



## POUVOIR

### « Empowering cisgender and trans sex workers »

# Improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reduce gender-based violence against sex workers

## Context

Côte d'Ivoire is one of the countries in West Africa most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with a prevalence rate of 2.4%, which particularly affects vulnerable populations such as sex workers (SWs) (12.6%) and transgender people (22.6%). In addition, these groups are generally victims of a very high level of gender-based violence (GBV), which is further exacerbated in the case of people living with HIV. A precarious situation and social marginalisation that increases exposure to STIs, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions...

In addition, the surveys reveal that very few TS go to community clinics, due to the unsuitable locations, mistreatment and stigmatisation they experience there. These surveys also highlighted the unmet needs of sex workers in SRH, such as contraception and access to information and menstrual hygiene products.

Solthis has therefore deployed a holistic approach to SRHR, in order to improve the social and legal environment for TG, cisgender and trans people in a comprehensive and long-term way.

## KEY INFORMATIONS



**Duration of the project:** 3 years (2022 – 2025)



**Beneficiaries:** Blety (salarié·s et éducatrices paires), travailleuses du sexe cisgenres et trans, professionnelles de santé, 250 personnes appartenant à l'environnement des TS : clients, gérant·es, leader·euses communautaires et religieux, agents des forces de l'ordre et journalistes



**Source of funding:** l'Initiative



**Partners:** ONG Bléty



**Countries of intervention :** Côte D'Ivoire

## GOALS

**To improve SRHR and related rights of SWs in Côte d'Ivoire and thus contribute to the achievement of national HIV/AIDS objectives.**

A participatory approach to include the beneficiaries of the project and make them actors during the different stages of the project.

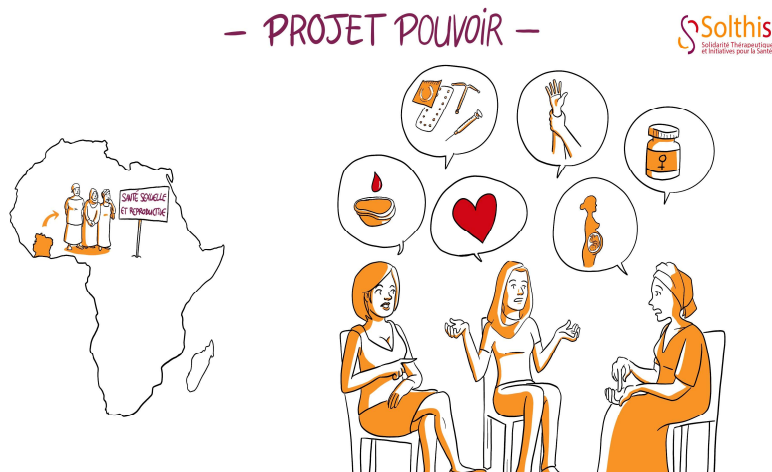
### 3 axes of intervention :

- Empowering cisgender and trans TGs to make choices directly affecting their health.
- Improving the provision of sexual and reproductive health services.
- Organisational and technical strengthening of the partner NGO to ensure the sustainability of the project.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Participatory planning and definition of a plan to strengthen Bléty, as well as organisational capacity building.
- Strengthening peer educators on SRH, particularly on approaches related to self-care (education, self-testing for STIs and self-use contraception) and GBV: training, development of tools
- Set up or strengthen GBV prevention and referral systems and empower cisgender and transgender women
- Implementing self-care approaches: self-awareness, self-testing and self-care
- Support for the organisation and improvement of the material conditions of SRH services in 6 health centres and at the DIC in Bléty for appropriate care of cisgender and trans SW
- A specific community strategy is deployed to reduce the risks of GBV, particularly in the care and professional practice of cisgender and trans sex workers, and to strengthen access to SRH, particularly through self-care
- The provision of SRH services is improved in the target areas, for care adapted to the specific needs of cisgender and trans SW
- A more supportive social and political environment for SRH for cisgender and trans people living with HIV is created in the target areas and nationally

### – PROJET POUVOIR –



In partnership with:



With the support of:

