



AGIR

"Empowering young people and adolescents to take action on SRHR"


# Improving access to sexual and reproductive health rights for young people and adolescents in Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, where the median age is 19, young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services is limited. This particularly affects young girls, who are exposed to early and/or unwanted pregnancies (fertility rates of 124% for 15-19 year-olds and 193% for 20-24 year-olds), an over-representation of maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as gender-based violence (including female genital mutilation, which affects over a third of the adult female population and 11% of girls under 14). Women are also twice as likely as men to be affected by the HIV epidemic in Côte d'Ivoire, and the majority of new infections are among young girls.


However, knowledge of HIV prevention remains low, particularly among young people: only 20% of them have any real knowledge, and condom use is still limited. The stakes are high, given that Côte d'Ivoire is one of the countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in West Africa, with a prevalence rate of 2.4%. In this context, the project enables us to capitalize on our partnership with the Espace Confiance association to reach key populations, and to extend Solthis' action beyond the fight against HIV/AIDS to the broader theme of SRHR by integrating a differentiated approach.

## KEY INFORMATION

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

 **Beneficiaries:** 20,000 young people and adolescents who use SRH services in the health areas targeted by the program, teams from the targeted facilities, members and employees of local partner associations.

 **Source of funding:** AFD, Paris City Council, BOA Foundation




 **Partners:** ASAPSU, Espace Confiance, Ministère de la Santé (PNLS, PNSME, PNSSU-SAJ), Ministère de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfant

 **Country:** Côte d'Ivoire




## OBJECTIVES

Strengthen empowerment and access to quality SRHR services and interventions adapted to the needs of adolescents & youth (A&Y), especially those in vulnerable situations.

Act on 3 levers of action through a multi-channel approach:










-  **On demand:** information and empowerment of A&J, especially vulnerable A&J in Côte d'Ivoire.
-  **supply:** strengthening health structures to adapt their SRH services to A&J, especially those in vulnerable situations (public primary care centers and community centers).
-  **the enabling environment:** communities, national authorities, civil society organizations...

## EXPECTED RESULTS

-  Empowering A&J, especially those in vulnerable situations
-  Strengthening the DSSR service offering to provide quality care adapted to the specific needs of A&J.
-  National environment more favorable to A&Y DSSRs



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

-  Participatory community diagnosis of A&J
-  Strengthening the knowledge and skills of A&J on DSSR and service availability
-  Mobilizing ambassadors to promote DSSRs among young people and those around them
-  Participatory diagnosis of SRH and GBV (gender-based violence) services for A&J in vulnerable situations
-  Capacity-building for health providers on the global approach to SRHR (including GBV), the service package, the specificities of A&J in vulnerable situations, particularly on self-care (self-administration of contraceptives, self-testing for HIV, STIs and pregnancy, etc.), for A&J who consult the services.
-  Support for the improvement, adaptation and equipment of health structures in line with the initial diagnosis of the SRH service offer
-  Development and improvement of the quality of local ASRJ services by strengthening the skills of community health workers and peer educators, and reinforcing existing advanced strategies adapted and accessible to A&J, especially those in vulnerable situations.
-  Contribution to national frameworks for advocacy on DSSRAJ
-  Making available and disseminating the results and outputs of the project at national and international levels

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