



## Having migrants from sub-Saharan Africa accept HIV testing by the association's activists using rapid tests

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### Issues

In France, people from sub-Saharan Africa often discover their HIV status late, because they failed to do a test. In France, rapid tests haven't yet been approved. AIDES would like to set up an experimental testing action, to be carried out by AIDES activists, in the heart of the sub-Saharan community, using rapid tests in order to facilitate screening in this community.

### Description

A survey was set up and carried out in 2007 by AIDES activists to assess the acceptability of screening done by rapid test (using a drop of blood) with the result given within the hour by a doctor, nurse or volunteer. 109 questionnaires were filled out by people claiming to come from the sub-Saharan community.

### Lessons learned

The blood sample turned out to be very well accepted (82%), this technique being similar to the blood test for malaria. The fact that the result was given within the hour was also very well accepted. Those who were hesitant about this aspect of the test expressed fears about the reliability of such a quick result: "In an hour it couldn't have searched my blood enough". The blood sample and the result given by a volunteer were perceived to be acceptable by 48% of the people, which was less than by a nurse (70%) or a doctor (95%).

### Next Steps

Set up a testing incentive with rapid tests. Ensure the success of the experiment by explaining and spreading the message of the reliability of the test and the advantages of being accompanied by an AIDES volunteer.

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*Testing incentive by AIDES activists in a train station, June 2007*



### 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.

