

INTERNATIONAL
**TESTING
WEEK**
17-23 NOV. 2025

6TH INTERNATIONAL TESTING WEEK

2025 EDITION:
TEST, RESIST, ACT



ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TESTING WEEK (ITW)

Launched in 2020, the initiative has established itself as the largest global HIV and STI testing campaign.

Over six editions, ITW has facilitated nearly 360,000 tests worldwide through dozens of community organizations in nearly 50 countries.

Each year, the initiative helps reduce the number of people unaware of their HIV status and thus contributes to international goals for reducing new infections.



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2025 EDITION: A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND COURAGE FOR COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE TO HIV

Faced with the collapse of funding for the fight against HIV, the mobilized organizations have driven this campaign as a collective effort to support the thousands of lives put at risk by brutal and reactionary political decisions. For one week, they will demonstrate that, in the face of adversity, community-based organizations refuse to give up.

Despite center closures, the dismantling of teams, and supply shortages, community organizations continue to work with the same agility and an unwavering capacity for innovation as they have since the start of the epidemic.

A GLIMPSE AT THE 2025 EDITION

5 days

from November 17 to 23, 2025

49

countries

70

organizations

In 2025, Coalition PLUS invited the **Frontline AIDS** network to participate in International Testing Week, enabling the participation of new organizations and greater visibility.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Comoros
Côte d'Ivoire
Ethiopia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Madagascar
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Niger
Uganda
Central African Republic
Republic of Mauritius
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Chad
Zimbabwe

North Africa and the Middle East

Algeria
Egypt
Lebanon
Morocco
Tunisia

North America

Quebec (Canada)

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Ecuador
Guatemala
Dominican Republic

Asia

Cambodia
India
Malaysia

Europe

Belgium
Spain
France
Portugal
Moldova
Romania
Ukraine

KEY FINDINGS

The overall HIV positivity rate stands at 14%, with a higher prevalence among women (2%) than among men (1%), and a particular cause for concern among transgender women, where this rate rises to 3%.

The 2025 report also shows **an exceptional referral rate to care of 93% for HIV** overall, with 91% among women and 84% among men who tested positive, and 100% treatment uptake among transgender women.

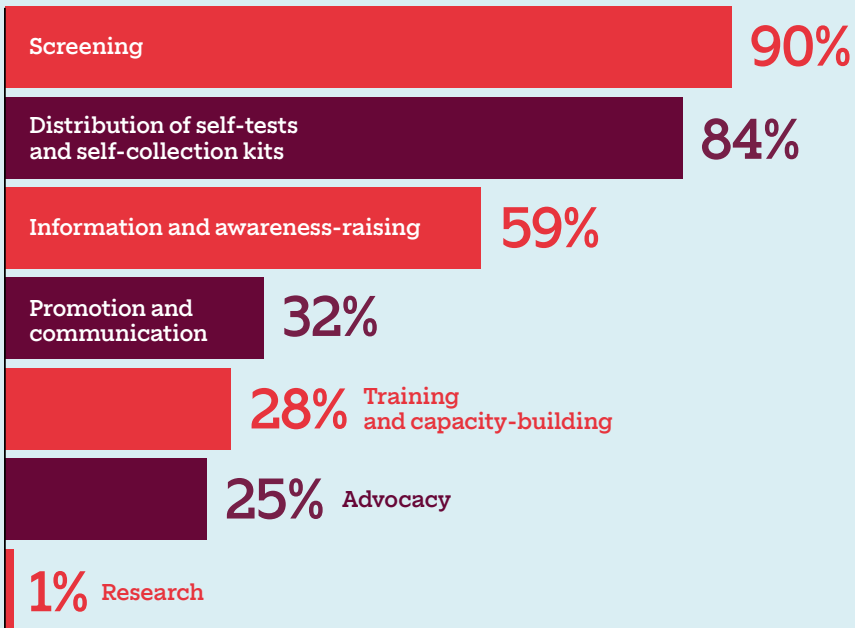
Syphilis stands out with **1,122 reactive cases**, giving it the highest positivity rate of 5.8% for this infection, with high rates among sex workers (17%) and MSM (14%).

Finally, **52%** of organizations expanded to **new testing sites** (shopping centers, schools, rural areas, bars, cultural centers).

