

HEALTH ISSUES

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Over the past 30 years, we have witnessed significant developments in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), driven by feminist movements, and as part of international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a result, since the year 2000, the global maternal mortality rate has decreased by 34%, the rate of unintended pregnancies has decreased by 19% and the number of women using modern contraception has doubled¹.

Yet, despite these major advances, **significant challenges remain, and the rise of conservatism and pro-life movements** puts the right of people to be free to make choices about their own bodies at risk more than ever.

In West Africa, key SRHR indicators remain extremely fragile and people, especially the most marginalised, continue to face multiple barriers to having full access to their rights and to comprehensive, quality services tailored to their needs.

In response to this situation, Solthis continues to make SRHR one of its priority intervention areas, focusing on fighting for human rights and gender and health equity.

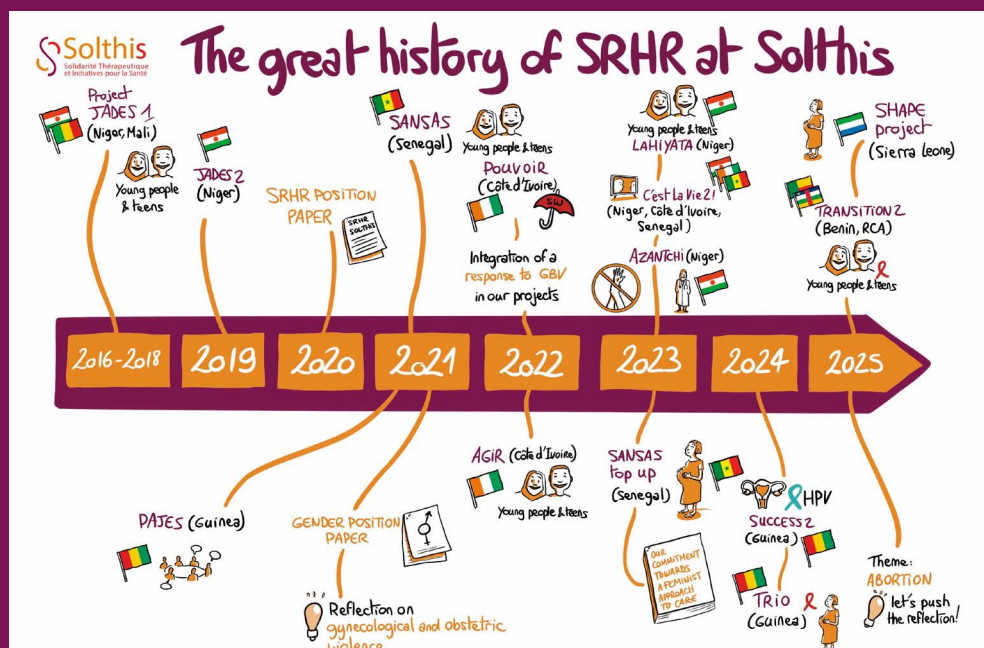


-34%
maternal mortality rate
globally since the
year 2000.



+100%
modern contraceptive
use since 2000.

1 - SWP Report 2024: Celebrating 30 Years of Progress | United Nations Population Fund



PROJECT SANSAS

Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youth in Senegal

HEALTH ISSUES SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Senegal



The SANSAS project aims to improve access to adolescent and youth reproductive health rights in Senegal, especially for vulnerable girls, young women and young people. The project's key interventions and results in 2024 were:

► **Improving the quality of care and integration of family planning services in close connection with the Directorate of Maternal and Infant Health at the Ministry of Health and Social Action:**

- 91 health providers and 62 community stakeholders were trained on the integration of maternal, newborn and child health - family planning - nutrition services at the 30 service delivery points;
- strengthening post-training monitoring and mentoring at project intervention sites;
- improving quality scores of supported sites (from 44% to 80% in Sédhiou and 49% to 72% in Mbour).

