



“With us and for us”

The RAAC network: black civil society in France unite to strengthen community-based responses to HIV/AIDS

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The need for focused action with black communities in France

- Epidemiological research has clearly reported for more than ten years that people from Sub-Saharan Africa in France are highly impacted by HIV/AIDS.
- AIDES is a community-based HIV and Hepatitis organisation with ongoing prevention, support, and advocacy projects across France. Close to a fifth of the people we reach are migrants, who often report discrimination related to their positive HIV status and/or their nationality and who often live in precarious social conditions.
- In November 2005, AIDES organised parallel conventions that brought together (1) 120 migrants living with HIV and (2) a network of French local NGOs led by black Africans and Caribbeans.

A commitment initially shared by 29 civil-society organisations in France

Consequently, the RAAC network (Network of African and Caribbean NGOs Fighting Against AIDS - www.raac-sida.org) was founded on June 18, 2007 by 29 organisations. Our joint commitments include:

- To strengthen our capacity to provide trusted and reliable information, prevention, and support about HIV with black communities in France.
- To share information and prevention tools.
- To foster solidarity with people living with HIV (PLWHA), via enabling public testimonies by PLWHA.

Recently, an additional 5 NGOs have applied to also become members of our network.

Enabling NGOs founded by migrants in France to develop their own activities on HIV/AIDS

- Many local organisations founded by migrants in France are very willing to be more involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and support.
- Intricate knowledge of the specificities of local migrant communities in France is an essential ingredient to both design and implement information campaigns that effectively (1) reach their target audiences, including languages other than French (2) break the taboos associated with HIV/AIDS.



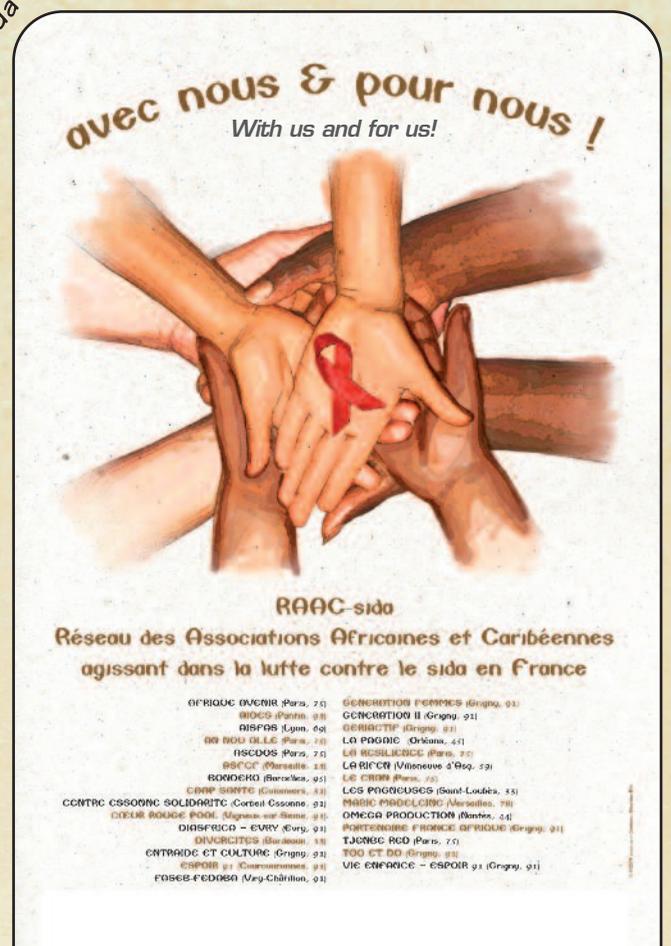
Next steps

- A growing number of the member organisations will become full-fledged (and publicly funded) local partners of HIV campaigns.
- The RAAC-Network will strive to improve the pertinence and scope of French public health efforts with regards to migrants in France.
- Starting in the fall of 2008, we will publish our own quarterly magazine.
- We will develop our partnerships with fellow organisations in Europe and worldwide.

The current members of the steering committee of the RAAC-Sida network include

CHARLES ANKRAH (Entraide et Culture), David AUERBACH (TjenbeRed), Joseph SITU (AIDES), Assa SOUKOUNA CAMARA (Centre Essonne Solidarité), Katumbay Papy TSHIALA (Association Espoir), Aurélie VERNY (AIDES).

RAAC-SIDA, Network of African and Caribbean NGOs, working to fight against HIV/AIDS in France



AIDES, a French NGO

Set up in 1984, AIDES is the largest HIV/AIDS community-based organisation in France, with centres in over 70 cities. We support partner organisations in Central and Eastern Europe, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

Our main goals:

- To inform vulnerable people about HIV/AIDS prevention and testing
- To support PLWHAs, (social & professional integration, therapeutic education)
- To advocate for the rights of PLWHAs.



www.aides.org • AIDES is a co-founding member of PLUS

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