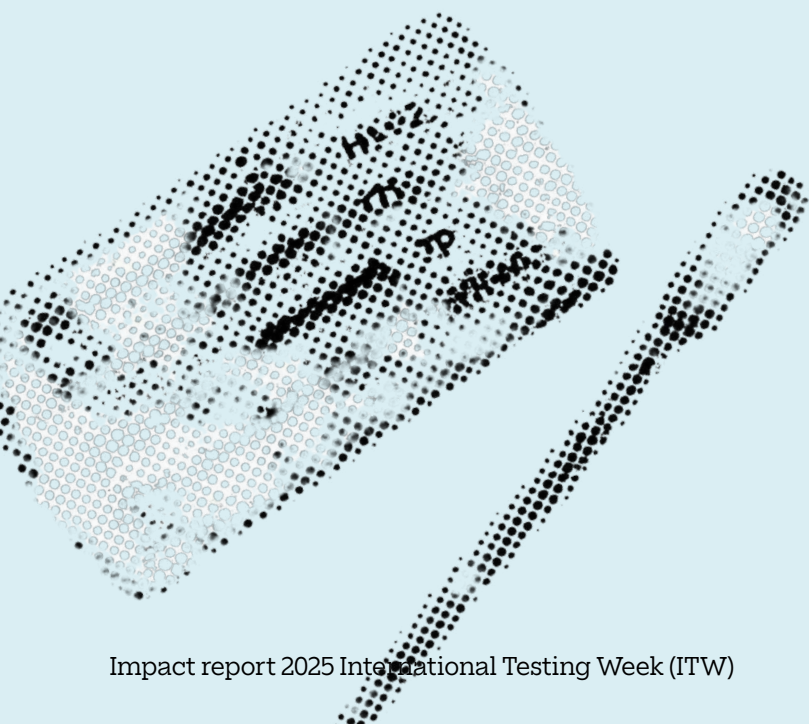


© Benjamin Girette

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED



Note: A single organization could report carrying out multiple types of activities, which explains why the percentages presented are not mutually exclusive.



TESTING: A COST-EFFECTIVE TOOL

INVESTING IN TESTING EFFORTS MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE...

Against a backdrop of significant cuts in funding for the fight against HIV, Coalition PLUS emphasizes that testing is an investment that reduces costs in the long term.

By detecting infections earlier in individuals and initiating treatment quickly, testing limits the transmission of HIV and STIs.

This approach saves on future treatment costs, which are often high. It is a sound investment with positive returns for public health, individual and community well-being, and finances – particularly in low-income countries where out-of-pocket medical expenses are high.

... PARTICULARLY THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED METHODS

Around the world, HIV testing is carried out by people from the communities most at risk of infection (LGBTQI+ individuals, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs, etc.), who are best positioned to reach those who are marginalized from healthcare systems. Their understanding of lifestyles, practices, and social norms gives them a unique ability to effectively reach at-risk communities.

In 2025, 50% of the tests performed were first-time screenings. This figure illustrates both the concrete impact of the week on international screening targets and the relevance of the community-based approach.



RESULTS

ALL INFECTIONS COMBINED

79,898
tests conducted (HIV,
HBV, HCV, Syphilis)

In addition to these tests, 12,295 additional tests were conducted through the partnership with Frontline AIDS.

Note: The detailed data presented below does not include data from all countries.

3.3%
of tests were positive
(HIV, HBV,
HCV, syphilis)

WHERE?

Organizations carried out screening activities in a wide variety of settings and locations: **prison settings**, both women-only and mixed, **online screening using take-home self-tests**, at **events and community venues**, at **markets**, in **schools**, as well as in **community clinics** or organizational offices.

WHAT?

24.6% of organizations also screened for other infections or conditions such as the screening or detection of **precancerous lesions** and **cancers** (cervical, breast, and anal), the assessment of **proctological conditions**, and, on a more ad hoc basis, the screening for **chronic diseases** (hypertension, diabetes, sickle cell disease) or malaria.

This highlights the organizations' ability to adapt their interventions to the specific needs of the targeted populations by adopting a holistic approach to health.

