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HEALTH IS A RIGHT Having access to it is vital

Let's act together



EDITO

2022 was an eventful year for Solthis. In an increasingly uncertain world, and faced with ever more complex working environments, the Solthis teams, made up of 18 different nationalities, the vast majority of whom are African, have continued to work for the health of the people, and in particular that of women and young people in the 6 countries where we operate.

The ATLAS project, which enabled the deployment of HIV self-testing in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal, has come to an end, but continues to bear fruit: thanks to Solthis' approach involving national partners, the self-tests are now financed and available on a long-term basis. This is a source of great pride for our teams, who have worked hard for 4 years.

Other projects have come to an end, to combat COVID (rapid diagnostic tests in Niger and Mali) or infant tuberculosis in Sierra Leone, and their results have helped to improve national policies.

Solthis continues to strengthen its commitment to women's and young people's health through sexual and reproductive health and rights projects in Niger, Senegal and Guinea, as well as in Côte d'Ivoire, where two new projects have been launched in partnership with national associations.

Over the past year, Solthis has organised high-level conferences on community health and on scaling up pilot health projects, thanks to the support of our partners, such as the Agence Française de Développement and Expertise France, with whom framework agreements have been signed, enabling us to strengthen ourselves and our projects.

Here we are in 2023, 20 years old, and we are proud of all that we have achieved, initially in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and now in wider areas of health, but with the same concern to reach out to the most vulnerable and to provide access to equitable and quality care, by supporting our national, institutional and public partners, with the ambition of providing new solutions, as we have done with the HIV self-test.

And we are already preparing for the challenges that lie ahead: continuing to use our expertise to promote access to healthcare for all; doing this in constant collaboration with our partners, so that we can hand over as much as possible to the people working in the countries where we operate. We are looking ahead to 2030, the end of the Sustainable Development Goals, to which our action for a better, more caring world will contribute.

May this anniversary year be rich in meetings, sharing, learning and progress for global health!

Dr Roland Tubiana, President of Solthis Dr Serge Breysse, CEO of Solthis

MANDATORY INFORMATION

The accounts were closed by the Solthis Board of Directors on 22 June 2023 and approved by the Solthis General Assembly on 22 June 2023.

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Afroto, ATC Média Services, Loic Delvaux / MAPS Agency, Bruno Demeocq, Jean-Claude Frisque, Manon Levet, PlanetIDMedia, Marc Spangenberg,



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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

as of the 31.12.2022

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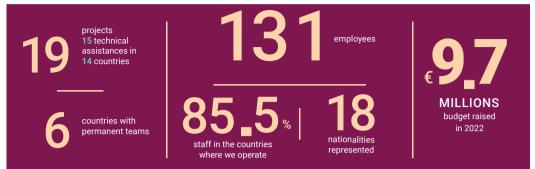
Pr Christine KATLAMA,

Pr Yazdan YAZDANPANAH,

LEARN MORE on our governance



Solthis 2022 KEY FIGURES



INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES

COVID-19

+2,500%

increase in the number of people suspected of having COVID-19 who were tested.

788

people cared for by community health workers trained in rapid tests, in the Fana health district in Mali.

TUBERCULOSIS

+ 242 %

treated compared to data prior to the TB-Speed project in Sierra Leone.

71%

percentage of HIV patients with suspected tuberculosis who benefited from the GeneXpert test (compared with 27% before the project), as part of the LABO 2S project in Niger.

HIV

397,367

HIV self-testing kits provided in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali since the start of the ATLAS project in 2018.

98%

rate of improvement in empowerment score in terms of the self-esteem of patients taking part in workshops following the training of 14 psychosocial assistants, as part of the RUCHE project in Guinea.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Nearly **17,000**

consultations for adolescents and young people, including 8,123 using advanced strategy via mobile clinics in Senegal.

357

health workers trained in the management of sexual and reproductive health in Niger and Senegal.

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

96%

of newborns, infants and children eligible for measurement of oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter have benefited from the AIRE project in Niger.

778

infants exposed to HIV born each year in all 33 maternity units in Conakry have access to rapid diagnostic tests thanks to transport of samples by drone.

Demonstrating the crucial role of community-based health The outsourcing of care, and community health in particular.

plays a major role in improving the performance of healthcare

systems. Solthis is convinced of the major contribution made by health workers at local level, and strives to demonstrate this

through the implementation of its projects. For example, as

part of the ATLAS project, more than 85% of self-testing kits

were distributed as part of community-based activities. The

the availability of rapid testing for Covid and malaria in rural

In January 2022, a conference co-organised with AFD "The

areas led to better diagnosis of these diseases.

