

FRANCE & THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

HIV AROUND THE WORLD



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REFERENCE SHEETS

In 2008, almost 2 million people died of AIDS worldwide, three-quarters of them in sub-Saharan Africa, and over 2.7 million are estimated to have been infected with the virus.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) announced in November 2009 that 33.4 million people worldwide were living with HIV, including 2.1 million children. The epidemic is still a major threat to global health in general, and to health in developing countries in particular.

In France, an estimated 134,000 people are HIV-positive.



The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a retrovirus that gradually destroys the immune system. The virus weakens the body's defences, leaving the carrier more vulnerable to infection and some types of cancer.

This combination make up the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The AIDS virus is transmitted from an infected person during unprotected sexual intercourse or through contact with contaminated blood (unsafe blood transfusions, shared needles). It can also be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding.



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France's commitments

To fight AIDS, which requires considerable financial resources and coordination of everyone's efforts, France makes most of its contribution through multilateral international cooperation, to which it allocates increasing resources.

Combating HIV/AIDS is one of the top priorities of France's cooperation with developing countries. Between 2007 and 2008, France's official development assistance for health rose from €952 million to almost €1 billion.

France's cooperation strategy on health gives priority to:

- fighting the three biggest killers (AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria);
- universal vaccination;
- overcoming the crisis in human resources for health;
- health insurance coverage.

To achieve these aims, France makes a strong contribution to the leading global specialised organisations: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), and the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID).

France's bilateral commitment

In 2002, France set up ESTHER (Ensemble pour une solidarité thérapeutique hospitalière en réseau, "Together for a Network of Hospital Care"), a public/private partnership, to which it allocated €8.5 million in 2009. The partnership's mission is to facilitate access to care for people infected with HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases in developing countries and to foster twinning projects between hospitals that treat AIDS patients. The grouping also runs the ESTHER Europe network, which has ten member countries from the European Union.

France's contribution to multilateral bodies

The amounts France allocates annually to action against AIDS have increased considerably in recent years: from €95 million in 2003, to €186 million in 2004, €267 million in 2006 and €363 million in 2007.

France also contributes financially to the European Development Fund, the World Bank and other organisations working in global development and health. In 2008, France spent more than €360 million on the fight against AIDS.

With a contribution of €900 million for the period from 2008 to 2010 (up 33% on the previous three-year period), France is the second-biggest donor to the Global Fund, behind the United States (€1.2 billion). France will raise its contribution by 20% for the period from 2011 to 2013.

Since September 2006, France has also been a contributor to UNITAID, which facilitates access to treatment for HIV/AIDS. In 2008, France contributed €160 million, which was 70% of UNITAID's total budget.

France continues to provide financial support for UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation, as well as technical assistance to both these multilateral organisations (11 technical assistants working at these institutions).

Discrimination and inequality

Advancing human rights and combating all forms of discrimination are an integral part of action against AIDS.

Through its international cooperation in health, France contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals which make reducing poverty and inequality an overarching aim.



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At the G8 Summit in June 2010, France announced a further commitment of 500 million euros for the period 2011 to 2015 to maternal and child health, which also contributes to the fight against pandemics.

NGOs

In France, AIDS charities have played a key role in achieving recognition of the rights of HIV-positive people.

Aware of the importance of the action of French NGOs in supporting civil society in developing countries, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) has set up regular working and consultation mechanisms:

■ **Alliance française sur les maladies transmissibles** (“French alliance on transmissible diseases”) fosters consultation and exchange between all public and private actors involved in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

■ **ELSA** (Ensemble, luttons contre le sida en Afrique, “Together, Let’s Fight AIDS in Africa”), a platform that groups six French NGOs (Aides, Planning familial, Sidaction, Sida Info Service, Solidarité Sida and CRIPS) and assists countries in the South to set up programmes to facilitate access to antiretroviral treatment, is funded by the MAEE, in partnership with the associations;

■ **Partnership Framework Papers (PFPs)**, which define strategies involving all French aid actors in a given country, are drafted with support of NGOs;

■ **The appeal for AIDS initiatives from the Mission for Relations with Civil Society** at the Directorate General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships at MAEE, drafted in close collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD) and NGOs, provides organisational, institutional and communications support for organisations in developing countries. The Directorate General intends to allocate a budget of approximately €6 million over 2007-2010 to combat AIDS, which is almost double the credits allocated until now to supporting NGO action in this area.

Seven projects are currently running:

- **AIDES-CGT** : A project to help French trade unions and charities develop a coordinated, consistent policy on AIDS in the workplace (€402,454)
- **Sidaction-Initiative et Développement - Sol en Si**: GRANDIR – A project to build the capacity of actors in prevention and care for children with HIV/AIDS in Africa (€894,000)
- **Handicap International - Sidaction**: Strengthening local initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS and support people disabled by the illness (€994,145)
- **AIDES-Act-Up-Solidarité Sida** : Building the advocacy capacity of civil society actors working on AIDS in Togo, DRC, Burkina Faso and Cameroon (€897,773)
- **AIDES-Sidaction** : Assisting civil society actors that work on AIDS in Africa to develop tailored action for men who have sexual intercourse with men (€948,232)
- **Solidarité Sida-Sida Info Service-Planning Familial-Aides-Sidaction**: Joining forces in the ELSA network to support the African community responses to AIDS (€551,005)
- **Handicap International** : A project to improve recognition of people suffering from discrimination due to AIDS in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (€602,990)

➤ TO GO FURTHER

- **GIP ESTHER**
www.esther.fr/

- **FMLSTP** :
www.theglobalfund.org/fr/

- **UNITAID** :
<http://www.unitaid.eu/fr/>

- **ONUSIDA**
<http://www.unaids.org/fr/>

- **OMD**
www.un.org/french/millenniumgoals/

- **GAVI**
<http://www.gavialliance.org/>