HBV

14,981 tests performed

- 3% of tests were positive for HBV
- 63% of tests were first-time screenings
- 52% referred for care

HCV

11,258 tests conducted

- 5.2% of tests were positive for HCV
- 52% of tests were first-time screenings
- 33% referred for care

Syphilis

19,327 tests conducted

- 5.8% of tests were positive for syphilis
- 50% of first-time screenings
- 91% referred for care

Other infections (chlamydia, gonorrhea, tuberculosis)

1,421 tests performed

- 1.1% of tests positive
- 43% of first-time screenings
- 100% referred for care

RESULTS

HIV

34,332
HIV tests performed

1.4%
of positive tests

41% of first-time screenings

93% referred for care

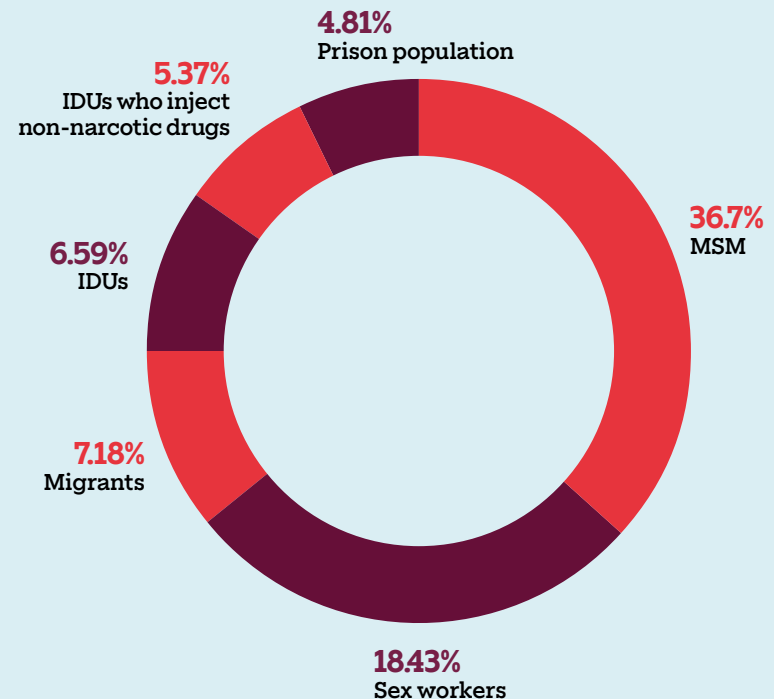
Key populations = General population =

67%
(23,011 tests)

33%
(11,321 tests)

38.6% (13,286) of HIV tests conducted were performed using self-test kits distributed by 16 participating organizations.

BREAKDOWN OF HIV TESTS CONDUCTED AMONG KEY POPULATIONS

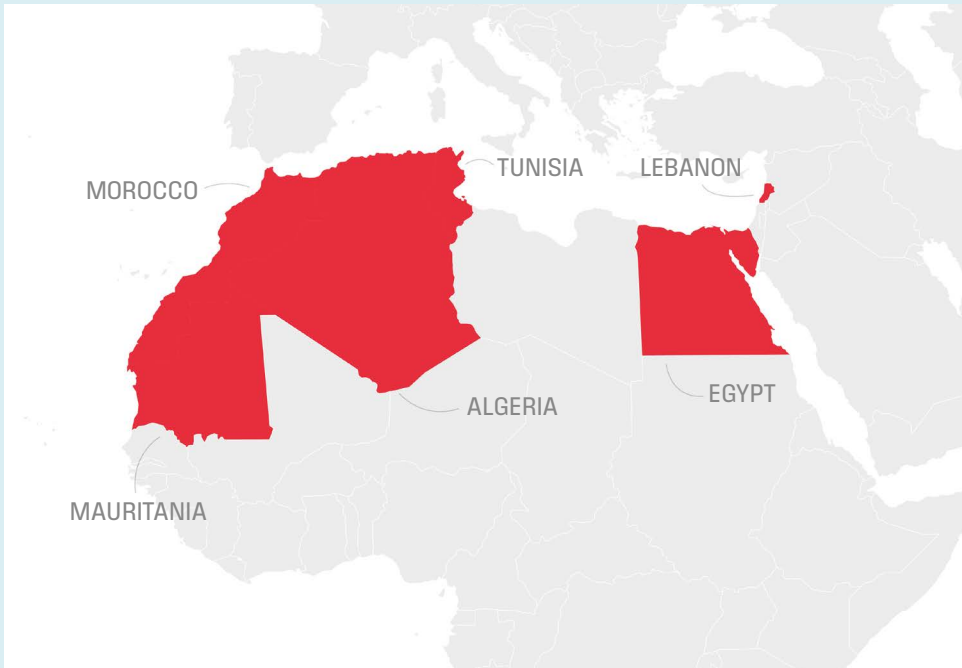


POSITIVITY AND FIRST-TIME TESTING RATES AMONG KEY POPULATIONS

The highest positivity rate is among MSM.

