



HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Progress towards key sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) indicators is extremely volatile in West Africa. People continue to face multiple barriers to having full access to their rights, bodily autonomy and comprehensive, quality and responsive services, especially people who are the most marginalized.

In 2025, SRHR responses experienced multiple setbacks in terms of political restrictions, the rise of conservatism and decreases in international funding for this work. These developments threaten hard-won gains in recent decades, including access to

contraception, safe abortion, and care for survivors of gender-based violence. In addition to the impact on bodily autonomy and human rights, the reality is that only one in three women has decision-making power over their SRHR (UNFPA, 2021). These setbacks risk creating an increase in unsafe pregnancies and abortions and ultimately preventable maternal deaths, which primarily affect the most vulnerable adolescent girls and women.

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



In November 2025, we took part in the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Bogotá, Colombia, where several thousand global actors committed to SRHR came together. In a context marked by growing political pressures and volatile funding, it was crucial for Solthis to be present alongside our partners to raise the voice of SRHR in West Africa and defend equitable access to quality services. The conference also provided a strategic space for experience sharing. Solthis promoted the results from its project work, particularly in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, in collaboration with our partners, we hosted an evening focused on self-care as a key catalyst for strengthening the capacity of populations to take action on SRHR.

[Find out more](#)

POUVOIR PROJECT

Improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights of cisgender and trans sex workers through empowerment

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



The POUVOIR project was implemented in Côte d'Ivoire to contribute to improving care provision and overcome barriers to SRH service access for cisgender and trans sex workers (SWs). **During 2025, the year the project ended, it was possible to consolidate achievements from the project's main interventions while strengthening the capacity of partner civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure that the interventions are sustainable.**

Key achievements include:

- **CSO strengthening:** staff from the CSOs supported by the project (Espace Con fiance, Arc-En-Ciel+ and COVIE) were trained on monitoring and evaluation;
- **learning and sharing project approaches:** 2 learning documents produced to ensure the dissemination of good practices (self-gynecology workshops and workshops on representation);
- **empowering beneficiaries:** 2 cycles of self-gynecology workshops were carried out with 20 SWs. The evaluation of self-care processes with 43 SWs has shown strong integration of self-care into their practices, illustrated by the following average scores: 90% for self-observation of private parts and self-assessment to identify cancer, 95% for reusable period pads and 86% for menstrual disc usage;
- **community awareness:**
 - 865 sessions conducted, 478 CIS and 249 trans SWs reached;
 - discussion meetings between health professionals and sex workers in the 6 public health centers and the 2 community centers to improve care provision relationships;
- **improving SRH services:** 83 health professionals coached resulting in an improvement in the quality of service score from 83% to 89%;
- **close-out and dissemination:** results-sharing workshop organized bringing together 80 stakeholders from national programs and technical and financial partners.

“ Now I know about the menstrual disc, I no longer refuse clients when I have my period. I can continue to work without worrying and without losing income. I can better manage my health on a daily basis. **A sex worker** ”

KEY INFO

- Date:** April 2022 - July 2025
- Funders:** L'Initiative (Expertise France), Paris City Hall
- Partners:** COVIE, Arc-en-Ciel Plus, Espace Con fiance, PAC-CI, PNSME, PNLS
- [Find out more](#)

- 2 learning documents produced:** self-gynecology workshops and workshops on representation. [You can access them here](#)
- 727 sex workers sensitized on SRHR topics**
- 95% of sex workers surveyed have had a positive experience of the menstrual disc**
- 54% of people that chose to use new contraceptives selected DPMA-SC (Sayana Press)**
- 10 women from partner CSOs received skills strengthening on workshop facilitation techniques**

POUVOIR+ PROJECT

Improving access to health and comprehensive SRHR for highly vulnerable people in Côte d'Ivoire

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



The second half of 2025 marked the transition from the POUVOIR to the POUVOIR+ project. This second phase aims to consolidate achievements to date, strengthen sexual and reproductive health (SRH) intervention models and expand the inclusive approach to highly vulnerable populations (HVP) engaged in sex work (cisgender sex workers - SWs, men who have sex with men - MSM, transgender people - trans, people who use drugs - PUD).

