

Burundi: Joint Programme of the 'Association Burundaise de lutte contre le SIDA' (ABS)¹

Objective

- To improve the coordination of Civil Society interventions at the centralised and decentralised level.
- Create a more synergetic association between members conducive to more easily measurable outcomes.
- Promote Civil Society leadership in scaling up prevention, care and treatment to reach Universal Access.

is fourfold: demographic, economic, sanitary and social.

Institutional Context

The government ensures funding for ABS and its presence in major coordinating bodies while the joint United Nations programme of HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Burundi provides additional support at the technical level. ABS sits on the General Assembly of the National AIDS Council, the committee in charge of project analysis and nationwide funding, the Country Coordinating Mechanism, the UN Expanded Theme Group on HIV, the Governing body of Action Aid's HIV project, the steering committee of the UNDP funded project in support of decentralisation, the steering committee of the German organisation on technical collaboration (GTZ) project on HIV, the Governing body of the Eastern African National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations EANNASO.

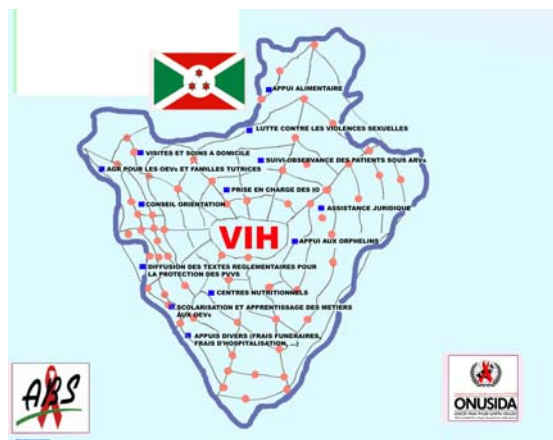


Figure 1 Burundi

Epidemiological situation

Burundi is ranked as second among central African countries and as the 13th sub-Saharan country most affected by the AIDS epidemic. The epidemic in Burundi has been fuelled by war, poverty and sexual violence against women. National prevalence is estimated at 3.2% in the 12 yrs old + cohort, and at 3.6% in the 15 yrs old + cohort. Its impact on the population

Description

As a coordinating agency regrouping 120 associations, ABS advocates for its member's funding, training, planning, monitoring and evaluation. The joint programme testifies of the quality and efficiency of their solidarity and complementary partnership: 80% of the membership is for prevention; 53% is for medical and psychosocial support; 72% is for socio-economic support. There is no doubt that ABS, a family of more than

13,000 volunteers, intervening in 14 of the 16 programmes of the National Action Plan – is creating a real web of shared experience and resources that covers the different regions of Burundi and whose ultimate purpose is to paralyze the AIDS epidemic.

¹ Programme Commun du Collectif
D'Association de Lutte Contre Le Sida au
Burundi, A.B.S., Sep 2005

Deliverables

It is important to highlight the number of beneficiaries as well as the range of services provided by ABS in the fight against HIV/AIDS in 2005. 2881085 people benefited from prevention interventions which ranged from sensitization campaigns to the promotion and distribution of condoms. In terms of treatment and care, a total of 23623 people received services including antiretroviral treatment, prevention of mother to child transmission and home-based care. Finally 89999 people benefited from psychosocial and economic support through different schemes such as learning about income generating activities or counseling to name only a few.

Next Steps

ABS aims to get closer to its members by setting up three regional offices to facilitate and monitor the ongoing decentralization process which is occurring. ABS is also working on representing its members at national and international levels, as well as addressing the sustainability and growth of the interventions of its members through increased capacity building initiatives.

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