

The background image shows two women sitting on blue plastic chairs outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow top and a yellow skirt with a red hibiscus pattern. She is holding a blue folder or book. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored top and a yellow skirt with a colorful pattern. She is holding a baby in her arms. Both women are wearing light blue face masks. In the background, there are trees and a simple structure with a thatched roof. The overall scene is set in a rural, natural environment.

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

**HEALTH IS A RIGHT**  
Accessing it is vital  
Let's act together

 **Solthis**  
Therapeutic Solidarity  
and Initiatives for Health

# EDITO

**2021** was a challenging year for Solthis. Uncertainties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous global crises exacerbated the prevailing frailties in Africa, particularly for populations in need of care and for frontline health workers, with whom Solthis is working to provide access to quality healthcare. These new challenges underline the need to pursue and develop our projects in an increasingly difficult climate in order to obtain the necessary financial support.

Solthis is deploying all its resources, in supporting its permanent teams in the countries and at headquarters to maintain and further its actions, as presented in this report. HIV self-testing is being rolled out, through our ATLAS project, in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. We also continued our paediatric HIV and tuberculosis screening projects in Guinea, and Sierra Leone, as well as activities intended to improve the health of women and girls in several of these countries. We are working on patient – healthcare worker relationship in Guinea and Sierra Leone, adopting methods that combine health systems strengthening and health promotion.

Since the start of the pandemic, our teams have also been working with healthcare workers on the response to Covid-19, for example in the Sahel (Mali and Niger), where Solthis is supporting the health authorities with the introduction of rapid screening tests, which has made it possible to identify the actual circulation of the SARS-COV-2 virus among the populations of this region.

It was also in 2021 that all the teams from the 6 countries where we operate and from our headquarters, together with our Board of Directors, devised a new long-term strategy up to 2025. This strategy reiterates our ambition : to step up the fight against HIV, going where others rarely go, to work towards ending the pandemic by 2030; to continue to work on infectious diseases in order to predict and respond to future epidemic emergencies; to step up our actions on sexual and reproductive health and rights and more widely on women's and children's health; and to continue to research the 'One Health' approach to effective action on the interaction between human, environmental and animal health.

This strategy also reaffirms our approach, the very thing that makes us special and reflects developments in international solidarity and global health: working, without exception, alongside frontline stakeholders, populations, governments, national health workers and civil society, conducting high impact and sustainable innovative actions; by combining operational activity, research and advocacy to develop solutions to problems faced by people and to promote them in national and international forums.

We have also reiterated the power of civic engagement, the need to have you on board to tackle these issues. A support committee has been formed, the Sol-Team, which works alongside our projects and ambitions, and we are moving towards our 20th anniversary in 2023, with a campaign which will aim to highlight our global health challenges, so that women and children and the entire population of Africa have fair access to quality healthcare.

In a world that looks set to become ever more complex and difficult, hope rests in the strength of the people who fight relentlessly and with whom we work here and there to defend a vision of the world imbued with humanity and respect for the universal right to health.

**Dr Roland Tubiana,**  
President of Solthis  
**Dr Serge Breyse,**  
CEO of Solthis



## MANDATORY INFORMATION

This report was published in June 2022. At the time of printing these pages, the financial report has been certified by KPMG, the auditor, and is subject to ratification at the AGM. Under no circumstances should the inclusion of photos of individuals be interpreted as an indication of their state of health. The Solthis activity report is protected by copyright. The use of all or part of the document is only permissible on condition that the source is credited.

Solthis thanks all those who have contributed to this activity report. Editorial and design coordination: Rachel Domenach, Jasmine Irakoze, Juliette Bastin and Fabio Peleato. Graphic design and production: www.celinelequeux.com

Photo credits: @Afroto, @PlanetIDMedia, @Manon Levet, @Jean-Claude Frisque

We would also like to offer sincere thanks to Solthis employees and volunteers for their photos.

ISSN number:  
Print edition: ISSN 2779-1025  
Online edition: ISSN 2803-6956

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

31.12.2021

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Head of infectious and tropical diseases department at Bichat Hospital in Paris, Director of ITM0-IT3M, Thematic Institute of Immunology, Inflammation, Infectiology and Microbiology of the AVIESAN network

The GA took place on 17 June 2021. 2 Board meetings were held on 17 June and 15 December 2021

READ MORE   
On our governance





# 2021 KEY FIGURES



## INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES

### COVID-19

**+160%**

in the number of Covid-19 cases diagnosed through systematic medical triage and antigen tests compared to data prior to the ECOVAN/ECOVAM project in Mali and Niger (2021-2022 data).

**8,100**

people screened and 9,910 vaccinated in Guinea owing to awareness raising campaign with civil society which reached a total of 59,166 people.

### TUBERCULOSIS

**+385%**

in number of children with suspected tuberculosis and +242% in number of children treated compared with data prior to the TB-Speed project.

**133**

healthcare professionals were given mentoring sessions to improve the diagnosis and treatment of childhood TB in Bo & Port Loko districts.

### HIV

**205,708**

HIV self-testing kits dispensed in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

**+120**

nurses trained and supported in the delivery of a patient-centred system of care and the improvement of the health care worker-patient relationship in Guinea.

## RIGHTS AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE

**+6,000**

young people and adolescents trained and sensitized on their sexual and reproductive health in Niger and Senegal.

**985**

young people and adolescents reached by 28 outings mobile clinics as part of the SANSAS project in Senegal.

## MOTHER AND CHILD'S HEALTH

**99%**

of children seen in IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness) consultations benefited pulse oximetry, i.e. 42,572 children, resulting in 1,031 transfers of serious cases to specialist hospitals.

**1**

study in the use of drones was conducted in Guinea to test the acceptability and cost effectiveness of transporting blood samples by drone in order to enhance the screening of HIV-exposed children.

# KEY ACTIONS

### Improving sexual and reproductive health in young people

**2 new flagship projects** were launched in 2021 to improve young people's access to reproductive health services and reduce new HIV infections, unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence in adolescents. These are the SANSAS project in Senegal and the PAJES project in Guinea. (See page 22).

### Testing new screening strategies for Covid-19

Solthis launched the **ECOVAM/ECOVAN study** in July 2021 in Mali and Niger to test a new screening strategy based on systematic triage to identify clinical symptoms of Covid-19 in patients, followed by a rapid antigen test for all cases identified at risk. The implementation of this procedure has highlighted its added value in health centres which did not screen for Covid-19 or did so only to a limited extent despite the fact that the virus was actually circulating among patients attending these centres, as the results of this strategy show. (See page 12).

### Initial results of the ATLAS HIV self-testing project

The **ATLAS HIV self-testing project** shows encouraging results: the involvement of civil society in dispensing, privacy and confidentiality are all elements that allow self-testing to reach key populations more effectively. We are already seeing an impact on the number of HIV-positive people who are aware of their status their HIV status. (See page 15).

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

### One Health: official launch of the Thiellal project

The health crisis has highlighted the need to take into account the intrinsic link between human, animal and environmental health. This approach is championed by the **THIELLAL** project, launched in 2021 and being undertaken in the Velingara department, in Casamance, Senegal, through the empowerment of communities to act upon the determinants of health - the so-called 'One Health' approach. (See page 26).

### Innovating to improve children's health

In Niger, the AIRE project introduced pulse-oxymeters in 40 healthcare facilities, an innovation which has enabled better identification of respiratory illnesses in children. In Guinea, the AIR-POP project also tested the use of drones to transport blood samples for rapid diagnosis and treatment of children exposed to HIV in Conakry, where urban traffic congestion leads to serious transport delays. The results of the study demonstrate the value of this innovative approach. (See page 20).





# GLOBAL HEALTH NGO



## OUR IDENTITY

An expert NGO specialising in global health, Solthis was born out of the commitment of doctors at La Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital to promote access to care and in particular to treatment for HIV/Aids. On the strength of 18 years' experience, Solthis is now involved in major health matters and campaigns for respect of the right to health and access to health for all.

## OUR VALUES AND ENGAGEMENTS

- 1 Professionalism And Accountability
- 2 Solidarity And Engagement
- 3 Equity And Inclusion

A **gender approach** is integrated transversally in all our projects, in our human resources policies and in the fight against harassment and discrimination

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Taking action without replacing, being mindful of the autonomy of national partners and long-term development in conjunction with existing health programmes.

“ Our organization is in line with current movements in international solidarity, aiming at the autonomy of people and organizations in the African countries where we work, through a localized approach to aid, strengthening the role of national actors and taking into account the evolution of health determinants and the combined impact of health, socio-economic, political and environmental crises. ”

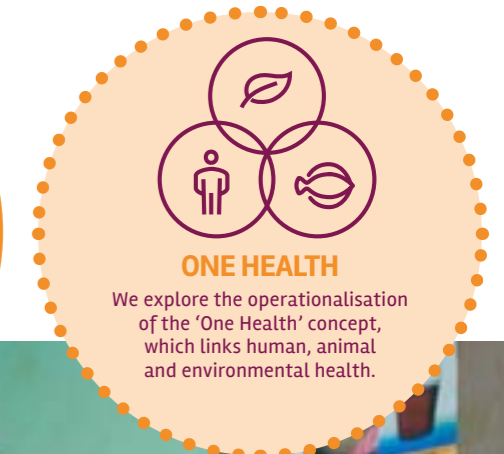
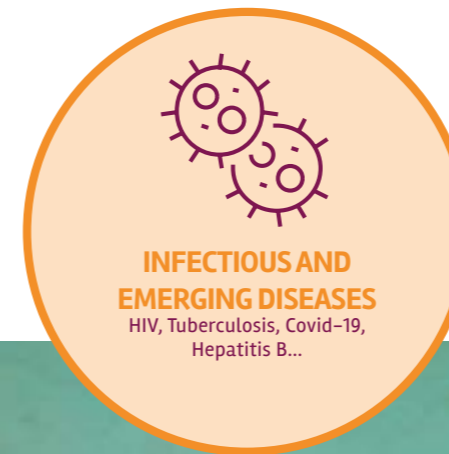
Dr Serge Breyse, CEO of Solthis

## HEALTH PRIORITIES

Today, Solthis responds to 2 health priorities:

- Infectious and emerging diseases; and in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, emerging diseases such as emerging diseases such as coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) or hepatitis B;
- Sexual and reproductive rights and health and child health; encompassing sexuality issues, reproductive, maternal, and infant and child health.

and explores the operationalization of the «One Health» concept, which links human animal and environmental health.