The main activities carried out during the period focused on:

- ▶ conducting community diagnostics (trans, PUD, MSM);
- ▶ capacity strengthening on SRHR topics (GBV, STIs, contraception, menstrual hygiene, etc.) and community facilitation techniques for 17 peer educators;
- ▶ continuation of outreach awareness-raising activities at sex work sites and trans / MSM meeting spaces in the community, which made it possible to reach 310 people;
- ▶ discussion workshops on representation, norms and attitudes related to SRHR with 36 health personnel (26 F, 10 M);
- ▶ continuing interventions at Arc-en-Ciel+ and Espace Confiance's community medical-social centers enabled 325 people from highly vulnerable populations to access consultations (30 on contraception, 270 on STIs, 25 psychosocial-related);
- ▶ SRH referrals and service provision at public health centers enabled 39 people from highly vulnerable populations to access consultations (12 on STIs, 27 on contraception);
- ▶ care provision for 4 people in emergency shelters;
- ▶ non-medical equipment provided to 12 public and community health centers;
- ▶ capacity strengthening of 57 health personnel (41 F, 16 M) through coaching to improve care provision to highly vulnerable populations in public and community health centers;
- ▶ development of a participatory, context-specific advocacy action plan to improve the context and SRHR access for highly vulnerable populations.

“Doctors are not well trained on the topic of key populations.
A participant in a workshop on representation”

INFOS CLEFS

- Dates:** August 2025 - January 2028
- Funders:** L'Initiative - Expertise France
- Partners:** COVIE, Arc-en-Ciel Plus, Espace Confiance, PAC-CI, PNSME, PNLS

[Find out more](#)



310 HVP (170 SWs, 63 trans and 77 MSM) were sensitized through outreach on SRHR topics

364 people from HVP accessed an SHR consultation

26 HVP (9 SWs, 5 trans, 12 MSM) who were GBV survivors accessed care and support

17 peer educators were trained on SRHR topics and facilitation techniques

AGIR PROJECT

Empowering adolescents and young people around SRHR

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



KEY INFO

- Dates:** March 2022 - March 2025
- Funders:** AFD, Paris City Hall
- Partners:** ASAPSU, Espace Confiance, PNSSU - SAJ, PNSME, PNLS

[Find out more](#)



To improve care provision and overcome SRH service access barriers, the AGIR project worked to strengthen the empowerment of adolescents and young people and the health system. In 2025, several interventions took place during the last 2 months of project implementation (January and February) with both adolescents / young people and health centers to strengthen achievements to date and ensure sustainability of activities:

- ▶ **752 outreach awareness sessions organized** reaching 1,364 adolescents / young people (894 F and 470 M) on different SRHR topics;
- ▶ **6 film-debate awareness sessions organized** where RAES' C'est la Vie series was screened, which reached 699 adolescents and young people (415 F and 284 H);
- ▶ **capacity strengthening of 20 health professionals** (19 F and 1 M) from the 11 health facilities on health education and healthy living;
- ▶ **391 new adolescent / youth users started on contraception** at the 11 health centers supported by the project;
- ▶ **increase in the quality score of supported centers from 51% to 89%** on average;
- ▶ **close-out and dissemination:** results-sharing workshop organized bringing together 70 stakeholders from national programs and technical and financial partners.

“The confidence the project has us gives us courage. We got into the habit of speaking up, despite lots of laughing. We feel more like adults.
Young person who participated in the project”



9,952 educational talks held to raise the awareness of **33,882** adolescents / young people on SRHR topics

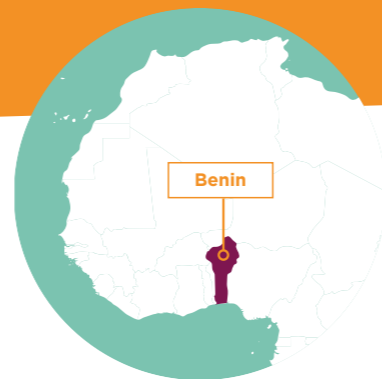
Capacity strengthening of 100 health professionals

2 learning briefs developed to share project best practices: empowerment workshops and exchange workshops on representations, norms and attitudes related to SRHR

TRANSITION II PROJECT

Inclusive program to optimize continuity of care for adolescents and young adults in West and Central Africa

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



As part of the project, in collaboration with the EVA Network, Solthis contributed its expertise on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to improve the care and support package for adolescents and young people living with HIV (AYLHIV) in Benin and the Central African Republic (CAR).

In 2025, 18 trainers were trained on SRHR representations, contraception, gender-based violence care and menstrual health for AYLHIV. These trainers then trained another 50 health professionals in Benin and CAR.

“My perceptions around SRHR for adolescents and young people have changed significantly, and this training has been beneficial.”
Training of trainers participant



KEY INFO

- Dates:** June 2025 – June 2028
- Funders:** L'Initiative - Expertise France
- Partners:** Eva Network (lead), CERADIS (Benin), CEBG (CAR)

[Find out more](#)



18 health professionals (pediatricians, treatment educators, nurses, psychologists, etc.) attended the training of trainers on:

- representations on adolescent and youth SRHR and on sexual and reproductive health;
- GBV care, menstrual health and contraception for AYLHIV.

