



Solthis

SHAPE

"Sexual and reproductive Health Access and Promotion of Empowerment".


## Improving access to SRHR for adolescents and young people in urban and rural districts of western Sierra Leone


In Sierra Leone in 2019, 21% of teenage girls had a child or were pregnant, with 82% unwanted pregnancies. The country had 717 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, 40% which were among teenagers.

Early pregnancy carries a high risk of complications, maternal mortality and stigmatization. Gender-based violence affects 53% of women over the age of 15, and female circumcision remains common (90% of women).

Shortcomings in the training of caregivers and the organization of healthcare structures complicate care. Existing policies are insufficiently implemented, and social norms limit the autonomy of adolescent girls.

### KEY INFORMATIONS


 **Project duration:** 2.5 years (March 2025 - December 2027)

 **Direct beneficiaries:** approximately 200 people

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 50,000 adolescents and young people, including 2,000 aged 10 to 24 (sexual and reproductive health consultations in targeted health facilities). 9,000 pregnant women, including 800 teenagers and young women aged 10 to 24, for pregnancy and childbirth follow-up

 **Source of financing:** AFD

 **Country:** Sierra Leone

 **Partners:** CaWEC (Community Action for the Welfare of Children), Ministry of Health (Reproduction and Child Health Department, National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy, Quality of Care Unit, Western Area Urban (WAU) and Western Area Rural (WAR) health district teams).



## OBJECTIVES

- Overall objective:** To contribute to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in two districts of Sierra Leone.
- Specific objective:** To improve access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and the expression of rights for young people aged 10 to 24, in particular adolescents and young women, in the districts of Western Area Urban (WAU) and Western Area Rural (WAR) in Sierra Leone.



## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improve knowledge and skills in SRH and gender equity among adolescents and young people in target areas.
- Better adapt and improve the quality of SRH care and services offered to young people in the project areas.
- Share the tools developed, the knowledge generated and the best practices identified



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Workshop to reappropriate women's knowledge and prepare for birth and paternity.
- Capacity building for teachers and CS workshop.
- Strengthening young people's knowledge and skills in the area of SRHR and setting up support groups for adolescents and young people.
- Setting up a support group for pregnant teenagers and new parents (mixed and single-sex) led by leading mothers.
- Setting up street theater shows to reach out to young people and teenagers, but also to parents and the wider community.
- Strengthening the skills of healthcare personnel.
- Setting up a tutoring system.
- Improving the care environment: support for service organization, small-scale rehabilitation of services, provision of medical equipment and essential SRH inputs, support for the referral system.
- Improving the caregiver-patient bond, to guarantee spaces for dialogue between caregivers and patients, and to encourage actions aimed at strengthening the bonds of trust between communities and healthcare services.
- Support and participation in national and/or regional SRHR consultation and supervision mechanisms.
- Adaptation and implementation of the childbirth experience score.
- Sharing of knowledge and results of the feasibility and impact study of the SFAF to SMNM transition pilot experiment carried out by Solthis in Senegal.
- Transfer of project results to the national level.