► **Combating gender-based violence (GBV):**

- 163 (146 female and 17 male) GBV survivors treated holistically;
- 44 talks, 5 social mobilisations and 21 radio programmes organised to raise awareness about GBV and promote access to care;
- 10 «secret champion» committees composed of women and men from the communities who have been mobilised around GBV prevention and response interventions.

Engaging and involving local authorities in the implementation of advocacy plans and development of two policy papers targeting the Directorate of Maternal and Infant Health.

“Young people raise questions about crucial topics, such as pregnancies in school settings and sexual exploitation. This role in advocacy enables them to assert themselves as agents of change and pushes us, as decision-makers, to take concrete action.
Mbour local authority, after a meeting with youth leaders

KEY INFOS



Timeframe

February 2021 - October 2025



Funding: AFD, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through AFD, L'Oréal Fund for Women, Bank of Africa Foundation



Partners: Enda Santé, RAES, Equipop, LARTES



[Find out more](#)



40,814

adolescents and young people attending sexual health consultations at partner health facilities



461 mobile outings reaching 12,069 people



91 healthcare providers trained on service integration

542 life lessons through «C'est la vie» toolkits, reaching 11,868 students

PROJECT SUCCESS 2

Scale Up Cervical Cancer Elimination with Secondary Prevention Strategy

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND
RIGHTS



Cervical cancer (CC) is the deadliest form of cancer among women in Guinea (45.4% of cancer deaths). The SUCCESS 2 project is part of global efforts to eliminate CC through screening, treatment and combatting inequalities. Some of the key achievements in 2024:

- ▶ **CC Technical Working Group meeting** to facilitate the integration of project activities by involving all stakeholders;
- ▶ **training of trainers:** the workshop took place in two phases (technical and education-focused), enabling a pool of national trainers to be established on HPV testing, IVA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid) and thermocoagulation;
- ▶ **training of providers** through a five-day workshop combining theory and using a practice dummy.

“As a result of the SUCCESS project, Guinea is taking concrete action towards eliminating cervical cancer, putting women at the heart of prevention and care.
Dr. Fatoumata Sitan Keita, Deputy Coordinator of the National cancer control programme”



Timeframe

March 2024 – April 2026



Funding: Unitaïd, Expertise France, L'Initiative



Partners: AGUICAN, AGBEF, FMG, National cancer control programme and National AIDS and Hepatitis Control Programme, PNLSH



[Find out more](#)



12 trainers trained
(8 women and 4 men)



8 laboratory technicians trained, including one woman



25 healthcare providers trained (9 doctors, 14 midwives and 2 nurses)

PROJECT POUVOIR

Improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights of cisgender and trans sex workers in Côte d'Ivoire through an empowerment approach

HEALTH ISSUES

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



The POUVOIR project, implemented since 2022, focusing on removing SRH service access barriers for cisgender and trans sex workers (SWs) and contributing to improving care provision for these groups.

During 2024, several activities were carried out with a view to achieving this objective:

► **5 self-gynaecology workshops conducted to strengthen the SRH capacity of 50 SWs**, in particular improving knowledge of their anatomy and of risky practices;

► **implementation of cervical cancer self-screening activities** in partnership with Doctors of the World. **10 peer educators (PE) were trained** who sensitised 400 SWs, 333 of whom carried out self-screening for human papillomavirus (HPV), of which 88 were HPV-positive. 66 of them carried out an IVA and 26 had a positive result - they were all treated using thermocoagulation;

► **16 reflection sessions between health providers and SWs were organised**, to contribute to improving care provision relationships. These sessions brought together 85 health care providers and 49 SWs;

► **12 outreach awareness-raising and consultation sessions organised at sex worker sites** reaching 259 SWs, 84 of whom were put on contraception;

► **feminist self-defence workshops organised in collaboration with the Sex Workers Action Group (SWAG) collective**. 65 SWs participants (59 CIS and 6 trans);

► **contributing to the implementation of advocacy interventions to improve the SRHR social and political environment**, which led to significant progress, including the revision of the Penal Code relating to abortion and access to free contraceptive products.

“Before I was not well informed about many things. I gained a lot of knowledge. I learned how to calculate my menstrual cycle and how to protect myself during menstruation. I learned how often sanitary towels should be changed. I also learned that menstruation is not dirty...”
Healthcare provider participating in the Values Clarification workshop

KEY INFOS



Timeframe:

April 2022 - June 2025



Funding:

L'Initiative - Expertise France, Paris City Hall, L'Oréal Fund for Women



Partners :

Covie (NGOs), Arc-En-Ciel +, Espace Con fiance, PACCI, National Programme for Mother and Child Health, National AIDS Control Programme, SWAG, PNSM, PNLCa



[Find out more](#)



1,968 SWs
sensitised on SRHR



87%
of SWs who participated in self-gynaecology workshops have improved their ability to take action.



8
health facilities have improved their quality score from 52% to 89%

PROJECT C'EST LA VIE!

PHASE 2

**Sexual and Reproductive Health of
Adolescents and Young People in West Africa**

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND
RIGHTS



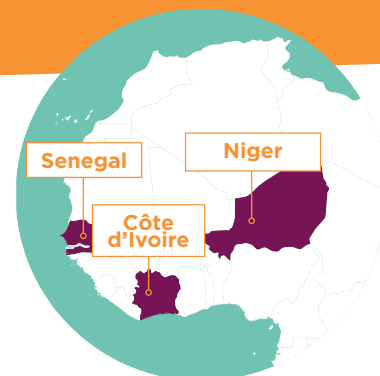
The C'est la Vie 2 project aims to support the adoption of safer and more respectful SRHR and gender-related behaviours among adolescents and young people, by strengthening their capacity to make choices and take action. In 2024, Solthis, as member of the consortium, implemented:

- ▶ ongoing capacity strengthening of health professionals in **Côte d'Ivoire** has significantly improved the quality of service provision for young people and adolescents in all health facilities;
- ▶ training and supporting 17 coaches in **Niger** to contribute to setting up and sustaining the mentoring and coaching system for health professionals;
- ▶ capacity strengthening sessions for stakeholders in Senegal on good procurement and supply management (PSM) practices;
- ▶ Reflection sessions in all three countries to provide a framework for discussions between health professionals and young people and adolescents, allowing them to contribute to strengthening the capacity of care providers.



I particularly enjoyed this activity because it helps us as providers to be aware of our behaviour and question ourselves.

**Health professional in Senegal
after a reflection session**



KEY INFOS



Timeframe:

February 2023 – June 2026



Funding: AFD



Partners: RAES (lead), Equipop, OSC du Ratanga Club, Alliance Droit et Santé, UCPO



[Find out more](#)



14 reflections sessions:
280 young people and 40 health providers reached (Niger)



2 types of positive behaviour in care provision for adolescents and young women
observed in 100% of SRH consultations (compared to 70%) (3 countries)



89% compared to 57% change in quality score health centres (Côte d'Ivoire)

PROJECT AGIR

Empowering young people and adolescents around SRHR

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND
RIGHTS



To help improve care and overcome SRH service access barriers, the AGIR project worked to strengthen the empowerment of adolescents and young people and the health system:

- **development and distribution of awareness-raising tools** (image box, anatomical model, Oh Woman® educational game!);
- **4,552 awareness outreach sessions organised**, reaching 12,670 adolescents and young people (8,407 girls and 4,263 boys) on SRHR themes;
- **empowerment workshops organised with 96 adolescents and young people**, which strengthened their capacity to make informed decisions related to their SRH. These adolescents and young people are SRHR ambassadors to their peers;
- **14 cine-debates organised** showing RAES C'est la Vie! series, reaching 1,463 adolescents and young people (935 girls and 528 boys);
- **capacity strengthening of 26 health care providers on the medical management of gender-based violence and 24 community workers** (18 peer educators and 6 psychosocial support workers) on monitoring adolescents and young people using self-injectable contraceptives;
- **2 joint coaching/mentoring visits organised that strengthened the capacity of 63 health care providers;**
- **2,664 adolescents and young people started on contraception** in the **11 project health centres;**
- **implementation of the advocacy plan to promote a social and political environment favourable to adolescent and youth SRHR**, with the NGO Messi and the Youth Ambassadors Network.