LAHIYATA PROJECT

Improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



KEY INFO

- Dates:** February 2023 - March 2026
- Funders:** L'Initiative - Expertise France
- Partners:** Lafia Matassa, MSHP, PNLISH

[Find out more](#)

In this last year of project, before it closes out in March 2026, several activities were carried out to improve the quality of adolescent / youth SRHR services provided:

- thematic training for professionals, health workers (GBV, STI/HIV, menstrual hygiene management, unplanned pregnancies, abortion aftercare, viral load, adolescent / youth SRHR approaches, procurement and supply management) and for 84 young leaders, 40 teachers and coaches trained from School Clubs and 10 facilitators from SRHR and GBV safe spaces;
- awareness sessions on GBV and menstrual hygiene management carried out in safe spaces reached 200 young girls;
- improvements made in school settings - 3 school infirmaries refurbished in Koira, Kassé and Korombé high schools and 3 blocks constructed in Kassai and Korombé high schools;
- self-care workshops enabled 40 girls aged 10-15 and 15-19 from the Niamey safe spaces to strengthen their knowledge of contraception, anatomy of the genitals, the body and emotions, key information on puberty and menstruation and bodily hygiene. This has strengthened their agency.

“I feel different after the self-care workshops. I learned a lot about my body, about checking my breasts, about the internal and external genitals, and about managing periods.”
Participant at a self-care workshop



270 health professionals trained (GBV, menstrual hygiene management, abortion aftercare, unplanned pregnancies, viral load)



84 young leaders from school clubs trained on SRHR and GBV



18 awareness sessions held by school clubs reaching 200 young girls

AZANTCHI PROJECT

Support to embed a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV mentoring system

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS



This year marked the end point of several major project activities, including implementation close out at the end of 2025 and administrative close out in the first quarter of 2026. This included:

- **institutionalization and sustainability of the reproductive health (RH) mentoring system**, adapted through the national workshop to update the streamlined RH mentoring document under the leadership of the Directorate General of Reproductive Health (DGSR), which brought together everyone involved;
- **implementation of RH mentoring assignments**, organized in Niamey and Maradi. These interventions aimed to support health professionals to strengthen their skills;
- **capacity strengthening workshops for community actors (COGES/COSAN)** to set out roles and responsibilities. The workshops also contributed to capacity strengthening around reproductive health issues.

“Mentoring has allowed me to strengthen my technical skills and improve my daily practice. I have a better command of protocols and my consultations are better quality. Now I feel more confident and more empowered to provide care to women and newborns.”
Mentee midwife



KEY INFO

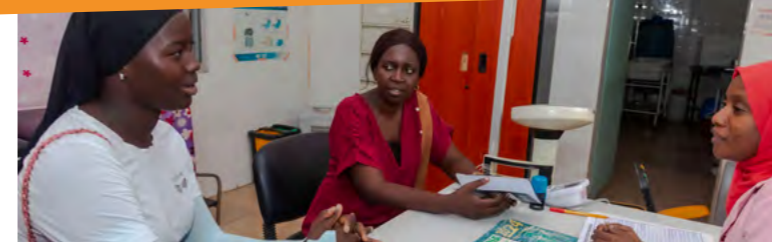
- Dates:** 2023 - 2026
- Funders:** AFD
- Partners:** Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs, Lafia Matassa and RENIP+
- [Find out more](#)

- 34** trained RH mentors
- 115** health professionals benefiting from capacity development activities, including through RH mentoring schemes
- 667** RH mentoring training sessions held
- 20** health facilities supported to implement RH mentoring assignments
- 65** community actors trained

SANSAS PROJECT

Strengthening and promoting the reproductive health of adolescents and young people in Senegal

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS



During the last year of implementation of Phase 1, the SANSAS project consolidated its interventions and developed tailored interventions related to maternal health and nutrition.

Some of the highlights include:

- **strengthening the training package for health professionals at the 30 health delivery points:** co-created with the Directorate of Mother and Child Health (DSME) within the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, the trainings focused on basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care (90 professionals trained), sexual and menstrual health (64 providers trained), respectful care provision and coaching (382 providers coached);
- **medical, psychosocial and legal care for 21 survivors of gender-based violence**, including 13 rape cases linked to unplanned pregnancies, provided in collaboration with Action Educative en Milieu Ouvert (AEMO), the Departmental Child Protection Committee (CDPE), ENDA Santé and «Law Boutiques» (legal advice drop-ins), and referrals to the VIMOS center in Ziguinchor for cases requiring support with safety;
- **TikTok mini-series on adolescent and youth SRH:** a series designed specifically for adolescents and young people, which have been viewed nearly 4 million views on the platform;
- **comprehensive refurbishment of the maternity ward at the Ndiagianiao** health post to improve conditions for welcoming and providing care to women and newborns;
- **construction of the Simbandi Brassou** adolescent and youth space, providing a safe space tailored to the specific SRH needs of adolescents and young people;
- **the service integration indicators have largely been achieved across all 30 health provision points**, through coaching on how to use tools, postpartum family planning counselling, and training-based supervision.

