%
of tests positive for HVB

66%
of cases referred to treatment

17,334

HCV tests performed

59%
first-time testers

4%
of tests positive for HVC

31%
of cases referred to treatment

17,328

syphilis tests performed

55%
first-time testers

5%
of tests positive for syphilis

72%
of cases referred to treatment

35,686
HIV tests performed

57%
first-time testers*

2%
of tests positive for HIV

the highest rate being among trans women, with a positivity rate of almost 6%, followed by trans men (4.46%). This suggests a higher prevalence among trans groups despite the low number of tests performed among these groups.

73%
treatment referrals

(percentage of people receiving a positive test result who were referred to care for confirmation and initiation to treatment).

**The percentage of people tested for HIV for the first time was calculated based on a total of 31,688 individuals tested, excluding data from the Lusophone network.*

BREAKDOWN OF HIV TESTS PERFORMED AMONG KEY POPULATIONS



Positivity rate and treatment referral among key populations

- **SW and MSM** account for the highest HIV infection rates, which alone justifies the use of reinforced prevention and support actions.
- The rates for **PWID, migrants and prisoners** were similar (2.5–2.6%), but there were substantial disparities in follow-up.
- The case of **migrants** is alarming in that only 15% of the people who tested positive were referred to care, a situation likely connected with their high mobility and their limited access to services.

FOCUS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION

The IWT 2024 launch ceremony took place in Cairo, Egypt.

♣PCS (Algeria) has expanded its testing services to new at-risk zones, with the involvement of volunteer doctors.

♣ALCS (Morocco) worked with 19 local sections and partner NGOs to reach people who had never been tested.

♣ATL (Tunisia) organized five days of testing in several regions, reaching key populations in zones that had previously received less outreach, such as Gafsa.

♣Al Shehab (Egypt) ran campaigns in universities in Cairo and Alexandria, targeting influential young people as a means to reduce stigma and promote HIV prevention.

♣The REMAP+ program (Mauritania) lent its support to Civil Society Organizations developing awareness-raising modules and support for those who test positive.

• SOS Pairs éducateurs (Mauritania) raised the awareness of over 10,000 people and strengthened care for people who test positive thanks to cooperation with the National Institute of Hepatology and Virology - INHV.

«The region has immense shortcomings when it comes to access to testing and awareness-raising, resulting in often late diagnoses and insufficient attention focused on at-risk populations. These failures led to an alarming 116% rise in new infections between 2010 and 2023. As things stand, the region is still struggling to achieve the coverage targets set by UNAIDS for 2025 ».

**Dr Lahoucine Ouarsas, MENA Region Coordinator
for Coalition PLUS**

INNOVATIONS IN 2024

To best adapt to the challenges of targeting, the organizations have developed and implemented innovative activities to hone their various testing strategies.

100% Life (Ukraine) trains doctors to become active bloggers on social networks, an innovative initiative that makes it possible to reach a broad public and to incentivize behavioral change by encouraging people to get tested.

The diverse range of tests available is also an innovation in itself.

Screening campaigns for infections, such as those run by **BESYP (Benin)** - testing for colon and prostate cancer -, highlight the importance of widening the scope of tests beyond the well-known viral infections.

AFASO (Cameroon) provides blood glucose, blood pressure and weight readings for the elderly, with a specific focus on often-neglected population groups.

Mobile initiatives are also becoming a widespread trend.

AINGA AIDES (Madagascar) sends out mobile teams to reach populations with reduced mobility in particular.

Ally Centre of Cape Breton (Canada) provides testing in shelters for the homeless and drug users.

Innovations also include testing in less traditional contexts.

CAPAHC (Canada) provides testing in a migrant center.

CAS (Guatemala) distributes HIV tests at spots including the Mexican Embassy.

CoNE (India) focuses on specific professional groups, offering tests and vaccinations for health workers.



When the biggest HIV and STI testing operation and the most popular LGBTQI+ dating app combine forces...

.... the result is the perfect partnership !

In 2024, Coalition PLUS partnered with the Grindr for Equality Foundation: more than 14 million users received a personalized message encouraging them to get tested. This initiative is part of a strategy to adapt to new digital uses as an effective way of reaching key communities.



«As the global LGBTQ+ community continues to face disparities in health access, Grindr for Equality is proud to partner with Coalition PLUS to support its largest HIV testing initiative: the International Testing Week. Knowing your status is a vital step toward individual well-being and community health. Through the Grindr app, we mobilize millions of users with locally relevant messaging in support of this critical effort. Every test matters and together, we're making real strides toward ending the HIV epidemic.»

Steph Niaupari, Sr Manager @ Grindr For Equality



Pr Medhi Karkouri, Président of Coalition PLUS since 2022, speaking at the launch ceremony of the International Testing Week in Malaysia (2023 Edition)

Photograph by : Kasra Rucci / Malaysia

OVERVIEW & OUTLOOK

International Testing Week 2024 was marked by extensive participation and a growing impact on a global level.

The data collected shows a **sharp increase in positive cases**, especially for syphilis, bringing to light the need to step up prevention, testing and treatment efforts.

Considerable challenges remain, including those associated with:

- **administrative hurdles**,
- **stigmatization**,
- **transport logistics for samples**,
- and **access to care** for vulnerable populations, particularly migrants.

2024 was also marked by **innovative communication**, which helped raise awareness and mobilize millions of people via various channels, including social networks, radio and TV campaigns, and community-based actions.

ITW 2024 once again demonstrated the importance of collective commitment and innovation in the fight against transmissible infections, but also the need for ongoing and sustained action in order to achieve the public health and inclusivity targets for all populations.

BECOME A PARTNER IN 2025 EDITION:
*we hold the keys to ending the **HIV** epidemic*

THANKS TO YOU,
we have the means to make it a reality

As a partner of this international event, you have the opportunity to strengthen your commitment to global solidarity and the defense of human rights, particularly when it comes to access to care.

Your support will enable International Testing Week to continue to grow and to provide innovative testing services to the populations most vulnerable to HIV, viral hepatitis and other STIs.

Take an active part in a high-impact and fast-growing event and join the world's largest testing operation.

Your role will make all the difference in the prevention and early treatment of these infections!

The sixth edition, which will run from November 18 to 24, 2025, will be launched in Bogotá (Colombia).

ITW 2024 was co-funded by:



With the support of:



In partnership with:



ABOUT COALITION PLUS

Coalition PLUS is a network of over 100 community-based organizations committed to the health and rights of key populations in the fight against HIV and hepatitis across the globe.

These organizations share the goal of impacting political and scientific developments and social change with regard to health, through action, discussion and decentralized decisions that are aligned with regional contexts.

COALITION PLUS IN FIGURES

- **15 member organizations**
- **51 countries** worldwide
- **111 partner associations**
- **5 offices** in Brussels (Belgium), Dakar (Senégal), Geneva (Switzerland), Marseille and Paris (France)
- A total budget of **€10 million** for all of the Coalition PLUS entities, 70% of which is directly passed on to the network's field-based organizations
- **66 employees** at the Coalition PLUS Secretariat offices and 40 within the regional and thematic network-lead associations
- **26 ongoing programs** supported by 13 public and private bodies
- **5 common working languages:** English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Portugese



● Offices



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