COVACOM study, which took place in Mali in 2022, showed that

Empowerment and Community Health» conference gave us the

opportunity to present these results and discuss the issues with

a wide range of institutional, technical and financial partners.

Meeting sexual and reproductive health needs

Solthis implements projects that strengthen the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights and improve access to comprehensive, high-quality SRH services for young people, adolescents and vulnerable populations. In 2022, while the SANSAS project in Senegal and the PAJES project in Guinea continued their activities, two new projects have begun in Côte d'Ivoire: AGIR, Strengthening the power of young people and adolescents to take action on SRHR, and POUVOIR, Improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights of cisgender and trans sex workers in Côte d'Ivoire through an empowerment approach.



Results of the ATLAS project

The ATLAS project to introduce and scale up HIV self-testing in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal has come to an end. Nearly 400,000 kits have been distributed via more than 200 public and community sites; 91% of the kits were distributed to key populations and their networks, the majority through secondary distribution and 85% using community strategies. The research results show that 41% of users have been tested for HIV for the first time, and that the ADVIH has a positive impact on access to testing, knowledge of one's status, the number of new people tested and the care they receive. A genuine empowerment tool, HIV self-testing is now fully integrated into national strategies in the 3 countries involved in the ATLAS project.

Sharing expertise

In addition to implementing projects, Solthis is called upon to provide technical assistance in response to specific needs for technical expertise expressed by public and community structures, in order to improve the quality of healthcare provision and support the demand for care. This fast-growing activity has mobilized 28 experts in 10 countries, providing 15 technical assistances. Last December, one of our experts was asked by UNAIDS to talk about our experience in HIV self-testing and PreP, as part of workshops preparing applications for funding from the Global Fund for countries in West and Central Africa.





GLOBAL HEALTH



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

Professionalism and accountability

Solidarity and engagement

Equity and inclusion

A gender approach is integrated across the board in all our projects, in our human resources policies and in our fight against harassment and discrimination.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Taking action without replacing in view of strengthening the autonomy of local partners as well as ensuring the sustainability and complementarity of our actions 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, by 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 Breysse, Chief Executive Officer of Solthis



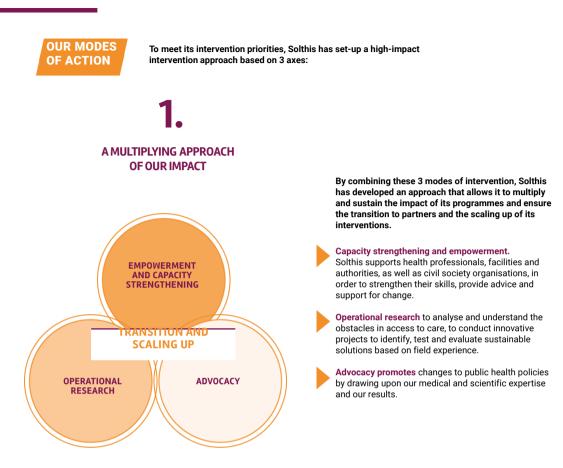
OUR HEALTH PRIORITIES

Today, Solthis responds to 2 health priorities:

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

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









2.

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH AT THE HEART OF OUR PROJECTS

"As local as possible, as international

as necessary",

we integrate our actions into national

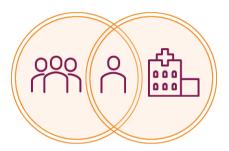
strategies and policies and support our

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 and more efficient services.



COUNTRIES OF INTERVENTION

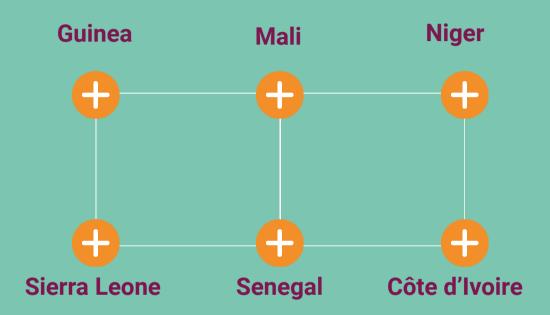


In 2022, Solthis also provided 15 technical assistances in the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Togo