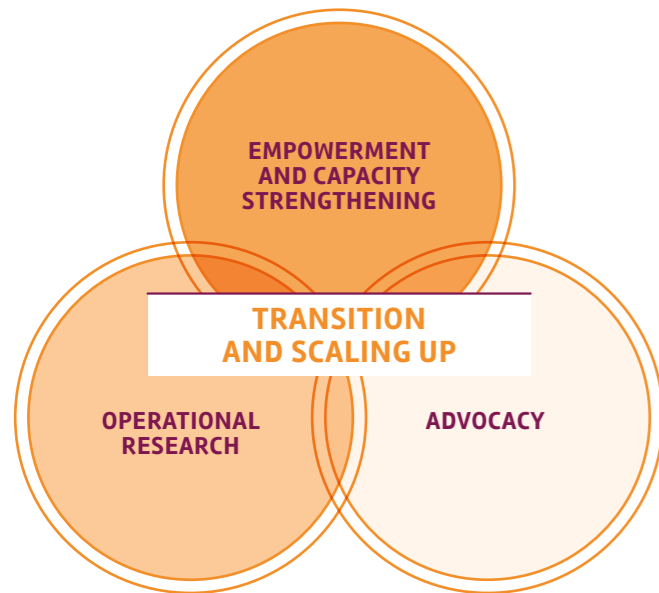


**OUR MODES OF ACTION**

To meet its intervention priorities, Solthis has set up a high-impact intervention approach based on three axes :

**1.**

**1. A MULTIPLYING APPROACH OF OUR IMPACT**



By combining these modes of intervention, Solthis has developed an approach that allows it to multiply and sustain the impact of its programmes and ensure the transition to partners and the scaling up of its interventions.

- ▶ **Capacity strengthening** support health professionals, facilities and authorities, as well as civil society organisations in order to strengthen their skills, provide advice and support for change.
- ▶ **Operational Research** analyse and understand the obstacles in access to care, conduct innovative projects to identify, test and evaluate sustainable solutions based on field experience.
- ▶ **Advocacy** promote changes to public health policies by drawing upon our medical and scientific expertise and our results

**2.**

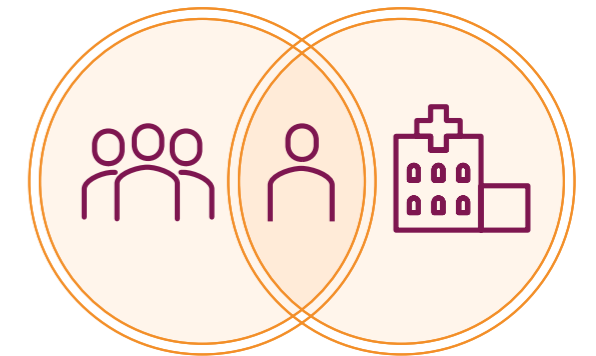
**A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH AT THE HEART OF OUR PROJECTS**



**“As local as possible, as international as necessary”,** we integrate our action into national strategies and policies and support our partners on the basis of the needs they express, while remaining faithful to our principle of non-substitution.

**3.**

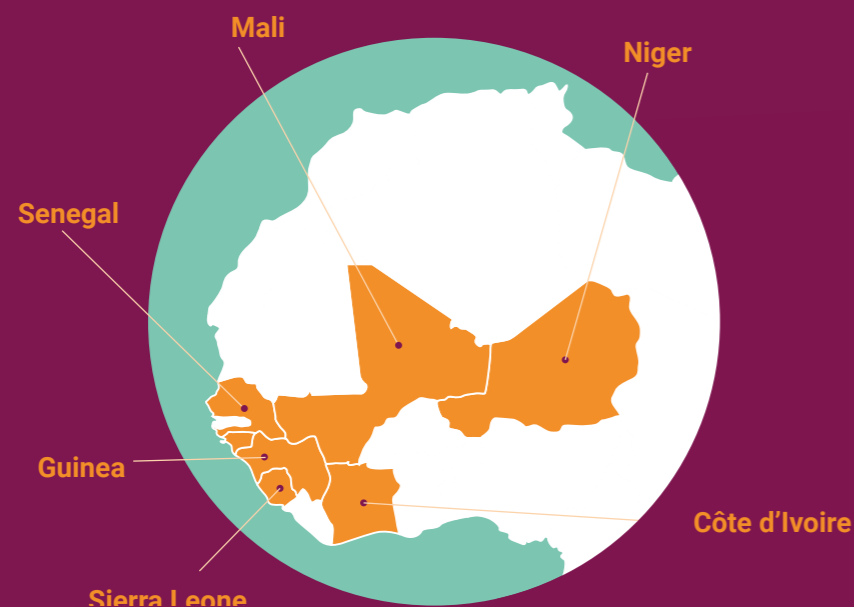
**A HEALTH PROMOTION APPROACH TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**



Our approach to health promotion is participatory and inclusive. Solthis works to strengthen health systems on the one hand, and civil society organisations and individuals on the other, to ensure access to quality, more efficient services.



# COUNTRIES OF INTERVENTION



## Senegal

- + **ATLAS**  
Promoting access to HIV self-testing in West Africa
- + **SANSAS**  
Promoting Sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people in Senegal
- + **THIELLAL**  
One health – Contributing to better human, animal and environmental health

## Guinea

- + **I-POP**  
Innovative and rapid access to Point of Care to optimise the care and treatment of children exposed to HIV in Conakry
- + **AIR-POP**  
Introduction of Point of Care to optimise preventive measures in children exposed to HIV
- + **RUCHE**  
Placing users at the centre of the fight against HIV
- + **ISANCO**  
Health interventions in response to the COVID-19 crisis
- + **PAJES**  
Empowerment of associations and young people committed to promoting sexual health

## Sierra Leone

- + **Empower**  
Empowerment of healthcare users for quality HIV treatment
- + **TB Speed**  
Strengthening paediatric tuberculosis services for enhanced early detection
- + **PROSSAN**  
Programme for strengthening health systems and service

## Côte d'Ivoire

- + **ATLAS**  
Promoting access to HIV self-testing in West Africa
- + **PROSSAN**  
Programme for strengthening health systems and services
- + **RUCHE**  
Placing users at the centre of the fight against HIV

## Mali

- + **ATLAS**  
Promoting access to HIV self-testing in West Africa
- + **ECOVAM**  
Strengthening Covid-19 screening by the use of antigenic tests

## Niger

- + **JADES 2**  
Improving and promoting sexual and reproductive health among adolescents
- + **AIRE**  
Improving diagnosis of respiratory disorders in children
- + **Labo 2S**  
Laboratories serving health
- + **ISANCO**  
Health interventions in response to the COVID-19 crisis
- + **ECOVAM**  
Strengthening Covid-19 screening by the use of antigenic tests

In 2021, Solthis also carried out 10 technical assistances in the following countries:

Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Republic of Guinea, Niger, Togo, Gabon

FOR MORE INFO +



## OUR IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

### Guinea

- **ABLOGUI**  
Association of Bloggers of Guinea
- **NATIONAL AGENCY OF HEALTH SECURITY**
- **CIP'PROD**  
Inter-associative collective for the advocacy and the promotion of patients' rights (REGAP+, REFIG, FEG, FMG, ASFEGMASSI, Afrique Arc en Ciel Guinée)
- **CNOSC-PF**  
National coalition of civil society organizations guinean civil society organizations in the repositioning of Family Planning
- **CNLS**  
National committee for the fight against AIDS, attached to the Prime Minister's office and led by the Executive Secretariat (SE/CNLS)
- **FEG**  
Fondation Espoir Guinée association
- **MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HYGIENE OF GUINEA**
- **PNLSH**  
National program for the fight against HIV and Hepatitis
- **REFIG**  
Network of infected women of Guinea
- **REGAP +**  
Guinean Network of associations of people affected and infected by HIVH

### Mali

- **AKS**  
Kéné Dougou solidarity association
- **AMPRODE Sahel**  
Malian association for the protection and development of the environment in the Sahel
- **ARCAD Santé Plus**  
Association for community resilience for access to development and health
- **CSLS-TBH**  
Sectoral Unit for the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis

### Sierra Leone

- **DANAYO SO**  
«Maison de la Confiance» Association
- **MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIAL**
- **NGO FHI 360**  
Family Health International
- **NGO SOUTOURA**
- **PPM**  
Popular Pharmacy of Mali
- **PSI**  
Population Services International
- **SE-HCNLS**  
Executive secretariat of the high council for AIDS control

