



# Four leading community-based NGOs unite to launch a new international initiative

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## Issues

The expression of the needs and priorities of PLWA and vulnerable groups needs to be reinforced. Therefore true involvement of people infected, affected or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS needs to be revitalized not only in the implementation of programs but also in the decision making process of organizations; that is in a comprehensive approach with the objective of societal transformation.

- The texts regulating the governance of the organization ensure that members are respected and represented on the basis of democratic principles (authorities meet on a regular basis and public resolutions are recorded and available);
- The organization has implemented general and cost accounting which meet international standards;
- The organisation is able to provide audited accounts for years n-1 and n-2 by an independent firm;
- An annual activity report is established, covering all the actions of the organisation and/or possibly related organisations (foundation or federation).

## Description

AIDES in France, ALCS (Association de Lutte Contre le Sida) in Morocco, ARCAD SIDA (Association de Recherche, de Communication et d'Accompagnement à Domicile des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA) in Mali and COCQ-Sida (Coalition des Organismes Communautaires Québécois de Lutte contre le SIDA) in Quebec have been key players of the fight against HIV/AIDS in their respective countries not only in providing care and support but also in influencing the decision making process for better policies.

*The first round table discussion to prepare the set up of the Coalition, June 2007*



## Lessons learned

Promoter of the community-based approach in the fight against HIV / AIDS, the initiative aims to expand to new associations. The latter will have the option, subject to compliance with a number of criteria to become members and thus benefit from a material and financial support as well as ownership of the initiative (voting rights). In addition, the initiative is also meant to offer technical support to organizations wishing to become a member of the initiative but who do not entirely fulfill the criteria.

## Current members

- **AIDES (France)**  
Tel: + 33 (0)1 41 83 46 16  
Email: [aides@aides.org](mailto:aides@aides.org)  
Web site: [www.aides.org](http://www.aides.org)
- **COCQ-Sida (Canada)**  
Tel: 514 844 2477  
Email: [info@cocqsida.com](mailto:info@cocqsida.com)  
Web site: [www.cocqsida.com](http://www.cocqsida.com)
- **ARCAD SIDA (Mali)**  
Tel: +223 223 72 59  
Email: [arcadsida@arcadsida.org](mailto:arcadsida@arcadsida.org)
- **ALCS (Morocco)**  
Tel: +212 22 99 42 42  
Email: [alcs@menara.ma](mailto:alcs@menara.ma)  
Web site: [www.alcsmaroc.ma](http://www.alcsmaroc.ma)

## Country of research

Canada, France, Mali, Morocco.

## Criteria to become a member

- The organisation is legally recognised in its country;
- The fight against HIV / AIDS is the primary object of the organisation;
- The objective of general interest aiming at "societal transformation" or any equivalent concept is clearly expressed in the goals of the organisation;
- The community-based approach is the operating principle of the organisation;
- Infected people are present and involved in coordinating the organization whether they are members or by holding office in the organization's executive bodies (Board of Directors or equivalent body);



*Press conference for the launch of PLUS, November 2007*



Contacts:  
[www.coalitionplus.org](http://www.coalitionplus.org)  
[coalitionplus@coalitionplus.org](mailto:coalitionplus@coalitionplus.org)

To Download PLUS' poster: <http://mexico.aides.org>