



© COSC-PF - Coalition of Guinean civil society organisations involved in repositioning family planning

## PAJES PROJECT

"Power of Action of Associations and Young People  
Committed to promoting Sexual Health"

# Reducing new HIV infections, unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence among adolescents

## CONTEXT

While six out of seven new HIV infections among 15-19 year olds in sub-Saharan Africa are among girls (UNAIDS, 2021), in the Republic of Guinea the percentage of 15-24 year olds with knowledge of HIV prevention remains low, particularly among girls (15.2% of girls have knowledge of HIV prevention compared to 33.8% of boys).

Young women's access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services remains limited due to barriers such as early marriage, low socio-economic status, low levels of education and literacy, and poor access to health care. Thus, nearly one third of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have already started their reproductive life: 1 in 5 women (21.1%) were married or in union before the age of 15, and more than 1 in 2 (54.6%) were married or in union before the age of 18 (according to the 2018 DHS V).

And while family planning issues are central to sexual and reproductive health, they are also linked to a broader issue of rights and inequalities, in particular gender-based inequalities and violence, which are a key factor in undermining young women's sexual health rights. In Guinea, the prevalence of female genital mutilation is around 97% among women aged 15-49. More broadly, 92% of women aged 15-49 have experienced at least one incident of violence in their lives.

## KEY INFORMATION



**Project duration:** 3 years (2021 – 2024)



**Beneficiaries :** Members of the Ablogui and the COSC-PF networks, young people aged 15 to 24



**Funding :** L'Initiative 5% (Expertise France)



**Partners:** PNLSH - Guinea's National HIV and Hepatitis Programme, COSC-PF - Coalition of Guinean civil society organisations involved in repositioning family planning, Ablogui - Guinean Bloggers Association



**Country and city :** Conakry, Guinea

## OBJECTIVES

**Promote sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) among young people to help reduce new HIV infections, unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence in Guinea.**

In synergy with existing partners and projects, the PAJES project aims to improve young people's access to information about their sexual and reproductive health and, more specifically, to facilitate the development of inter-association advocacy in favour of young people's SRHR, by promoting the leadership of young people themselves.

In fact, the PAJES project aims to implement activities that are anchored in the operational and strategic priorities of its two civil society partners (Ablogui and the Coalition of Guinean civil society organisations involved in the repositioning of family planning) by emphasising the enhancement of their respective expertise and an innovative empowerment strategy to increase the impact of their actions in promoting and advocating for sexual and reproductive health rights in Guinea.

## RÉSULTATS ATTENDUS

 **Partner organisations' skills are strengthened and their expertise in training , facilitation and advocacy in favour of young people's SRHR :**

- Diagnostic participatif des besoins des organisations partenaires associatives
- Renforcement des capacités organisationnelles et techniques des partenaires
- Accompagnement des partenaires associatifs sur le renforcement de capacités des membres de leurs réseaux

 **Partner organisations and their members implement sexual and reproductive health rights promotion and advocacy activities in a participatory manner :**

- Deployment of information and awareness-raising activities on the sexual and reproductive health rights of young people.
- Deployment of advocacy for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights for young people through a participatory approach based on young people's priorities, and more specifically on unwanted pregnancies and gender-based violence.



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