### Niger

- **ANIMAG-TB**  
Association of cured tuberculosis patients
- **BEFEN**  
Association for the well-being of women and children in Niger
- **CERMES**  
Medical and health research center
- **CISLS**  
Intersectoral coordination for the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS
- **DSME**  
Mother and child health department, attached to the General department of health and reproduction (DGSR) at the Ministry of Public Health
- **MERIEUX FOUNDATION**
- **NGO ALIMA**  
Alliance for International Medical Action
- **NGO EQUIPOP**  
«Equilibres et Populations»
- **ONG LAFIA MATASSA**
- **PNLT**  
National tuberculosis control program
- **PNLSH**  
National program for the fight against AIDS and hepatitis
- **RENIP+**  
Nigerien network of people living with HIV

### Senegal

- **ACF**  
Action Against Hunger NGO
- **CAPS**  
Community Association for Psychosocial Services
- **CAWEC**  
Community Action for the Welfare of Children NGO
- **FOCUS 1000**  
Facilitating and Organizing Communities to Unite for Sustainable NGO
- **NAS**  
National Aids/HIV Secretariat
- **NACP**  
National Aids/HIV Control Programme, attached to the Ministry of health
- **NETHIPS**  
Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone
- **NLTCP**  
National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Programme
- **UNIVERSITE DE BORDEAUX**

### Senegal

- **CASADES**  
Committee for support to the economic and social development of the regions of Ziguinchor and Kolda
- **CEPIAD**  
Center for integrated care of addictions in Dakar
- **CTA**  
Outpatient treatment center
- **DLSI**  
Division for the fight against AIDS and sexually transmitted infections
- **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FIGHT AGAINST AIDS**
- **LARTES**  
Laboratory for research on economic and social transformations
- **MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL ACTION**

### NGO AVSF

- Agronomists and veterinarians without borders
- **NGO EQUIPOP**  
«Equilibres et Populations»
- **ONG ENDA SANTE AND ITS PARTNERS**
- **NAP**  
National Pharmacy of Supply
- **RAES**  
African Network for education and health

### Côte d'Ivoire

- **ACF**  
Action Against Hunger NGO
- **ARIEL GLASER FOUNDATION**  
for the fight against AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire
- **HEARTLAND ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL AND ITS PARTNERS**
- **MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HYGIENE**
- **NEW PSP – CI**  
New pharmacy for public health in Côte d'Ivoire
- **ORASUR**  
NGO for health assistance in urban and rural zones
- **NGO BLETY**
- **NGO ELOE LA GRÂCE**
- **NGO ESPACE CONFIANCE**
- **NGO RUBAN ROUGE**
- **NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV**



# HEALTH PRIORITIES

## INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES

- COVID-19
- HIV/AIDS
- TUBERCULOSIS

“ The ECOVAM project has improved our management of Covid-19 [...] Antigen tests enable us to make a decision in record time. ”

Dr Seydou Simbo DIAKITE,  
Kati Hospital (Mali)



### COVID-19

According to figures from the continent's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), as of 4th April 2022 Africa has had more than 11 million infections since the start of the pandemic and 251,371 deaths. WHO statistics estimate the actual death toll to be seven times higher, mainly due to a very large number of asymptomatic patients and to low levels of screening. Whilst the continent has been less affected in terms of deaths, there are still challenges to be met in order to effectively combat the Covid-19 pandemic, including the management of severe cases, access to oxygen, screening of suspected cases, vaccinating the population and implementing protective measures, hygiene and prevention in healthcare facilities. To meet these needs, Solthis and its teams continued their intervention in 2021, supporting the national response in Niger, Mali and Guinea, notably through the ECOVAN/ECOVAM and Isanco projects.

### IMPROVING HYGIENE CONDITIONS IN HEALTHCARE CENTRES

In order to provide better protection for healthcare workers and patients in Guinea and Niger, the facilities supported by the Isanco project continued to receive training and medical equipment for protection, hygiene and prevention (surgical masks, sanitising gel, thermos-flash (non-contact) thermometers, hygiene equipment...) which were in very short supply at the beginning of the pandemic. "Covid-19 highlighted a shortage of essential protective and hygiene equipment: gloves, masks, hand-washing facilities. We should learn from this crisis and provide healthcare workers with the means to follow hygiene procedures to protect themselves and patients from any disease." explains Dr Yacouba Nouhou, Solthis Coordinator of the Covid-19 response in Niger at the beginning of the pandemic. In Guinea, the Isanco project trained 141 healthcare workers and 13 department heads in hygiene, prevention and control of infections (HPCI) and set up 10 focal points to ensure follow-up and compliance with HPCI measures within the departments.

### RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITIES TO ADOPT GOOD PRACTICES AND VACCINATION

Solthis also worked with communities to break the cycle of infection. In both Guinea and Niger, Solthis teams worked with patients' rights groups, who were trained and supported by Solthis, to implement mass and door to door awareness activities in markets, in ports, in mosques and neighbourhoods to encourage the adoption of protective measures and make referrals for vaccination or testing of suspected cases or contacts. In Guinea, these activities enabled to reach 59,166 people, of whom 8,100 agreed to be tested and 9,910 agreed to be vaccinated.

### PILOTING NEW SCREENING STRATEGIES

Solthis has also launched the ECOVAM/ECOVAN operational research project to trial a new screening strategy in Mali and Niger based on systematic medical triage and antigen tests for suspected Covid-19 patients who present at health centres. Prior to this study, the diagnosis of Covid-19 was dependent on the PCR test, which was available in only a few laboratories, all located in the capital.

As the majority of PCRs were performed for travel reasons, only a minority of people with suspected Covid-19 were identified in healthcare facilities. This study led to a significant increase in Covid-19 testing, demonstrating a rapid, effective and more appropriate testing approach than the PCR, at all levels of the healthcare pyramid, particularly in community health centres. In Mali for example, systematic medical triage increased the number of suspected Covid-19 cases by 360% compared with triage by a healthcare worker upon entry to a healthcare facility and the use of antigen testing increased the number of Covid-19 cases identified by 176% compared with the PCR test.

To assist with the decentralisation of rapid tests as part of the national strategy for responding to Covid-19, Solthis, in partnership with the INSP (National Institute of Public Health), launches the COVACOM study in May 2022. This triage and rapid testing approach will be deployed at grass roots level by community healthcare workers in 4 areas of the Fana health district, in Mali.

READ MORE

#### ISANCO PROJECT

Financial Support :

AFD



#### ECOVAN/ECOVAM PROJECT

Financial Support :

FIND



59,166

people sensitized in Guinea on the prevention of Covid-19, including 8,100 people who agreed to be tested and 9,910 who agreed to be vaccinated.

+ 160 %

cases of Covid-19 diagnosed as a result of the systematic medical triage strategy and antigen tests introduced by the ECOVAM/ECOVAN project (data 2021-2022).

155

healthcare workers trained on the protocol for triage of Covid-19 cases and the use of antigen tests in Mali and Niger and 141 healthcare workers and 13 department heads trained to ensure compliance with hygiene measures and infection control within their departments in Guinea.



Niger – Performing an antigen test at the Talladjé integrated health centre, one of the centres supported by the ECOVAN project for the screening of Covid-19 cases.

## INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES

- COVID-19
- HIV/AIDS
- TUBERCULOSIS

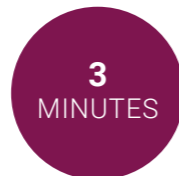
“ Self-testing allows us to choose what we want, to decide to know or not to know. It gives true meaning to the word empowerment. ”

Josiane Tété,  
Director, Bléty NGO



### HIV/AIDS

Despite considerable advances, the HIV situation remains a concern worldwide and progress has been slowed by the Covid-19 pandemic. According to data collected by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 32 countries of Africa and Asia, HIV testing decreased by 41% in 2020 and referrals for diagnosis and treatment decreased by 37% during the first lockdowns in 2020, compared with the same period in 2019. In West and Central Africa, 200,000 new infections were recorded in the region (of which 63% were among women and girls), representing 13% of new infections globally, with only 77% of people living with HIV knowing their status. Whilst most (73%) of people who know their HIV status have access to ARV treatment, access to viral load remains limited, and most patients without do not receive 2nd line treatment and many patients are lost to follow-up. In addition, key populations, with their partners and clients, make up 65% of new infections and fuel the spread of infection because of their difficulty in accessing care owing to stigma and in certain cases, criminalisation.