The proportion of first-time testing is particularly high among IDUs and MSM, reflecting an increased ability to reach people who have never been tested before.

RESULTS BY REGION



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

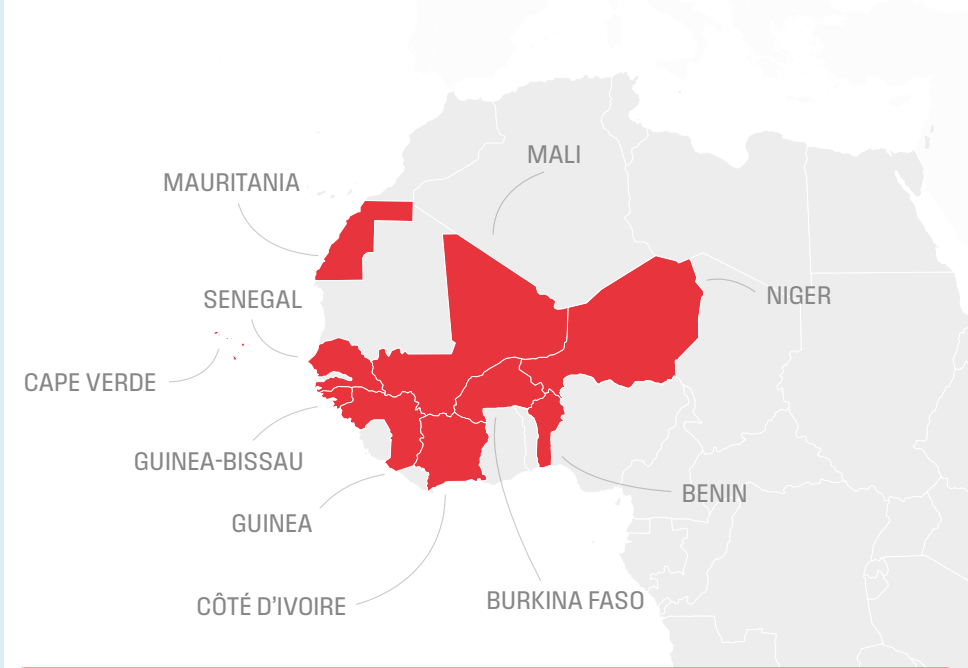
- 7,011 HIV tests conducted
- 0.8% of tests were HIV-positive
- 27% were first-time tests
- 46% were referred to care
- 22.7% of tests were HCV-positive (737 tests conducted in total)



CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

- 5,577 HIV tests conducted
- 1.8% of tests were HIV-positive
- 47% were first-time tests
- 98% were referred to care

RESULTS



WEST AFRICA

- 2,403 HIV tests conducted
- 0.8% of HIV tests positive
- 60% of first-time testing
- 100% referred to care
- 15.4% of syphilis tests positive (2,254 tests conducted in total)



INDIAN OCEAN

- 5,266 HIV tests conducted
- 2.4% of tests were HIV-positive
- 57% were first-time screenings
- 98% referred to care

RESULTS



AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

- 6,649 HIV tests conducted
- 1.2% of tests were HIV-positive
- 46% of first-time testing
- 116% referred to care



SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 597 HIV tests conducted
- 0% of tests were positive for HIV
- 62% were first-time screenings
- 0% referred to care
- 18.5% of tests were positive for HCV (336 tests conducted in total)



EUROPE

- 3,418 HIV tests conducted
- 0.4% of tests were HIV-positive
- 30% were first-time screenings
- 73% were referred for care

PREP INITIATION

1,890 PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ON PREP WERE STARTED ON THE MEDICATION FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE 2025 CAMPAIGN.

Efforts were heavily focused on the most at-risk populations: sex workers (SW) and MSM alone accounted for nearly 90% of those starting treatment, with 46.1% (873) and 43.5% (824) of reported initiations. Trans women also play a significant role in this program, accounting for 6.8% (130) of initiations, demonstrating the organizations' ability to reach populations at the heart of HIV vulnerability issues.

