Mali has an intermediate HIV prevalence rate (1.2%) in the general population. Bamako would have the highest prevalence rate (1.7%), followed by Ségou (1.3%), Koulikoro (1.2%), Kayes (1.1%) and Sikasso (0.9%). The IBBS 2014-2015 data showed that HIV prevalence among MSM in Bamako was 13.7% and 90.1% of HIV-infected men were unaware of their status. It was also concluded that almost one-third had never been tested for HIV.

A favourable national context

- Non-criminalization of homosexuality and sex work
- Legal framework facilitating access to free, anonymous and voluntary testing
- National HIV strategy already integrating the use of HIV self-testing

Who is the project for and why?

Access to testing services is still insufficient for a large proportion of key populations such as:

- men who have sex with men (MSM),
- sex workers (SWs), including occasional sex workers, and their partners and clients,
- as well as diagnosed patients with STIs and their partners and PLHIV partners,

while HIV prevalence rates among these populations remain high. This leaves a significant number of people living with HIV who:

- do not know their status,
- are not treated,
- may infect others.

Some of these populations are more difficult to reach because:

- they do not use health services, particularly because of stigmatization,
- they do not frequent the associations in their community,
- they do not recognize themselves as key populations,
- they do not identify themselves as at risk of contracting HIV.

These people are priority targets for ATLAS.
How will HIV self-test kits be distributed?

Based on the expertise of community-based organizations and public health centres that are partners in the ATLAS project, HIV self-tests will be distributed to key populations through the following channels:

- community-based distribution to MSM, SW,
- consultation sites dedicated to key populations (MSM, SW),
- STI consultation and treatment sites,
- sites of care of PLwHIV.

More than 150,000 HIVST, out of a total of 520,000 in the sub-region, will be distributed during the 3.5 years of the project in the regions of:

- Bamako (1)
- Kayes (2)
- Koulikoro (3)
- Sikasso (4)
- Ségou (5)

Partners

Institutional partners

Implementation Partners

A project implemented by

supported and funded by

with additional funding of