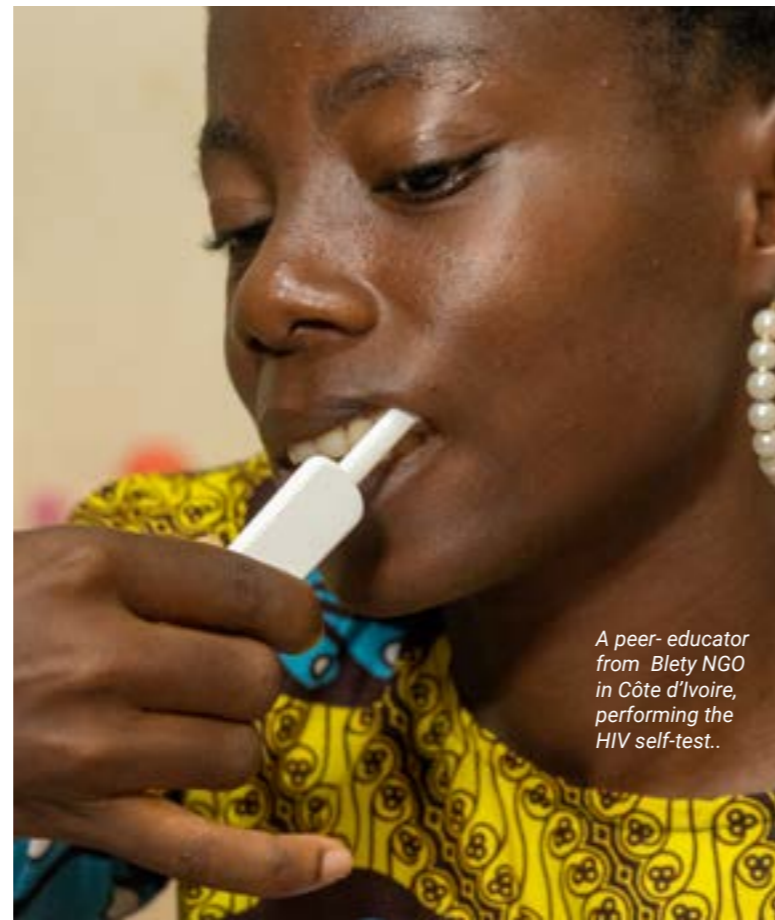
Every 3 minutes, someone is infected with the AIDS virus in West and Central Africa (UNAIDS 2020)



4.7 million people are living with HIV in West and Central Africa (UNAIDS 2020)

### DEVELOPING HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

Through the ATLAS, RUCHE, EMPOWER and PROSSAN projects, Solthis continues its work in developing holistic approaches to the fight against HIV, which will enable to achieve the three 95' objective set by the international community through action on access to screening, effective monitoring of the disease to reduce treatment failures and on the mobilisation of users and civil society to adapt health care to the real needs of people living with HIV.



A peer-educator from Bléty NGO in Côte d'Ivoire, performing the HIV self-test..

### DEPLOYMENT OF HIV SELF-TESTS IN WEST AFRICA

Knowing your HIV status remains an essential step in accessing treatment and putting an end to the epidemic. Self-testing is recommended by the World Health Organisation as a complimentary testing strategy to reach as many people as possible and accelerate the achievement of the UNAIDS 95-95-95 objectives and especially the first one in a region where almost a third of people living with HIV do not know their status and therefore cannot access treatment.

2021 was marked by the continued growth in the distribution of HIV self-testing kits. More than 205,000 kits were distributed, more than 86% of them in an advanced strategy, and 65% of them to sex workers, 24% to men who have sex with other men, 4.3% to patients with an STI, 3.9% to partners of people living with HIV and 2.9% to people who use drugs.

In the three participating countries, the process of transition and scaling up has continued with the finalizing of national self-testing strategies and manuals. The project also provided start-up support to NFM3 to ensure the integration of HIV self-testing kits and to avoid potential gaps in availability.

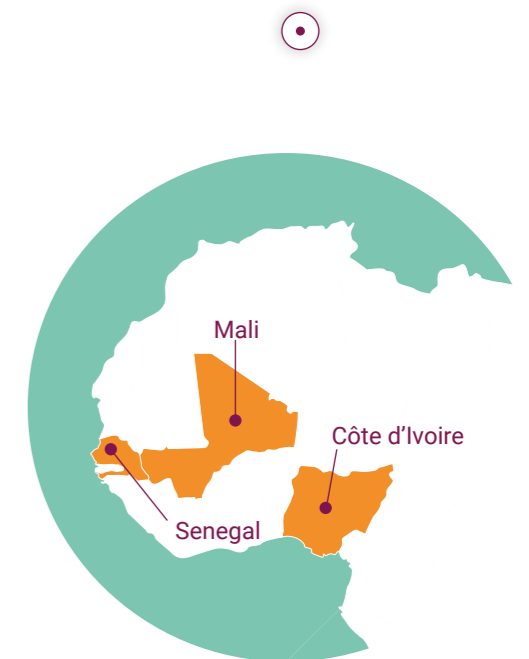
Research activities were able to resume after 2020 which was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the preliminary results of the five research studies demonstrated that the HIV self-testing strategy was feasible, acceptable, appropriate and sustainable in the long term in West Africa, that it improves access to screening and has visible impacts in the general population.

In addition, the ATLAS project has responded to requests for technical assistance in the West and Central African region (Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Guinea) to investigate the feasibility of introducing self-tests in these countries, and continued its outreach activities, and sharing of lessons learned both regionally and internationally with, amongst others, the organisation of a dissemination workshop in each country, a seminar at the ICASA conference and participation in webinars with the STAR programme (a programme for the promotion of self-testing in East and Southern Africa), WHO and UNAIDS. In total, the ATLAS project was involved in 11 outreach events including three workshops and two international conferences: IAS and ICASA 2021.

\*UNAIDS targets for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030: 95% of people living with HIV know their status. 95% of all HIV-infected people tested receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. 95% of people receiving antiretroviral therapy have sustained viral load suppression.

READ MORE

**ATLAS PROJECT**  
Financial support :  
Unitaid with a complementary support of AFD



**HIV self-testing kits** dispensed in 2021 (of a total of 381,874 since the start of the project) with the following breakdown:

- Côte d'Ivoire: 99,864
- Mali: 75,962
- Senegal: 29,882



“ NETHIPS has benefitted most from the EMPOWER project. It gave us the opportunity to self-assess our organisation [...]. Now we have a roadmap and a plan of action, and we are implementing the recommendations. We are becoming a modern and autonomous organisation. ”

Idrissa Songo, Executive Director of NETHIPS (Sierra Leone)

“ As a result of intervention by Solthis, I no longer have any misconceptions about HIV. My relationship with patients has improved. Solthis has given me knowledge and skills, I now have the confidence to advise a patient, test them, put them on treatment and ensure proper follow-up. ”

HIV Nurse Advisor supported by the EMPOWER II project (Sierra Leone)

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING THE HEALTHCARE WORKER - PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

In 2021, the Solthis teams continued to develop a collaborative dynamic between healthcare workers, psychosocial support workers and patients in order to adapt the health care package to the needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV). In Guinea, this initiative was supported by the Ruche project through a participatory diagnostic approach, bringing together patients, healthcare staff and psychosocial support workers to discuss the difficulties of HIV care and to find solutions. This process has created a space for expression, dissemination of rights and empowerment of patients. It resulted in the development of road maps which were reviewed throughout the year to address any issues arising.

In addition, in 2021 the RUCHE project continued to analyse practices with healthcare staff in order to improve their relationship with patients and to develop more sensitive care, responsive to patients. The interest aroused by this self-reflectory approach led to the creation of a pool of national facilitators and the setting up of a working group by the National AIDS and Hepatitis Control Programme to examine its sustainability and to propose an action plan for the post-project period, after February 2023.

To succeed in improving care, Solthis considers it essential to promote the empowerment of patients and civil society. In Sierra Leone, this momentum has been supported by the Empower II project through the empowerment of support groups for people living with HIV and their members to defend their rights to health. This desire to empower civil society and its stakeholders also resulted, in 2021, in support for the FEG (Fédération Espoir Guinea), the CIP'Prod (inter-associative consortium for the promotion of patients' rights in Guinea) and NETHIPS (network of PLHIV in Sierra Leone) to carry out a collaborative assessment of their organisational capabilities. This assessment led to the development of a capacity building plan to improve their organisations and institutional capacity to act, particularly through advocacy activities. In Sierra Leone, this work has, in particular, contributed to raising the profile of NETHIPS with external partners; a profile that is critical for championing the rights of PLHIV, and which, in 2021, enabled the results and recommendations of the stigma index 2.0 study to be widely disseminated. This study contributed to raising awareness of the rights and responsibilities of care recipients and healthcare personnel in reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV.

READ MORE



### RUCHE PROJECT

Financial support : AFD, City of Paris and Caritas Foundation



### EMPOWER II PROJECT

Financial support : AFD, City of Paris



100

patients and carers supported in the process of participatory diagnosis and collective monitoring to improve HIV care in Guinea.

18

support groups for people living with HIV supported in Sierra Leone in partnership with NETHIPS and 8 civil society organisations supported in Guinea and Sierra Leone to strengthen their organisations and their advocacy to defend the rights of people living with HIV.

over 120

healthcare personnel mobilised and supported to implement a care package focussed on the needs of patients and to improve the relationship between healthcare workers and patients in Guinea.

## BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS TO FIGHT HIV

As a major partner in the fight against HIV in Sierra Leone, Solthis supported the decentralisation of HIV services during 2021 and built the capacity of healthcare professionals in over 20 healthcare facilities, supported by the PROSSAN and EMPOWER II projects, for various services connected with HIV: the management of HIV/TB co-infection, comprehensive HIV services, youth-friendly services, the prevention of mother-child transmission strategy, post-exposure prophylaxis, HIV product supply chain management, transition and the roll-out of the new Dolutegravir antiretroviral drug, to name but a few.

To facilitate this capacity building, Solthis deploys strategies which combine various approaches, including training, mentoring and internships. Thus, as part of the PROSSAN project, internships were offered to expand the range of services of some of the healthcare facilities supported by the project on the provision of paediatric HIV care.

As a result of this work, six healthcare facilities now offer paediatric HIV services and many PMTCT facilities (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) have also begun to provide HIV services to adults and adolescents.