The PrEP initiations carried out during WD 2025 illustrate the shift from a purely testing-based approach to a combined prevention strategy. By prioritizing key populations, particularly MSM, sex workers, and transgender people, **this edition confirms WD's leading role as a lever for promoting PrEP.** The successful integration of testing, counseling, and direct referral to prevention services highlights the unique expertise of community-based initiatives in reducing barriers to care.



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RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

International Testing Week 2025 was a major moment of community mobilization, despite an international environment marked by major and unprecedented financial constraints in the HIV response sector.

This edition was directly impacted by cuts in development aid funding. Despite an overall 5.67% decrease in tests conducted compared to the 2024 edition, the impact remains massive, with tens of thousands of tests performed.

STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES PERSIST, PARTICULARLY RELATED TO:

- budgetary constraints
- the unavailability of certain supplies, particularly for hepatitis
- care linkage; although it reaches 93% for HIV, the continuum remains fragile for HCV and HBV
- stigma and fear of diagnosis, which continue to hinder access to health services

Thus, the ITW reaffirms the key role of community-based organizations. Given the instability of international funding, securing sustainable resources and strengthened planning are essential to guarantee universal access to testing and achieve global public health goals.

ANSS Santé PLUS (Burundi)

highlights a: **“persistent reluctance among certain key populations to use testing and care services, linked to fear of stigma and discrimination.”**

AIGA AIDES (Madagascar)

notes that certain difficulties in mobilizing the public were linked to **“reluctance stemming from stigma or fear of the results.”**

CASM (Canada)

also mentions **“negative reactions from people linked to fear, anxiety, or certain beliefs surrounding HIV”**, which can hinder the use of testing.

We Act For Hope (Rwanda)

highlights the persistence of **“stigma and fear among some key populations”**, limiting participation in community testing activities.

BECOME A PARTNER OF ITW 2026

**WE HOLD THE KEYS
TO ENDING THE HIV
AND VIRAL HEPATITIS
EPIDEMICS.**

**THANKS TO YOU,
WE WILL HAVE THE MEANS
TO ACHIEVE THIS.**



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

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

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

Your role will make a difference in the prevention and early management of these diseases!

The seventh edition, to be held from November 23 to 29, 2026, will highlight Eastern and Central Europe.

The financial partners of SID 2025



The institutional partners of SID 2025



ABOUT COALITION PLUS

Founded in 2008, Coalition PLUS is a network of organizations working to advance the health and rights of populations vulnerable to HIV and hepatitis across all continents.

Our mission is to be a strong, effective, and sustainable link in the response to HIV and hepatitis, built with communities, in a world marked by crises and the erosion of rights.

TO THIS END, WE AIM TO:

- **Improve the overall health of populations vulnerable to and affected by HIV worldwide**
- **Influence national, regional, and international public policies**
- **Strengthen the horizontal and inclusive governance of Coalition PLUS**

15
member organizations
from 15 countries

115
partner associations

54
countries worldwide

6 **offices**
Barcelona (Spain),
Brussels (Belgium), Dakar (Senegal),
Geneva (Switzerland),
Marseille, and Paris (France)

5 **working languages:**
English, Arabic, Spanish,
French, Portuguese

We contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)

A total budget
11 **million euros,**
70% of which is directly allocated to the network's field organizations

26 **ongoing programs**
supported by 13 public and private organizations

64 **employees**



Belgium

Boulevard Emile Jacqmain 90, 1000 Brussels

France

Tour Essor 14, rue Scandicci, 93 508 Pantin Cedex

And

Faculty of Medicine, 27 Bd Jean Moulin, 13 385 Marseille Cedex 5

Spain

Carrer Mallorca 318, 4o-2a, 08037 Barcelona

Senegal

Africa Villa No. 2466 AF Building 3rd floor, apartments C and D

116 DD Street, Sicap Dieupeul II, Dakar

Switzerland

c/o Calliopée, Rue de Chantepoulet 10, 1201 Geneva Switzerland

Email: coalitionplus@coalitionplus.org

Website: www.coalitionplus.org

Social media: [@coalitionplus](https://www.instagram.com/coalitionplus)

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