

Contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality associated with the COVID-19 epidemic in Mali and Niger

Context

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, African countries seem to be less affected, possibly due to the socio-demographic characteristics of the populations, with few elderly people and therefore carriers of chronic diseases at risk of developing severe forms. In Mali, 194,894 PCR tests have been carried out since 25 March 2020, resulting in the diagnosis of 14,455 cases as of 8 July 2021, 5% of which were symptomatic, and 528 deaths. In Niger, as of 16 August 2021, only 5,724 cases have been confirmed and 196 deaths have been reported.

However, several seroprevalence studies in the sub-region show that the number of cases is underestimated, due to the frequency of asymptomatic or pauci-symptomatic forms in a very young population, limited screening capacity and insufficient triage to allow efficient screening. The PCR used until now is only performed in a few facilities and is only accessible to a limited number of patients. New screening techniques based on antigen detection provide an opportunity for the most peripheral facilities to screen, isolate and manage Covid-19 cases.

KEY DATA



Project duration : 8 months
(01/07/2021 – 28/02/2022)



Beneficiaries: Health structures: 7 in Mali and 7 in Niger; health care personnel: 50 in Mali, 30 in Niger; Mali: Ministry of Health; Niger: Ministry of Health and Centre for Medical and Health Research in Niger



Source of funding: FIND



Partners: Ministry of Health of Niger, Ministry of Health and Social Development of Mali, Medical and Health Research Centre



Countries of intervention: Mali and Niger



GOALS

Reducing morbidity and mortality associated with the COVID-19 epidemic in Mali and Niger

Screening is part of the first line of defence against Covid-19, allowing early identification and isolation of cases to slow transmission.

The ECOVAM - ECOVAN project aims to evaluate the operationalization of a Covid-19 screening strategy combining systematic triage and test screening antigenic testing of patients with a clinical suspicion of Covid-19, at different levels of the health pyramid. The results of this strategy should help generate evidence to enable authorities to integrate the test antigenic strategy to the national strategy in order to improve the response to this pandemic.

The project also aims to assess the acceptability of this screening strategy to patients, caregivers and national policy makers and to model the cost-effectiveness of the strategy.



ACTIVITIES & EXPECTED RESULTS

- Situational diagnosis of the use of antigenic tests (Ag-RDT) and the clinical diagnosis of Covid-19.
- Implementation of systematic triage and screening by antigenic tests (Ag-RDT) in targeted health structures in Mali and Niger.
- Procurement of 10,000 antigenic test kits (Ag-RDT) in each country, with support for procurement and supply management and registration of antigenic tests (Ag- RDT).
- Support for training programs on antigenic testing (Ag-RDT) to strengthen both the identification of eligible patients and the capacity of health workers to perform the test.
- Evaluation of the performance of this strategy in order to generate evidence that will enable the authorities to integrate antigenic testing into the national strategy and thus improve the response to this pandemic.
- Support to the development of the national Covid-19 testing strategy: Technical support will be provided to update the national recommendations for Covid-19 testing. The text of the recommendations will be drafted in collaboration with Ministries of Health, national stakeholders, WHO and FIND.

En partenariat avec :



Avec le soutien de :

