

HEALTH ISSUES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Improving maternal and child health in West Africa remains a major challenge, despite efforts to date. Around 70% of maternal deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Although maternal deaths have decreased by 40% since the 2000s, they remain unacceptably high (WHO 2023). Yet the majority of maternal deaths are preventable. **Multiple barriers remain, with the lack of skilled health workers and adequate infrastructure being major factors, and only 65% of births in the region being assisted - the lowest rate in the world. Inequalities in access to care, exacerbated by socio-economic and geographic factors,** also contribute to the situation. **West Africa also continues to have some of the highest infant mortality rates in the world,** with 92 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021, or one child dying every 17 seconds in the region (WHO, 2021). The main causes of these deaths include **malnutrition, acute respiratory infections, premature births, diarrhoea and asphyxia at birth.**

Global experts are now less optimistic about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on maternal and child mortality by 2030. In light of this, it is essential to promote and roll out new approaches and to support strong political commitments to achieve the agreed targets. In addition to the importance of ensuring access to quality services during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period, it is necessary to take action from a comprehensive health perspective, **expanding access to a continuum of care and preventing underlying health problems, such as anaemia, malaria and non-communicable diseases that increase the risk of complications** in women and their unborn children.



**13,400
children**

and

**786
women
died**

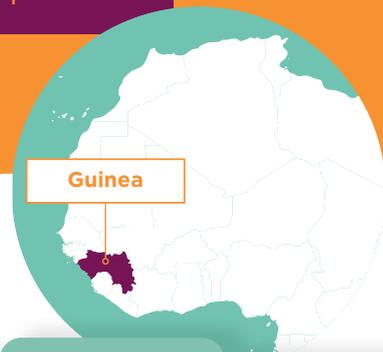
in the world every day of preventable or curable causes.
(WHO 2024 and 2020)

70% of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

PROJECT IPOP

Introducing points of care to optimise postnatal prophylaxis for HIV-exposed newborns

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Guinea

KEY INFOS



Timeframe:

February 2021 - February 2024



Funding:

ANRS-MIE, Foundation Rotary Guinea, Paris City Hall



Partners:

National AIDS and Hepatitis Control Programme, Ignace Deen Hospital, Fédération Espoir Guinée (FEG)



[Find out more](#)

March 2024 marked the end of the inclusion of mother-baby pairs, following this process:

- ▶ 6,556 women gave birth at Ignace Deen Hospital in Conakry;
- ▶ 6,045 women were tested for HIV;
- ▶ 93 HIV-infected women were identified (1.5% prevalence);
- ▶ 78 women were invited to participate in the IPOP project (the others left the maternity ward before it was proposed, or they died);
- ▶ 70 women agreed to participate in the IPOP project.

140 women and newborns were therefore able to benefit from the project.

Of these, only 1 child was diagnosed with HIV at birth, the other 69 newborns received the appropriate preventive treatment and to date none of them are infected.

These results were presented at the AFRAVIH international conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon in April 2024.

In addition to the 140 women and babies put on treatment, this project has led to major advances in terms of public health in Guinea where 1,400 newborns are infected with HIV each year.

This is the first time in Guinea that viral load testing can be carried out immediately by care providers for mothers and from birth for children, without going through a laboratory. This means newborns can benefit from the appropriate treatment, there is better retention in care and ultimately a considerable reduction in HIV infections among newborns.

“ We are very happy to have the machine on site. We do the test and in 1.5 hour, we get the child's results. It's part of our daily lives and it's a huge achievement because we used to wait 2 to 3 months. Now we can improve the child's chances of survival.

Dr. Yalikhathou Camara, Pediatrician ”



89%

(compared to 41%) of newborns have access to EID at 6 weeks



84%

(compared to 27%) retention in care at 9 months



Less than 1 day (compared to 47 days) average result delivery time