372

healthcare workers trained in various HIV related services in Sierra Leone and 850 healthcare workers sensitized on stigma and patients' rights.

15

healthcare workers have undergone internships with the aim of decentralising paediatric HIV care.

+6

healthcare facilities which now offer paediatric HIV care services.

READ MORE



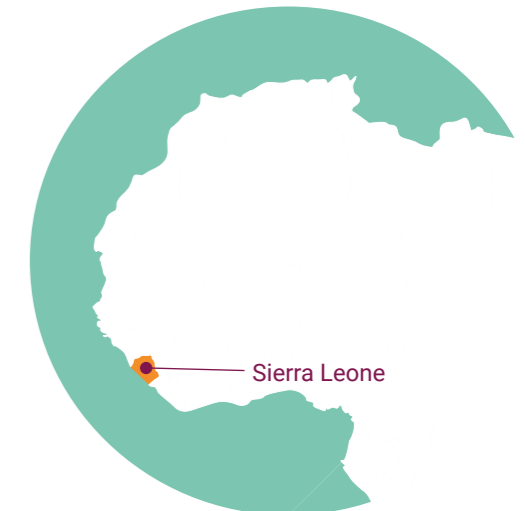
### PROSSAN PROJECT

Financial support : ACF with a co-financing by AFD



### EMPOWER II PROJECT

Financial support : AFD and the City of Paris



The Kissy community health centre in Sierra Leone, supported by the Empower II project to improve HIV care.

## INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES

- COVID-19
- HIV/AIDS
- **TUBERCULOSIS**

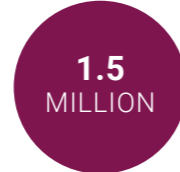
“ Thank you for what you have done in our community to save the lives of our children. [...] Thanks to the work of the TB-Speed project, we are now able to reliably identify cases of childhood tuberculosis. ”

Clinical Lead at the Mange Community Health Centre (Sierra Leone)

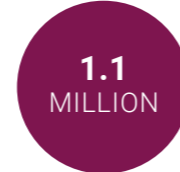


## TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of infection-related mortality in the world and the number one cause of death among people living with HIV (PLHIV). According to the WHO, 9.9 million people contracted Tuberculosis and 1.5 million died of it in 2020 including 214,000 who were HIV positive. Children are also greatly affected by the disease, with around 1.1 million cases recorded worldwide in 2020. In 2014, the WHO developed the End TB strategy, which aims to achieve a 95% reduction in mortality and a 90% reduction in new cases by 2035 compared with 2015. This strategy requires improved diagnosis of TB, improved treatment, especially of multi-resistant strains, developing preventive strategies and continued collaboration between TB and HIV programmes.



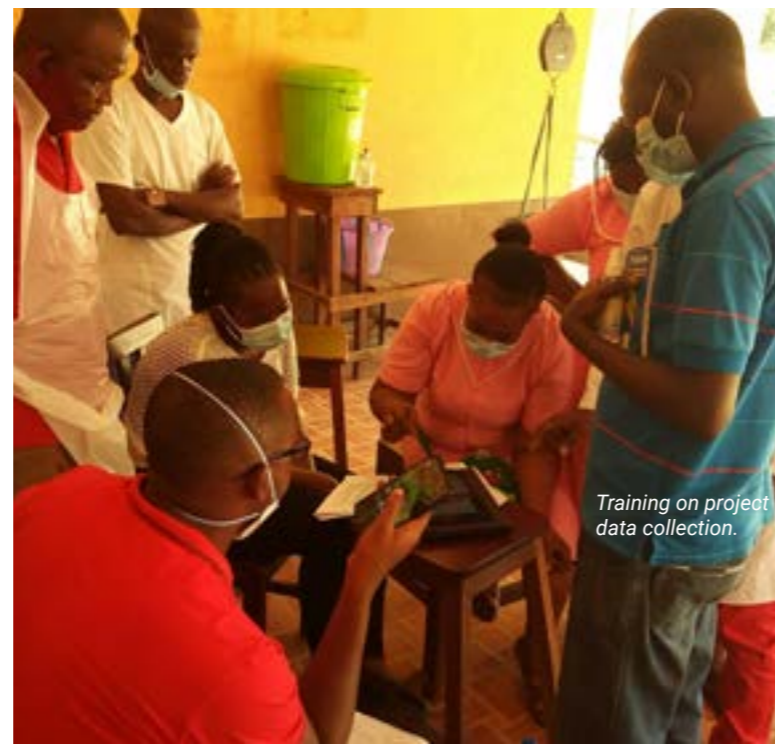
**1.5 million people** (including 214,000 who also had HIV infection) died of tuberculosis in 2020, making the epidemic the 2nd leading cause of infectious mortality in the world after Covid-19 (and ahead of HIV). Tuberculosis is curable and avoidable, but it remains a major health problem in low and middle income countries (WHO, 2020).



**1.1 million children** contracted tuberculosis worldwide in 2020. In children and adolescents, the disease is often not recognised by healthcare providers and can be difficult to diagnose and treat (WHO, 2019).

### Addressing the challenge of Tuberculosis' under-diagnosis in children

Solthis contributes to this approach in Sierra Leone through the TB-Speed project, whose objective is to improve TB screening in children under 5 years old. In fact, most children with Tuberculosis are not diagnosed or identified and therefore do not receive appropriate treatment. This is due to a lack of diagnostic capacity for TB in children in many primary healthcare centres because childhood TB services are concentrated in regional or national health facilities, which limits access in remote areas.



Training on project data collection.

## FIGHTING CHILDHOOD TUBERCULOSIS IN SIERRA LEONE

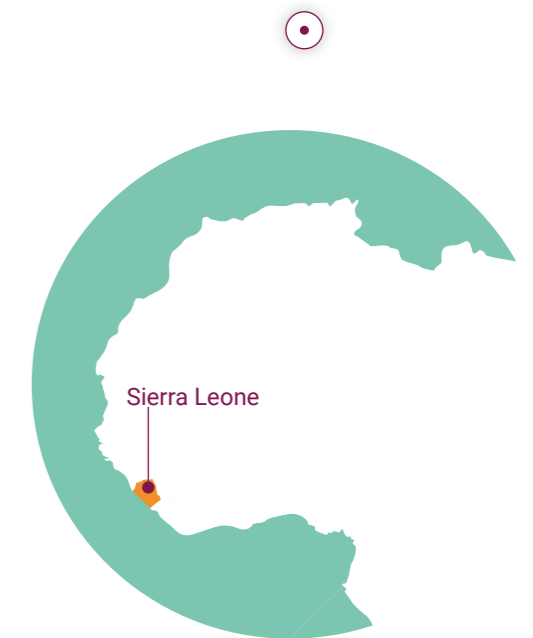
Sierra Leone is one of 30 countries badly affected by TB where the estimated incidence of the disease is 298 per 100,000 people (WHO, 2020). Amongst those most at risk are people living with HIV but also children who are often under-diagnosed and account for over 11% of the national incidence in 2020 (2,800 children out of 24,000 cases). In response to this challenge, Solthis, with the support of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme in Sierra Leone, is carrying out the TB-Speed project, which was launched in 2018 in 6 countries by a consortium backed by the University of Bordeaux to test new screening strategies for childhood tuberculosis, particularly in remote areas. In 2021, the project enabled 133 healthcare professionals from 10 health centres (two district hospitals and eight primary health centres) in Bo and Port Loko regions to be trained and supported in the diagnosis and treatment of childhood tuberculosis. The district hospitals have been equipped with digital x-ray machines and their staff trained in the radiological symptoms of childhood tuberculosis. GenXpert Ultra cartridges, which are more suitable for the diagnosis of childhood tuberculosis were provided and four primary health centres in Port Loko district were equipped with GeneXpert machines and staff trained in their use.

In 2020, the initial study, prior to the installation of the TB-Speed project, showed that in the 10 health centres involved with the TB-Speed project, of 39,856 children admitted for consultation, systematic screening for TB was not carried out, and only 122 suspected cases of tuberculosis were identified and only 43 children were treated for tuberculosis. By 30 September 2021, after 12 months of running the TB-Speed project, systematic screening for TB had been carried out on 25,762 children out of the 34,140 admitted for a consultation in the 10 health centres supported by the project (of 75% of children admitted for a consultation), leading to 592 suspected tuberculosis cases being identified, which benefitted from innovative diagnostic methods and 147 children were treated for tuberculosis.

Despite a 15% reduction in the number of consultations, owing to the Covid-19 epidemic, the TB-Speed project, has improved the identification of childhood tuberculosis, increasing the number of suspected TB cases by 385% and the number of children treated by 242%. Analysis of the final results of the project in six countries is on-going. The data generated will be used to confirm the value of this new diagnostic approach to paediatric tuberculosis and advance national and international recommendations for the treatment of paediatric tuberculosis.

READ MORE

### TB-SPEED PROJECT Financial support : UNITAID AND L'INITIATIVE



- 10** healthcare facilities supported by the project including eight primary health centres and two district hospitals in Port Loko and Bo regions.
- 133** healthcare professionals were given tutoring sessions to improve the diagnosis and treatment of childhood tuberculosis in Bo and Port Loko districts.
- +385 %** increase in the number of children with suspected tuberculosis and 242% increase in the number of children treated compared with data from before the TB-Speed project.