“*This experience provided me with a different understanding of contraception with my guy, because before I wasn't protecting myself. I thought condoms were just a 'trick'. Now I know the different contraceptive methods. I do the injections and this experience taught me to calculate my period because I did not know that before.*

Young female beneficiary

Côte
d'Ivoire

KEY INFOS



Timeframe:

March 2022 - February 2025



Funding: AFD, Bank of Africa Foundation, Paris City Hall



Partners: ASAPSU, Espace Con fiance, NACP, PNSME, PNS SU-SAJ, NGO MESSI, Youth Ambassadors Network SR/FP, PNSM



[Find out more](#)



88%

of adolescents and young people who participated in empowerment workshops strengthened their ability to take action



89% vs 51%

service quality score of the 11 health facilities



1 decree approving free family planning as a result of advocacy work

PROJECT LAHIYATA

Improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Niger

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND
RIGHTS



The focus in 2024 was on implementing activities in line with the expected project outcomes. The project aims to improve access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescents and young people in Niger and to contribute to the reduction of HIV infections and combatting gender-based violence. These include:

► **safe spaces:**

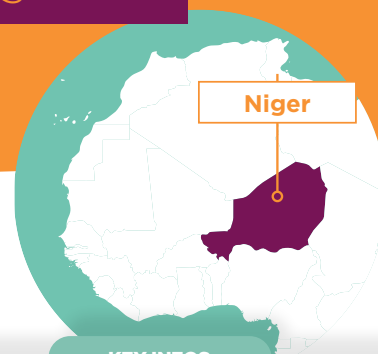
20 awareness-raising sessions informed 150 girls in safe spaces about the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse, the importance of vaccinations, personal hygiene, attending health centres if you are sick. Support with income-generating activities for girls in safe spaces (bead making, henna tattoos, soap making) ensured that young girls attended regularly.

► **training on clarifying values:**

14 professionals from integrated health centres and school infirmaries, including 11 women from Niamey and Maradi, and 18 members of RAES, benefited from training on the clarification of values: representations, norms and attitudes in relation to SRHR.

“ I never imagined that trainings like this existed, that can help with our engagement with students.

A school nurse talking about the values clarification training



KEY INFOS



Timeframe:

February 2023 - March 2026



Funding: Expertise France



Partners: Lafia Matassa, Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Youth, Sport, Culture and Arts, National AIDS and Hepatitis Control Programme.



[Find out more](#)



62 health professionals
from 16 facilities supported



20 school and
extracurricular entities
supported



40 community
leaders trained



5 integrated health
centres and 5 school
infirmaries provided
with medical technical
equipment

PROJECT AZANTCHI

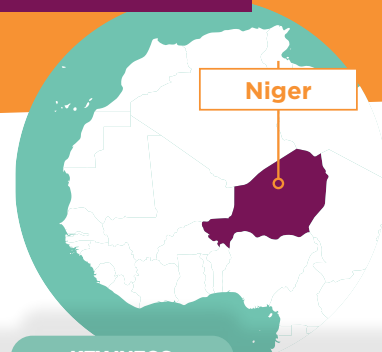
Support for a national tutoring
system in sexual and reproductive
health and HIV

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND
RIGHTS



2024 saw the completion of several activities linked to the project's expected outcomes. These include:

- ▶ **a launch workshop on 24 July 2024, with 50 participants from the Niamey and Maradi regions;**
- ▶ **carrying out a participatory assessment of mentoring / coaching among beneficiaries:** to ensure the set up and sustainability of a health mentoring system on reproductive health / HIV adapted to the needs of health professionals in the country. The assessment was carried out, as was an inventory of existing tools at the DAQ in Niamey and Maradi. Data collection was carried out during the March to May 2024 period in the two intervention areas and a data presentation workshop was carried out in July 2024. A workshop was also conducted with technical and financial partners in June 2024, to gather information on their experiences and the materials used for mentoring;
- ▶ development of SRH service quality assessment tools (service quality score) and project management tools, followed by a validation workshop carried out jointly with the Lahiyata project, under the leadership of the Directorate of Mother-Child Health/ Adolescents and Youth, in September 2024;
- ▶ mapping community stakeholders in the two project regions was also conducted to update the national reproductive health mentoring document.



KEY INFOS



Timeframe:
2023 - 2026



Funding: AFD



Partners: Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs, Lafia Matassa and RENIP+



Find out more



50 health professionals
from target facilities,
supported on reproductive
health during field visits



33 members OF
COGES/COSAN/
community outreach
workers sensitised on
SRHR and reproductive
health mentoring during
community mapping



22 partner institutions
supported as part of
strengthening reproductive
health mentoring



We strongly believe in the importance of mentoring to support care providers. AZANTCHI represents a genuine opportunity to strengthen health workers around reproductive health mentoring.

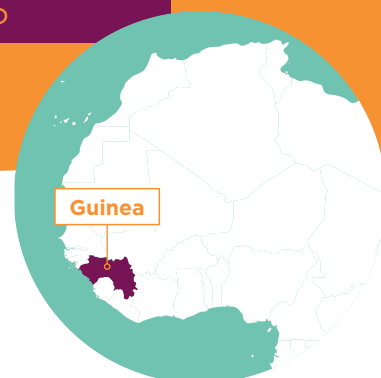
**Representative of the General Directorate
of Reproductive Health at the project launch workshop**



PROJECT PAJES

Empowering organisations and young people committed to promoting sexual health

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



In 2024, the PAJES project came to an end. **A total of 17 capacity strengthening sessions were organised on various themes, such as project management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy techniques.**

Trainings on using the Oh Woman! game have been implemented in Conakry and in the 7 regions of Guinea. This game was introduced in West Africa by Oh Woman!® and Solthis in 2023. It is now **an essential educational tool for our sexual and reproductive rights and health (SRHR)** projects, and is used in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal.

The «Génération qui Ose» (the generation that dares) app, which provides information on SRHR, an alert system for gender-based violence (GBV) and mapping of care facilities for medical and/or psychosocial care, counselling and facilities providing guidance and signposting on SRH and GBV, and judicial/legal assistance services, was developed and launched as part of the project.

A study on unintentional pregnancies in school settings was carried out. The results were disseminated to partners and presented at the AFRAVIH conference, in Yaoundé, Cameroon (see page 8).

Finally, **a most significant change study was carried out throughout the year.** The main results were improvements in individual empowerment, brought about by the training system and the context which is conducive to collaboration between the various PAJES project partners.



KEY INFOS



Timeframe:
2021 - 2024



Funding: Expertise France, Orange Foundation Guinea, Paris City Hall



Partners: Coalition OSC/PF ; Ablogui ; PNLSh ; DNSFN



[Find out more](#)



9,000+
adolescents and young people sensitised on unintended pregnancies, family planning, STIs and HIV and GBV



37,000+
people provided with information via the GquiOse platform and more than 1,000 app downloads



1 advocacy plan developed on free contraceptives and the rights of vulnerable persons



I have benefited from several capacity strengthening sessions, but the training on facilitation, awareness-raising and gender-based violence management techniques had the biggest impact on me.

Fatimatou Diallo, CNOSC/PF member

