

HEALTH ISSUES TECHNICAL AND SOLIDARITY ASSISTANCES

In 2025, Solthis continued its technical assistance (TA) activities, with 26 assignments in 10 countries in West and Central Africa. The total number of TAs has decreased since 2024, which reflects the reality of huge cuts in official development assistance — mainly by France. Against this backdrop, Solthis technical assistance has even greater strategic value. Our TA does not substitute health systems — the idea is that it strengthens them, by imparting skills, co-creating tools and strategies with national actors, so that they can continue to take action independently and sustainably, including when external partners withdraw. During difficult times like these, the approach of not taking action on behalf of others (or non-substitution) proves to be particularly relevant.

In 2025, there were three priority themes to our TA work.

Strengthening health systems, including community systems, in the response to HIV and STIs, in particular through demedicalizing HIV services: in Guinea, Solthis supported the National HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Control Program to implement a national task shifting strategy to give more tasks to community stakeholders, to bring services closer to people who need them and to relieve pressure on health personnel who are already lacking in numbers.

Integrating HIV, TB, hepatitis and STI services to promote coordinated responses rather than siloed programs: Solthis has supported several countries with this rationalization process to ensure efficiency.

Strengthening civil society as an essential pillar of a sustainable response: 10 organizations were supported to consolidate their governance and strategic planning, strengthen their advocacy capacity and sustain their interventions to serve populations located the furthest from care.

These three areas are inextricably linked. On the one hand, delegating tasks to communities means they need to be trained, recognized and equipped. On the other, integrating services leads to strong health systems capable of coordinating complex responses. And both require a strong civil society, able to raise patient voices and challenge decision-makers.

It is this global and coherent vision that guides Solthis' technical assistance work — with the autonomy and sustainability of national partners as a constant compass.

 [Learn more about our technical support work](#)

INTEGRATION OF SERVICES IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCES

In a context of health system transformation and scarcity of international funding, Solthis is strengthening its engagement with public institutions and community stakeholders to promote integrated, sustainable and population-centered approaches. In this sense, Solthis supported health authorities in 2025 to develop national strategies, develop operational tools and strengthen the capacity of actors on the ground to promote the integration of HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and sexual and reproductive health services. In this way, Solthis contributed to building health systems that are more resilient, more inclusive and better adapted to the realities of populations.

Guinea **Support to develop a national strategy for the triple elimination of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B**

► **A strategic, normative document providing structure at the national level**

In Guinea, Solthis supported the National HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Control Program (PNLSH) to develop its first national strategy on the triple elimination of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B, to strengthen prevention of mother-to-child transmission and integrate hepatitis B into national health policies. In a context characterized by funding constraints and significant needs in terms of neonatal vaccination, testing and access to treatment, the strategy is now a crucial catalyst to mobilize partners and to ensure greater consideration of hepatitis B in future Global Fund programs.

► **A participatory and capacity strengthening approach**

Solthis support also made it possible to revise available repositories for the vertical mother-to-child transmission response, by developing training tools and training a national pool of trainers, mainly composed of midwives and health professionals. By taking a consultative approach, based on participatory and inclusive practice involving institutions, technical partners, health professionals and community actors, it promoted ownership of the strategy and strengthened institutional dialogue around service integration.

25 people identified by the PNLISH were trained as part of the training of trainers on triple elimination in Guinea.

Senegal **Strengthening integration of community responses to HIV, TB, hepatitis and STIs**

► **Key support for the implementation of the Integrated National Strategic Plan**

In Senegal, Solthis supported Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé (ANCS) to implement the Integrated National Strategic Plan 2023-2030 and to strengthen the integration of community responses to HIV, TB, hepatitis and STIs.

There were three major deliverables: Development of a national train-the-trainer module, a guide on integrating community health programs, and a manual on integrated service packages tailored to the needs of key populations, people living with HIV (PLHIV), and pregnant women. These tools, which were developed in a participatory way with community organizations and national programs, are now robust reference documents to strengthen coordination between community stakeholders and health facilities.

► **Capacity strengthening of community actors**

A pool of community leaders was trained to facilitate ownership and dissemination of these integrated approaches on the ground, and as closely as possible to patients. Despite persistent structural challenges, particularly in terms of access to hepatitis testing and care for all target populations, many integrated practices are already being carried out by community actors and local health facilities.

In Senegal, 225 managers from ANCS and its partner organizations were trained through a training of trainers to prepare for cascade training.