# HEALTH PRIORITIES

## MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH



In Africa, maternal, neonatal and childhood mortality remain a real scourge: 57% of all maternal deaths occur on the continent, making Africa the region with the highest rate of maternal mortality in the world. In addition, Africa still has the highest rate of childhood mortality, with one in eight children dying before reaching the age of five, that is around 20 times higher than the average in developed regions, which is one in 167. Yet most of these deaths would be preventable if health systems as a whole were improved.



Using pulse-oximeter at the Airport II integrated health centre in Niamey, Niger to improve the identification of respiratory disorders in children.



children



women

still die every day of largely preventable or curable illnesses. (World Bank 2019)

### Ensuring the availability and quality of maternal, new-born and children's health services

The health of women and children is a priority for Solthis. Our work supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the vision to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. We are working to guarantee the availability and quality of maternal, neonatal and childhood health services, particularly in Guinea and Niger with the AIR-POP, I-POP and AIRE projects.

### INNOVATIVE AND RAPID ACCESS TO DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENTS FOR CHILDREN EXPOSED TO HIV

In Guinea, the rate of transmission of HIV from mother to child is very high. In fact, many pregnant women are not screened for HIV during pregnancy and /or are not given antiretroviral drugs which help to minimise transmission during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. Through the ANRS1234 DIAVINA project in 2016, Solthis, introduced enhanced preventive treatments at Ignace Deen Hospital in Conakry, to reduce the risk of infection of infants born to mothers living with HIV, who had not been treated before delivery. In 2020, Solthis developed a 2nd phase of the project (launched in January 2021) to optimise this system by introducing the measurement of maternal viral load at delivery and early diagnosis of children through the provision of POC (Points of Care) technology at Ignace Deen hospital and training of healthcare personnel. This project will improve treatment of new-borns and their mothers and reduce the risk of HIV transmission.

**Responding to the challenge of transporting samples and emergency supplies by drones.** Delays in transporting blood samples to laboratories and in reporting results so that treatment can be started quickly have led to deaths of many HIV infected children. To address this issue, in 2019 Solthis began research into the feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of a strategy using drones to transport blood samples in Guinea, where urban traffic congestion leads to major transport delays. In 2021, the

project carried out test flights with drones, socio-anthropological studies and cost-effectiveness impact modelling, which showed high acceptance by healthcare workers, patients and the authorities. The efficiency of transport by drone is superior to motorbike transport, given the speed and despite weather conditions that can sometimes render drones inoperable. The operation of drones in Conakry would improve the care of around 1,500 HIV-exposed new-borns each year.

[More on the results of the project](#)



### IDENTIFYING RESPIRATORY DISORDERS IN CHILDREN

In 2021, Solthis continued the implementation of pulse-oximeters in 40 healthcare centres and two specialist hospitals supported by the AIRE project in Niger, to improve the identification of respiratory disorders in children under 5 years old, who are often under-diagnosed owing to the shortage of effective screening tools. So that healthcare personnel are better equipped, training in the use of pulse-oximeters and oxygen concentrators was organised, enabling over 150 health workers in Dosso and Niamey districts to be taught. As a result, between June and December 2021, the pulse-oximeter was used in all project intervention sites during Integrated Management of Childhood Illness consultations (IMCI). Of the 57,326 IMCI consultations recorded in 2021, 42,572 children benefited the use of pulse-oximetry and 1,031 serious cases were transferred to specialist hospitals. The results of this project, being implemented in Mali, Niger, Guinea and Burkina Faso by a consortium led by the ALIMA NGO, will be used to facilitate scaling up of the use of pulse-oximeters to a national or even regional level.

99 %

of children, in Niger, seen in IMCI consultations (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness) underwent pulse-oximetry, that is 42,572 children and 1,031 children were transferred to specialist hospitals.

40

health centres in Niger equipped with pulse-oximeters and 2 specialist hospitals equipped with oxygen concentrators, nebulisers, electric aspirators, NFS reagents.

1

maternity ward equipped with a GeneXpert machine and a Centrifuge at Ignace Deen hospital to reduce mother to child transmission of HIV in Guinea.

“ Including the pulse-oximeter in the IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness) strategy has reinvigorated it and improved the identification of children in need of oxygen therapy in our integrated health centres. ”

IMCI Contact at Regional Public Health Directorate in Niamey (Niger)

READ MORE



### ANRS 12407 AIRPOP PROJECT

Financial support : ANRS



### ANRS 12412 IPOPOP PROJECT

Financial support : ANRS, GUINEA AND TAIPEI FU-JUNG ROTARY CLUBS



### AIRE PROJECT

Financial support : UNITAID WITH AN ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF AFD IN NIGER



# HEALTH PRIORITIES

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



In West and Central Africa, indicators of rights and sexual and reproductive health remain concerning and highlight the difficulties faced by young people and adolescents: only 14.7% of young women aged 15 to 24 married or in a relationship, or their sexual partner, currently uses at least one method of contraception; the region has the highest proportion of adolescent girls giving birth before the age of 18 (33%), young people aged 15 to 24 account for 39% of new HIV infections among adults. The 'young' population is thus a diverse population whose specific vulnerabilities are exacerbated by their poor access to sexual and reproductive health services that are adapted to their needs, by lack of access to reliable information, and by socio-cultural factors linked to taboos around sexuality, early marriage, gender inequality, and the restricted place of young people in society. Young people are therefore a strategic concern at the heart of our efforts to improve access to quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.



**1/3**  
of young girls between 15 and 19 years old are already mothers or pregnant in Guinea.



**1/4**  
of new HIV infections in Sub-Saharan Africa are found among young women between 15 and 24 years old.

### An integrated approach

In order to meet the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of young people and adolescents, Solthis uses an integrated approach which enables them, on the one hand, to better exercise their rights, and on the other hand improves their access to comprehensive and quality sexual and reproductive health services. Solthis recognises the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to supporting young people in their sexual and reproductive lives (SRH), throughout their lives, with each SRH service being part of a set of interconnected components. This is evidenced in Niger with the JADES project, in Senegal with the SANSAS project and in Guinea with the PAJES project.

### EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

#### Young people mobilised for their health

Through health education sessions, educational talks in neighbourhoods or in schools, community engagement and exchanges on social networks, raising awareness in young people by young people remains at the heart of our approach to promoting sexual and reproductive health, in order to give them a voice help them to speak out and facilitate their access to treatment centres. In 2021, in partnership with civil society and youth ambassadors involved with the JADES II project in Niger, SANSAS in Senegal and PAJES in Guinea, Solthis conducted a major awareness-raising campaign among young people, strengthening their capacity to take control of their rights and make informed choices about sexual and reproductive health. In Niger for example, in partnership with the Lafia Matassa NGO, WhatsApp groups were set up by young ambassadors supported by the JADES II project to allow other young people to express themselves freely on sexuality issues. Three WhatsApp discussion groups (girls, boys and mixed groups) have been set up and 200 adolescents and young people are now members. In Guinée, with the support of the PAJES project, Ablogui, the bloggers' association, and the network of young ambassadors

of the National Coalition of Civil Society Organisations involved in the repositioning of family planning (CNOSC-PF in its French acronym), regularly produce informative videos for other young people on news related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including gender-based violence. In Senegal, the SANSAS project has also made use of the television series and <https://www.solthis.org/en/projet/projet-aire-ameliorer-l-identification-de-stress-respiratoire-dans-les-enfants-de-5-ans> / « C'est la vie ! », in partnerships with the RAES NGO, to reach more young people but also those around them (communities and parents) on gender and sexual and reproductive health issues.



#### ZOOM ON THE SANSAS PROJECT

Launched in 2021 in Senegal, the SANSAS project « sunu wergu yaram sunu yite » (Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Young People in Senegal) is implemented by a consortium including Solthis (lead partner), ENDA Santé, Equipop, LARTES (Laboratory for Research on Economic and Social Change) and RAES (The African Network for Education and Health) and is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD). Its objective is to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services for young people and adolescents in Senegal, particularly young girls, young women and vulnerable young people in 20 localities in the Thies and Sedhiou regions of Senegal.

[More about the project](#)

This first year of implementation was characterised by diagnostic studies, conducted by LARTES, to understand the context of intervention, the quality and accessibility issues of sexual and reproductive health services for young people in Senegal in order to calibrate the project interventions.

[More about the current studies and the results](#)

In partnership with RAES, the project has also initiated awareness-raising activities for young people and their peers, through film debates or through broadcasting the television series and radio drama « C'est la Vie » as well as mobilising young leaders to participate in advocacy. Sixty young leaders were thus identified in Sedhiou and Mbour and trained by Equipop in advocacy techniques. The young people were aware of the difficulties facing them and so began to discuss the issues to be highlighted in the project's advocacy plan, notably female genital mutilation and child marriage. Expanding and improving SRH provision for young people is at the heart of the SANSAS project. In 2021, with its partner ENDA Santé, the project set up mobile clinics, a local facility which was appropriate and accessible to young people (opening hours, locations, ...). In two months, 28 mobile clinics were organised, reaching 985 young people. The project will run until 2025 and has a monitoring and knowledge transfer plan which will allow dissemination of results to be used by decision-makers and the general public.

