

Promoting
access to HIV
self-testing
in West Africa

atlas.solthis.org

Why ATLAS project ?

Addressing HIV testing challenges.

The United Nations worldwide objective of "90-90-90"¹ : 90% of all people living with HIV know their status by 2020. To reach these objectives, it is essential to remove barriers and increase access to HIV testing.

A specific epidemiological context in West and Central Africa :

Moderate HIV prevalence in general population with a rate of 1,9%².

A concentrated epidemic : High prevalence and transmission rates among specific vulnerable populations.

A third of all HIV-positive people **do not know** their HIV status².

► Importance to implement new HIV testing strategies to reach these specific populations :

- in a specific socio-cultural context (stigmatization, barriers to HIV testing demand),
- to go beyond key populations already covered by existing programs.

What is ATLAS project ?

HIV self-testing (HIVST), a technological and societal innovation.

ATLAS project promotes HIVST, a screening tool approved by the World Health Organization as a complementary strategy for HIV testing.

Respond to stigmatization issues. You know your HIV status when you decide to.

If HIVST is positive, access to confirmatory testing and treatment services as soon as possible. If it is negative, access to prevention services.

Make people actor of their health. Give opportunity to know your HIV status where and when you want.

Enable more people to have access to HIV diagnosis.

This initiative aims to reduce morbidity and mortality related to HIV/AIDS by improving access to HIV self-testing and by ensuring an effective linkage to care.

Project Objectives :

1 Enable environment for introduction and scale-up of HIVST established in target countries.

2 Design HIVST delivery channels to reach target populations and promote link to confirmatory testing and treatment.

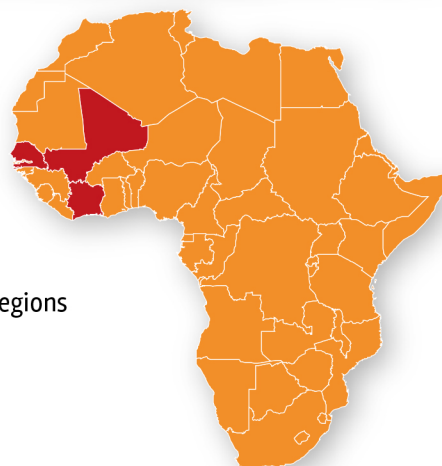
3 Generate evidence on the results and impact of interventions through scientific studies and promote them among key national and regional stakeholders.

¹90% of all people living with HIV know their status, 90% of all those who are diagnosed HIV positive are on sustained antiretroviral treatment (ART), 90% of those on ART have an undetectable viral load.

²UNAIDS 2019

Key data :

- 3.5 years of implementation : july 2018 to november 2021
- Funding and support from Unitaïd
- With additional funding of AFD
- More than 500 000 HIV self-tests distributed
- Close collaboration with our institutional, civil society and research partners



Côte d'Ivoire : Gbokle–Nawa–San Pedro, Sud–Comoé and Abidjan regions

Mali : Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso and Ségou regions

Senegal : Dakar, Thiès and Ziguinchor regions

Reaching key populations :

Men who have sex with men (MSM) and their partners

Female sex workers (FSW) including casual sex workers, their partners and clients

Drug users (DU) and their partners

Partners of persons living with HIV (PLwHIV)

STI patients and their partners

How is the ATLAS project being implemented ?

The ATLAS project has defined with its partners 8 channels for the provision of HIV self-testing, whether through fixed (health centres) or advanced (community network) strategies. Distribution will be mainly secondary in order to reach hard-to-reach/hidden populations. The link to confirmation and entry into care will be promoted and facilitated through the distribution support tools developed, the free national hotline and the various screening and care centres in the regions concerned.

Dispensing channel	Strategy	Dispensing agent	Primary distribution	Secondary distribution
Index case	Fixed	Health professionals	PLwHIV	Partners of PLwHIV
STI Consultations	Fixed	Health professionals	STI patients	Partners of STI patients
Dedicated MSM clinics	Fixed	Health professionals	MSM	Male partners
MSM community based strategy	Outreach	Peer educators		Peers
				Female partners
Dedicated clinics for FSW	Fixed	Health professionals	FSW	Peers
FSW community based strategy	Outreach	Peer educators		Clients
				FSW Partners
Dedicated DU clinics	Fixed	Health professionals	DU	Peers
DU community based strategy	Outreach	Peer educators		DU Partners

■ Key populations

■ Vulnerable populations

A project implemented in consortium by :



Solidarité thérapeutique et initiatives pour la santé

Founded in 2003, Solthis is an international solidarity NGO. For 15 years, Solthis has been working hand-in-hand with local actors in Western and Central Africa on prevention and access to quality care management by sustainably strengthening health systems and services to face long-term public health challenges in resource-limited countries.



Institut de recherche pour le développement

The French National Research Institute for Development is a public establishment operating with an original approach to research, expertise, training, and knowledge-sharing to the benefit of countries and regions that make science and innovation key drivers in their development. IRD's actions join the implementation of Sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Institutional and implementing partners :



In Côte d'Ivoire, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, the National AIDS Programme, Côte d'Ivoire National Pharmacy (NPSP), and Espace Confiance, Ariel Glaser Foundation, Heartland Alliance International and Ruban Rouge.



In Mali, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Executive Secretariat of High National Council for the Fight Against AIDS, Mali National Pharmacy (Pharmacie Populaire du Mali), and AKS, AMPRODE SAHEL, ARCAD-SIDA, DANAYA SO, Populations Services International and SOUTOURA.



In Senegal, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the National AIDS Council, the Division for the Fight against AIDS and STI's of Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Senegal National Pharmacy (Pharmacie Nationale d'Approvisionnement), and CEPIAD, CTA and Enda Santé.

Technical and research partners :

HIV Self Testing Africa Initiative (STAR), MTV Shuga ;
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, PAC-CI programme and Imperial College London.

A project funded and supported by :



Unitaid brings the power of new medical discoveries to the people who most need them and helps set the stage for large-scale introduction of new health products by collaborating with governments and partners such as PEPFAR, the Global Fund and WHO. Unitaid invests in new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and malaria more quickly, affordably and effectively. A growing number of our programs address more than one disease, maximizing effectiveness of health systems.

With additional funding of :



The Agence française de développement (AFD) group is a public institution that implements France's development and international solidarity policy. AFD and civil society organizations (CSOs) work together to strengthen civil society's contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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