



POWER

"Empowerment of cisgender and trans sex workers

Improve sexual and reproductive health and rights and reduce gender-based violence against sex workers

Context


Côte d'Ivoire is one of the West African countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with a prevalence rate of 2.4%, particularly affecting vulnerable populations such as sex workers (12.6%) and transsexuals (22.6%). In addition, these groups are generally victims of a very high level of gender-based violence (GBV), which is all the more exacerbated in the case of people living with HIV. This precarious situation and social marginalisation increase exposure to STIs, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

In addition, the surveys revealed that very few HCWs visit health centres, due to their unsuitable location and the stigma they suffer. The surveys also highlighted the unmet SRH needs of sex workers, including contraception and access to information and menstrual hygiene products.


Solthis has therefore deployed a holistic approach to access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with the aim of improving the social and legal environment for TS, cisgender and trans people in depth and over the long term.

KEY DATA

 **Project duration:** 3 years (2022 - 2025)

 **Beneficiaries:** cisgender and trans sex workers, healthcare professionals, people in the sex workers' environment: clients, managers, leaders, etc. community and religious leaders, law enforcement officers and journalists

 **Source of funding:** l'Initiative (Expertise France), Fonds l'Oréal pour les femmes, Mairie de Paris

 **Partners:** COVIE, Arc en ciel +, Espace Confiance, PAC-CI research programme, Programme National de la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant (PNSME), Programme National de Lutte contre le Sida (PNLS), Médecins du monde

 **Country :** Ivory Coast

OBJECTIVES

To improve the SRHR and related rights of HCWs in Côte d'Ivoire and thus contribute to achieving national objectives in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The project is developing a participatory approach in order to include the project's beneficiaries and make them active players in the various stages of the project.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Strengthening organisational of partner NGOs in order to guarantee the long-term future of the project.
- Empowering FTs and trans people to enable them to from to choices that directly affect their health.
- Improving the range of sexual and reproductive health.
- Improving the environment for DSSR

– PROJET POUVOIR –



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MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Participatory planning and definition of a plan to strengthen COVIE and Arc en ciel +, as well as organisational capacity building.
 - Strengthening SRH educator pairs, particularly in approaches linked to self-care (education, self-testing for STIs and self-use of contraception) and GBV: training, development of tools.
- Setting up or strengthening GBV prevention and referral systems, and empowering healthcare workers.
 - Setting up self-care initiatives: self-awareness, self-screening and self-management.
- Support for the organisation and improvement of the material conditions of SRH services in 6 health centres and 2 DICs to ensure appropriate care for FT patients.
 - A specific community strategy is being deployed to reduce the risk of GBV, particularly in the care and professional practice of cisgender and trans HCWs, and to increase access to SRH, particularly through self-care.
 - Improving the range of SRH services available in the target areas, to provide care tailored to the specific needs of cisgender and trans people with disabilities.
 - Creation of a social and political environment more favourable to the SRHR of cisgender and trans people with disabilities in the target areas and at national level.

In partnership with:



With the support of :