“ Nowadays, I can express myself better to a public audience and I have also learned to talk without inhibition about sexuality with my peers. ”

Soureiya Siradji Moustapha, NTIC JADES II ambassador (Niger)

READ MORE

#### JADES II PROJECT

Financial support :  
City of Paris, AFD, EUROFINS FOUNDATION AND FONDATION DE FRANCE



#### PAJES PROJECT

Financial support :  
L'INITIATIVE



#### SANSAS PROJECT

Financial support :  
AFD



Young peer educator raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health to inform her classmates - Niamey



# HEALTH PRIORITIES

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### A STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENHANCE ADVOCACY

Civil society organisations are essential for promoting popular awareness and the implementation of policies which will guarantee the rights of young people to access sexual and reproductive health services which are tailored to their needs. But often, faced with organisational weaknesses, some need to be further strengthened to improve the impact of their demands to the institutions, as well as to ensure the continuity of their various activities. With this in mind, in 2021, Solthis worked in support of its associative partners, notably in Guinea through the PAJES project, to strengthen the Ablogui association of Young Guinean bloggers and the National Coalition of Guinean Civil Society Organisations engaged in the repositioning of family planning (CNOSC-PF), which includes more than 47 national associations. This support is primarily based on collaborative assessments of their organisational capacities and needs: « self-diagnostic activities have enabled us to better identify and prioritise our needs. I very much appreciated the participatory methodology and our involvement in co-construction. We recognise ourselves in this capacity building plan [...] which will enable us to clearly define the strategic visions of the Association»: explains Mamadou Baro CONDE member of Ablogui.

#### ZOOM ON THE PAJES PROJECT IN GUINEA

The PAJES project « Pouvoir d'agir des Associations et des Jeunes Engagé.e.s pour la Santé sexuelle (Empowerment of Associations and Young People Committed to Sexual Health)» was launched in Guinea in 2021 in partnership with the Guinean bloggers' association (Ablogui) and the National Coalition of Civil Society Organisations involved with the repositioning of family planning (CNOSC-PF). Its objective is to improve young people's access to sexual and reproductive health, notably by facilitating the strengthening of inter-associative advocacy in favour of these rights and their application in Guinea. The project centres primarily on close support for these two civil society organisations, with the aim of supporting their organisational development.

[More about the project](#)



### DENUNCIATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In Niger, it has been observed that healthcare personnel are sometimes ill-equipped to provide holistic care for victims of gender-based violence (GBV). To respond to this need, the JADES project, in collaboration with various stakeholders in the field of GBV in Niger, organises training and sessions where experiences of the holistic treatment following GBV are shared and has developed referral guidelines that are now used as a tool by healthcare staff to better assist victims. In the same context, Solthis has initiated awareness-building in young ambassadors supported by the JADES project on issues of consent and violence, in order to facilitate the referral of victims to care facilities.

A survey on sexual and gender-based violence in schools was also launched to equip local associations, including Lafia Matassa, to advocate on these issues. In 2021, Solthis also took the opportunity of international conferences to call upon decision-makers to tackle this scourge which continues to claim victims on a daily basis and is a major obstacle to the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, particularly for young girls. In Guinea, for example, an awareness building day was organised on 11th October 2021 (International Day of the Girl Child) by young ambassadors who were members of the CNOSC-PF, supported by the PAJES project, to make their voices heard and to call upon decision-makers to honour their commitments.

“ These assessments are then translated into the implementation of various activities identified by different members, both in terms of capacity building (training in advocacy, administrative and financial coaching), facilitation of network activities (workshops for sharing experiences), or even closer support (help with writing funding applications, etc). These activities enabled 38 association members to be trained on the organisational capacities of their associations in order to better defend the rights and sexual and reproductive health of young people in Guinea. ”

Mélanie VION, Co-ordinator Partnership with Civil Society Organisations at Solthis (France)

### HEALTHCARE SERVICES ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people's poor rate of access to quality sexual and reproductive healthcare (SRH) is largely the result of the inadequacy of healthcare services in meeting their needs. Moreover, health personnel are often insufficiently trained in the specific care of young people and have difficulty overcoming the socio-cultural conditions that surround them. In 2021, Solthis continued to train and support the health personnel in the 9 facilities supported by the JADES II project, in particular to make them aware of young people's sexuality issues, to encourage them to listen to their problems and their wishes and to embrace the quality standards of SRH in order to promote services that are adapted to the specific needs of young people.



[More information on Solthis's positioning and strategy on sexual and reproductive health](#)



[More information on Solthis's positioning and strategy on gender](#)



Young ambassador facilitating WhatsApp groups to discuss and raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health – Niamey



Young ambassador accompanying her friend to a youth sexual and reproductive health centre - Niamey

- + 6,000 young people and adolescents trained and made aware in Niger and Senegal around their sexual and reproductive health.
- 985 young people and adolescents have been helped through mobile clinics in Senegal regarding their sexual and reproductive health.
- 20 healthcare personnel given more training on the sexual and reproductive health of young people and handling gender-based violence in Niger.



# HEALTH PRIORITIES

## ONE HEALTH



The Covid-19 pandemic confirmed that human health determinants are more than ever

linked to animal and environmental health issues, both in the field of communicable and emerging diseases and through exposure to various chemical substances.

To reduce these risks and be effective in a sustainable way, we need to work at the interface of these areas and propose innovative solutions. This is the ambition of the 'One Health' approach: to better understand these interactions, to put in place the capacities to identify, prevent and respond to these emerging issues in order to contribute to the resilience of populations and systems. Taking concrete action on One Health implies intersectoral action at several levels to face these emerging challenges: through the empowerment of populations, the strengthening of professionals' capacities, the support of One Health committees and the involvement of public and private authorities. Documenting, evaluating and capitalizing on this innovative approach will be essential to help measure its impact and to identify good practices that could be shared.



Farmer in Senegal, beneficiary of the Thiellal project in Velingara

“ If you are well, but your livestock are sick, you are not healthy. ”

Breeder in Senegal, beneficiary of the Thiellal project



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE RESPONSE TO PANDEMICS



Visit to the ASSAP-TB association to prepare discussion workshops leading to the drafting of their new strategic plan

In addition to the projects conducted by Solthis, technical assistance aims to respond to specific needs for technical expertise identified by public and community bodies in order to enhance the quality of care and to support the demand for care.

In 2021, 10 examples of technical assistance were completed. One of these was conducted in Benin to support the ASSAP-TB/BENIN association with developing the association's strategic plan for the period 2022-2026 and the governance mechanisms of the organisation. Founded in 2007, the association brings together patients and former patients as well as people affected by Tuberculosis. This strategic plan, which is currently being costed, will enable the association to cover two Global Fund grant cycles, namely, to carry out the NMF3, and to apply for the next cycle, the NFM4 (2024-2026).

Funded by L'Initiative, technical assistance in particular made it possible to encourage exchanges between the association and the main partners involved in the fight against tuberculosis (National Tuberculosis control programme, technical and financial partners including those in the "UNAIDS Technical Group") on the one hand, to carry out advocacy and mobilise the resources necessary for the effective implementation of planned activities and, on the other hand, to find sustainable solutions that will help to retain the association's facilitators, community support workers and mediators who work as volunteers.

### READ MORE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCES



10 technical assistances completed in 2021.

7 countries of intervention: Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Guinea, Niger, Togo, Gabon

15 consultants mobilised to support management and procurement of stock, community mobilisation, gender mainstreaming, governance and analysis of health information systems to strengthen the fight against HIV and TB

### Building a shared vision of problems and issues related to the use of chemicals within the communities

The Thiellal project (which means One Health in Puular, the local language) was launched in 2021 in the Velingara department, in Casamance in Senegal. This initial «One Health» project for Solthis is the result of a joint initiative with the AVSF and CASADES NGOs and is intended to be a concrete example of the implementation of the One Health concept through the empowerment of communities to act on the determinants of health (One Health). Its action is particularly focused on the risks linked to the use of chemical products (pesticides in agriculture and antimicrobials in human and animal health) hence its innovative nature which compliments the One Health strategies which in Senegal are usually deployed in the fight against zoonoses (diseases or infections which are transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans and vice versa).

To build a shared vision of the problems and issues related to the use of chemicals in communities and their representatives, six diagnostic studies were carried out in 11 villages in 2021. One of them was to carry out an in-depth community analysis to understand the perception of risks related to the use of chemicals in the communities. A review of health promotion messages was also carried out in order to document the current messages on One Health issues and to identify which messages could be adapted and which channels to use to raise awareness in the communities of these emerging issues. In addition to these studies, the project has started training and awareness-raising activities on the link between human, animal and environmental health through radio broadcasts and training and networking workshops both nationally and internationally.



### READ MORE THIELLAL PROJECT

Financial support :

AFD



6

studies carried out to understand the problems and issues related to the use of chemicals in communities and their representatives.

12

radio programmes on animal health and One Health, as well as an awareness day on the link between Covid-19 and one health.

“ I welcome the values that Solthis stands for, in particular the local capacity building and the transfer of skills that it places at the heart of its work, to encourage adherence by the national party to technical support and to promote ownership by them. ”

Dr. Juma Kariburyo, International consultant in public health



# OUR ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC INTERVENTIONS

Created by university doctors, supported by a group of scientific experts in health and development, Solthis is developing a number of partnerships with research and public health institutes, university hospitals, universities and faculties, networks of partners, particularly in Africa and with other humanitarian organisations. From the outset, Solthis has participated in major international conferences on global public health.