FOCUS ON SUPPORTING THE DEMEDICALISATION OF HIV SERVICES IN GUINEA

HIV technical assistance: supporting the demedicalization of services

In 2024-2025, Solthis undertook a 12-month technical assistance (TA) assignment in Guinea, funded by L'Initiative – Expertise France, to support the National HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Control Program (PNLSH) to operationalize a national strategy for the demedicalization of HIV services. This assignment illustrates Solthis' approach: to support health systems without acting on their behalf, by producing practical, co-created and sustainable tools, that promote the autonomy of national partners.

► A major programmatic issue

Demedicalization has clear objectives: bring services closer to beneficiaries, remove barriers to access to care, reduce the burden on health workers and improve the national HIV response to achieve the 95-95-95 targets.

In Guinea, demedicalization initiatives already existed, but they were fragmented and were not streamlined at the national level. In many health facilities, the provision of antiretroviral treatment and patient monitoring was already provided in practice by community actors, but often in an informal way and without adequate supervision.

► An assignment co-created with national stakeholders

The TA was led by a multidisciplinary team and took place over several phases, from a situational assessment to developing operational tools, under the coordination of the PNLSH's HIV Task Force.

The assessment confirmed there was strong national political will, despite the lack of a streamlined strategic framework. On this basis, a national demedicalization strategic framework 2025-2027 was developed and was validated by consensus. It sets out all areas of the continuum of care that can be demedicalized. It identifies the profiles of relevant community actors, sets out the principles of management and supervision and is accompanied by an operational action plan that is budgeted and integrated into the GC7 prioritization exercise and budget negotiations. Finally, the team supported the development of a training module on demedicalized testing of key populations for community actors.

► Robust achievements - a work in progress

Technical assistance has made it possible to standardize and inject energy into an ongoing process, with strong national ownership. Complementarity with other Solthis support in Guinea — notably on differentiated HIV services and the introduction of PrEP — has strengthened the coherence and continuity of TA interventions.

Work remains to be done to fully operationalize demedicalization for each of the components of the continuum: defining protocols by task, training community actors and evaluating pilot programs and scaling them up.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY TO TAKE ACTION

A national response to HIV cannot be sustainable without a strong, independent civil society that is able to raise the voice of people affected. This belief has guided Solthis' engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs), community organizations and patient organizations for many years. In 2025, Solthis supported 10 CSOs in 5 countries - organizations with different profiles but driven by the same ambition: to take action more effectively, more sustainably, and as close as possible to the populations they serve.



► Participatory and comprehensive support in difficult contexts

In Senegal Solthis continued its support to RNP+ (national network of organizations of people living with HIV), a key player in the AIDS response since 1997, which comprises 46 organizations present across all 14 regions of the country. Technical assistance to RNP+ was funded by L'Initiative – ExpertiseFrance and covered three complementary areas: governance and leadership, administrative and financial management and monitoring and evaluation. The assignment was a long-term technical assistance with extensive areas of support and an important role in training RNP+ coordination staff. The TA proved even more crucial in a difficult context, impacted in particular by the suspension of PEPFAR funding in January 2025.

In Djibouti Solthis supports Solidarité Féminine, an organization that has been working alongside women living with HIV and key populations in a difficult epidemic context for thirty years. The assignment was part of L'Initiative – Expertise France's SOFIA mechanism and focused on two complementary areas: strengthening organizational governance, including the revision of framework documents and training the governing bodies, and updating the five-year strategic plan, to integrate gender mainstreaming and strengthened integration in the Djibouti HIV response ecosystem. The TA took a collective and individual coaching approach and was designed around building member skills and ownership of deliverables.

► Enhanced continuity of support between technical assistance and the project partner

In Côte d'Ivoire Solthis had the opportunity to provide technical assistance support to COVIE — an NGO founded by sex workers in 2014 and a partner of Solthis in the POUVOIR project. This 10-month TA enabled COVIE, who are committed to providing legal, medical and psychosocial care to the most vulnerable people, to develop a three-year strategic plan, a resource mobilization roadmap and communications and advocacy tools. It was a completely participatory approach, which included beneficiaries and board members. It initiated a new collective way of working within the organization, and supported the continuity of capacity strengthening activities planned with COVIE as part of the POUVOIR and POUVOIR+ projects.

► New CSOs strengthened

En Côte d'Ivoire Through Solthis' proven expertise in strengthening civil society organizations and advocacy, we had the opportunity to support a wide range of stakeholders. In 2025, we supported IHMS — an organization of people with hemophilia and health professionals established in 2008 — to develop a structured advocacy strategy, in conjunction with the Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation. These four varied TA examples demonstrate the same conviction: that CSOs are full-fledged actors in the health response. To support them with organizational development, governance and getting their voice heard means investing in a response that lasts well beyond external funding.