“At first, I was reluctant about some of the trainings, but they helped me to better understand the needs of adolescents and change my professional approach.”
Midwife in Bambaly

Senegal

KEY INFO

- Dates:** February 2021 - June 2026
- Funders:** AFD, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation via AFD
- Partners:** DSME, Enda Santé, RAES, Equipop, LARTES
- [Find out more](#)



- 96%** of adolescents and young people aged 10-24 in the project intervention areas say they are satisfied with the provision of SRH care
- 276** professionals coached on service integration and quality provision
- 19,858** adolescents and young people sensitized in schools through life lessons on SRH topics
- 27,959** young people attended consultations in health facilities and mobile clinics

SHAPE PROJECT

Access to sexual and reproductive health and promoting empowerment

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



In the first year of implementation, the SHAPE project focused on implementing the initial assessments and training required for activities to be put in place.

- ▶ **Training school health club members** to act as “champions” to facilitate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education in schools, reaching 4,223 students. This initiative has increased adolescent awareness of rights, consent, and health-seeking behaviors.
- ▶ **Training adolescent support group members and community ambassadors.** The trained ambassadors reached 92 adolescents (33 boys, 59 girls) through peer-led SRH education, improving their knowledge of menstrual health and dignity, contraception, bodily autonomy, and healthy relationships.
- ▶ **Training health professionals on adolescent- and youth-friendly SRH services.** This has significantly increased the demand for services among adolescents in target communities and health centers.
- ▶ **Training a pool of midwives on the birth and parenthood preparation methodology.**

“Before this training, I was too shy to talk about reproductive health issues. Now I am confident raising awareness among my peers and even with parents in my community. Jalloh, a 17-year-old participant from Tombo.”

Sierra Leone

KEY INFO

Dates: January 2025 - December 2027

Funders: AFD, Paris City Hall

Partners: CAWeC, Ministry of Health

[Find out more](#)



4,223 students reached in schools and 92 adolescents (33 boys, 59 girls) in the community

80 referral mothers trained

Referral mothers reached 800 community members (160 men, 640 women)

SUCCESS II PROJECT

Early detection and treatment of cervical cancer in Guinea

HEALTH ISSUES
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



During 2025, the SUCCESS II project continued to strengthen national provision of cervical cancer secondary prevention. Healthcare and laboratory teams were trained, enabling the introduction of HPV testing and treatment of precancerous lesions by thermocoagulation, supported by the development of national modules and supply management improvements.

- ▶ **A package of community interventions has been rolled out to create demand:** film-debates, self-gynecology workshops for sex workers (SWs) and women living with HIV (PLHIV), peer support, health education and the “Pink October” campaign to strengthen testing take-up.
- ▶ **The project contributed to the development of the national cancer control strategy and standards and procedures for the prevention of cervical cancer being drafted,** including a testing algorithm for the HPV test being validated, the national quantification of needs assessment, the roll out of DHIS2 tracker for data monitoring, the availability of testing in 16 health facilities and active advocacy for supply mobilization and funding.

“The drawings used in the picture box mean that if even a woman can't read, she can easily understand what is meant. In the three tools we looked at, the images speak for themselves. They are really understandable. Testimony from a peer educator about the project's awareness-raising tools”



KEY INFO

Dates: March 2024 - April 2026

Funders: L'Initiative - Expertise France, Fondation Orange Guinea

Partners: PNLCC, PNLISH, AGUICAN, FMG, AGBEF, MSHP

[Find out more](#)

Introduction of an optimal integrated model for secondary prevention of cervical cancer: **16 health facilities strengthened, 133 professionals trained and 47 community health workers capacitated**

HPV diagnostics capacity strengthening: **7,000 HPV tests provided, including support with self-sampling, 4 laboratories strengthened, 2 national trainers and 10 biologists trained**

Strong community demand creation and increased testing: **16,524 people sensitized, 5,776 women tested by HPV test and 154 women treated for precancerous lesions**

Strengthening the national governance framework: **Development of the first National Strategic Plan for Cancer Control, firmly embedding secondary prevention of cervical cancer into national priorities**