IAS  
2021

## International conference on HIV - 18 to 21 July

The ATLAS project and its partners took part in IAS 2021, primarily at the «HIV self-testing, what next?» symposium organised by the STAR HIV self-testing programme in Southern Africa. During the symposium: Joseph Larmarange, scientific director of the ATLAS project, spoke on the use of HIV self-testing to reach more vulnerable groups in West Africa, and Prof. Eboi Ehui, Coordinating Director of the National AIDS Control Programme in Côte d'Ivoire, spoke at the «Investing in self-testing in West Africa» round-table discussion.

Discover the posters and video of the symposium

ICASA  
2021

## International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa – 6 to 11 December

«Beyond key populations: the secondary distribution of HIV self-testing kits in West Africa» was the theme of the symposium organised by the Solthis teams in the ATLAS project. In addition to the scientific posters displayed at the conference, the symposium was an opportunity to present the operational and research results of the project and to emphasise the importance of HIV self-testing in reaching some populations that are at high risk of HIV infection but are particularly difficult to reach via other programmes.

Discover posters and video of the symposium



DISCOVER OUR ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS



# OUR ADVOCACY WORK

Owing to its scientific and organisational roots and its links with French and international institutions, Solthis is able to develop advocacy initiatives based on the analysis of its projects and research results. The aim of this advocacy is twofold:

- to enable the scaling up to country level of projects which have demonstrated their added value and impact.
- to share its experience and that of its national and global partners with the international community, to improve health policies and the effectiveness of international initiatives.

As leader of Coordination Sud's health commission, founder member of the Collectif Santé Mondiale and member of the Groupe Initiatives, Solthis also contributed to the challenging of the French government on their role in global health and more specifically in 2021, on the issue of the temporary lifting of patents on Covid-19 vaccines.

## Mobilising against Covid-19

Since 2020, Solthis, along with Action Against Hunger, Global Health Action, Aides, Coordination Sud, Doctors of the World, One and Universities allied for essential medicines, has conducted the first ever campaign that highlighted the need for massive and immediate commitments on a global scale to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. All these NGOs directly called upon French President Emmanuel Macron to commit France financially and to the sharing of doses with certain countries, but also to the lifting of intellectual property rights on vaccines and the promotion of scientific cooperation.



**Covid-19, a virus that spreads faster than solidarity. France must take action!**

FOR MORE INFO

A 2nd wave of campaigning took place between 29 November and 5 December. In collaboration with Oxfam, Doctors of the World, Global Health Action, Sidaction and One, Solthis led a campaign to highlight the responsibility of rich nations in the emergence of the Omicron variant, having deprived poor countries of access to the vaccine. Serge Breyse, CEO of Solthis, was invited onto the C Politique show to reiterate the urgency of lifting patents on vaccines.



**Emergence of the Omicron variant: NGOs expose the responsibility of rich nations:**

FOR MORE INFO



**Covid vaccinations : «Week of shame for the rich nations»**

FOR MORE INFO

## Defending Women's rights

For **International Women's Day**, Solthis published a series of portraits highlighting women activists, economists, scientists or health professionals, who are implementing Solthis projects to improve access to health for all. This was an opportunity for Solthis to reaffirm its commitment to the fight against gender inequality and its desire to increase the empowerment of women in Africa.

From 30 June to 2 July, during the **Generation Equality Forum** in Paris, the global #StopTalkingStartFunding campaign launched by Générations féministes, of which Solthis is a member, had the opportunity to challenge heads of state on 2 issues: Increasing budgets for combatting gender based and sexual violence and access to justice for victims of gender-based violence. In the run up to the Forum, Solthis, along with the French Development Agency, also published [a series of portraits of partners involved with the SANSAS project in Senegal](#) working for the sexual and reproductive health of young people.

11 October, the International Day of the Girl was punctuated by the [various testimonies of young women collected as part of the JADES II and PAJES projects](#), to highlight and share the voices of these young women, exposing the violence they suffer on a daily basis, but also their aspirations, their dreams and their vision of the future.



As part of the #EveryNoCounts, on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Solthis chose to condemn and raise awareness of gender-based violence on social networks.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

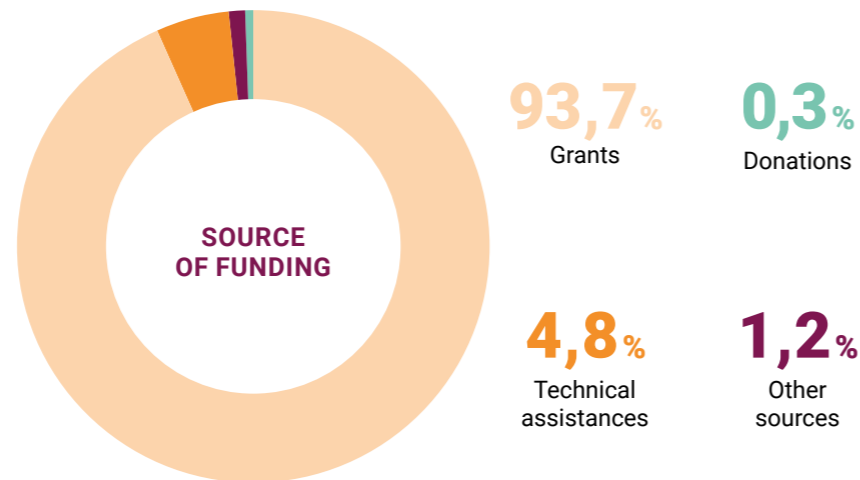
## KEY FIGURES 2021

The year 2021 continued to be marked by the Covid-19 health crisis but also by the launch of new projects, particularly in Senegal, Guinea, Mali and Niger.

**11**  
MILLION €  
budget in 2021

## SOURCE OF FUNDING

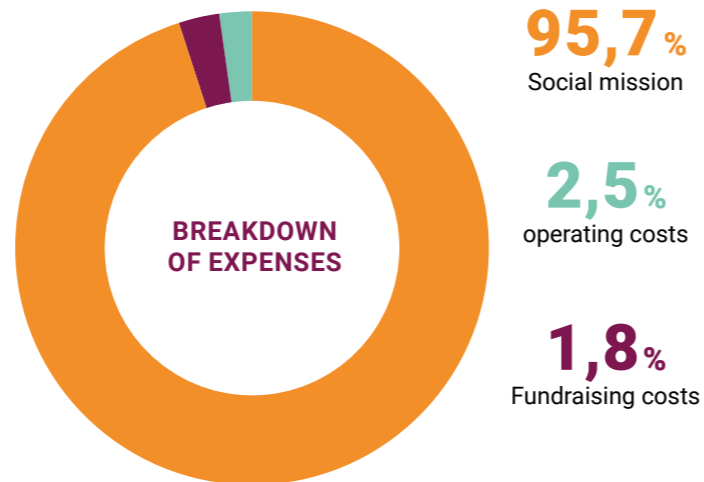
Solthis' income in 2021 is derived from grants from our public and private partners, donations from the general public and increasing activity in technical assistance. Solthis continues to consolidate and develop new financial partnerships, which play a crucial role in the momentum of the projects.



## USE OF FUNDS

Social mission expenditure covers the costs incurred by Solthis aimed at improving the health of populations by permanently strengthening the healthcare systems in countries with limited resources.

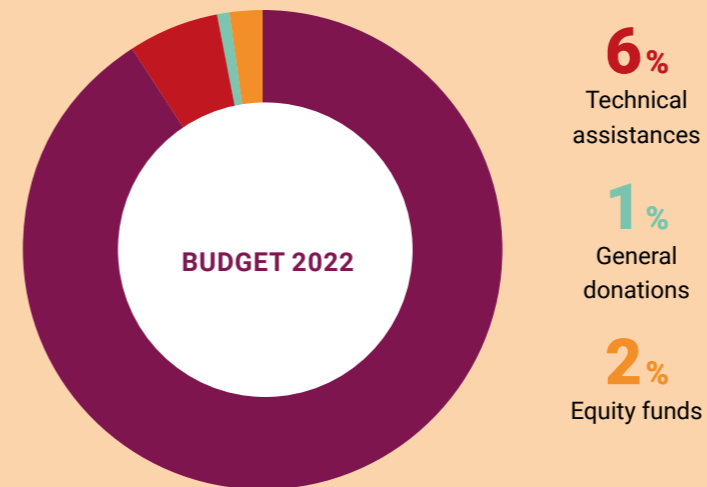
- **Social mission covers** all expenditures incurred for operational activities relating to improve health systems and services, operational research and advocacy, as well as all support to operations.
- **Operating expenses** mainly relate to the cost of the association's headquarters, which oversees the operational activities of field teams, internal control and the correct use of resources. It also helps to maintain the link with our academic, institutional and associative partners.



This graph shows that for every 100 euros spent, 95,7 euros were dedicated to carrying out social missions, 2,5 to the association's operating costs and 1,8 to fundraising.

## OUTLOOK 2022

The 2022 budget approved by the Board of directors amounts to €11 M, with the following breakdown of funding sources:



The 2022 budget is underpinned by Senegal and Niger, whose projects represent 48% of Solthis' 2022 budget. This is the last year of implementation of the ATLAS project, started in 2018, in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. New projects are being implemented in these countries, particularly around issues of sexual and reproductive health and the fight against the Covid-19 epidemic.

The technical assistance activity continues to grow and increase and represents 6% of the resources for 2022.

## FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Accounts for 2021 were approved at the Solthis AGM in June 2022 and certified by KPMG.

## OUR 2021 FINANCIAL PARTNERS

### WE THANK ALL OUR PARTNER







**HEALTH IS A RIGHT**

Accessing it is vital

**Let's act together**



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