OUR IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS





HEALTH ISSUES

INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES



HIV/AIDS

Despite considerable progress, the HIV situation remains worrying in West and Central Africa. Many countries with fragile health

systems are affected by conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change and have not yet recovered from the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a decline in HIV testing and access to treatment of almost 40% in 2020. By 2021, an estimated 84% of adults living with HIV knew their status, 82% of them had access to ARV treatment and 73% had an undetectable viral load. The situation for children and adolescents living with HIV remains catastrophic, with 35% knowing their status and only 35% of them having access to ARV treatment. In 2021, 190,000 new infections were recorded, representing 13% of new infections worldwide. The number of new infections has fallen by

43% since 2010, and this decline has been much faster among men (49%) than women (38%). Women and girls account for 61% of new infections and the weakness of sexual and reproductive health services contributes to the disproportionate burden that the epidemic places on them. In addition, key populations, together with their partners and clients, account for 74% of new infections and fuel the dynamics of infection because of their difficult access to care due to stigmatization and, in some countries, criminalization.



Every hour, 36 people are infected with HIV in West and Central Africa (UNAIDS 2021).



5 million people are living with HIV in West and Central Africa (UNAIDS 2021).

DEVELOPING HOLISTIC APPROACHES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

COVID-19

With the ATLAS, RUCHE, LABO 2S and PROSSAN projects, Solthis is continuing its efforts to develop holistic approaches in the fight against AIDS that will enable us to achieve the 95% target set by the international community, through, in particular, access to testing, effective disease monitoring to reduce treatment failures, and the mobilization of users and civil society to adapt care to the real needs of people living with HIV.



The self-test is good and easy. I do it for myself and I do it with my clients. I show them how to do it. Most say they agree with it. They also do it with their wives.

Sex worker, Vridy, Abidjan

DEPLOYMENT OF HIV SELF-TESTS IN WEST AFRICA

The year 2022 saw the completion of the transition phase and the scaling up of HIV self-testing under the aegis of the Ministries of Health in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal.

This process was informed by the recommendations of the players involved (programme dedicated to the fight against HIV, civil society, technical and financial partners, etc.) based on lessons learned at the operational level but also on the results of research coordinated by the IRD. A participatory process was carried out in each country to draft policy briefs for decision-makers to ensure, among other things, sustainable funding for self-testing in these countries.

In addition to circulation at local level, the results of the project have been widely circulated via scientific publications, international conferences (notably AFRAVIH in France in April and AIDS in July) and webinars co-organised with WHO and UNAIDS.

In addition, new countries in the sub-region, such as Guinea, Niger and Burkina Faso, have benefited from Solthis' technical assistance for the introduction and roll-out of HIVST in 2022.



THE ATLAS PROJECT Financial support : Unitaid with additional funding from AFD





400,000

85 %

40 %

Nearly 400,000 HIV self-testing kits were distributed via more than 200 sites in the 3 countries, 91% of them to key populations and their networks (partners, hidden peers, clients).

More than 85% of the kits were distributed as part of community-based activities.

Over 40% of self-test kit users had never been tested before.

As a result of the project, the acceptance of psycho-social assistants by carers has improved: patients are increasingly aware of their rights and are making an effective contribution to resolving problems in the therapeutic system.

Psychosocial assistant involved in the RUCHE project

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING PATIENT-CARER RELATIONS

Given the persistent difficulties in accessing testing services (59% of PLHIV know their status), treatment (52% of PLHIV are on ARV treatment) and viral load (data not available) in Guinea, the issue of patients' experience of care, and their relationship with carers, needs to be addressed. The RUCHE project, in collaboration with other HIV initiatives, is promoting patient-centred HIV care by combining capacity-building for carers and decision-makers with empowerment of civil society organisations and patients, and by encouraging exchanges between these different players.

The final year of the project, 2022, was an opportunity to consolidate what has been achieved and put it on a permanent footing.

To help improve the relationship between carers and patients and integrate psycho-social support workers (PSWs) into care teams, the project has continued to run workshops for patients and carers on the quality of HIV care within the healthcare structures it supports.

In addition, regular relational professional practice analysis (PPA) activities were maintained at the sites with the support of a consultant and national PPA group leaders whose skills were strengthened over the course of the project. To encourage the transition of this approach to national level, the project also supported the work of the Transition and Scale-up Technical Group under the aegis of the PNLSH. Work on capitalising on the PPA approach produced a framework note to help roll it out to other sites in the country.

To build the capacity and empowerment of PSAs and certain patients and make PSA practices part of an overall approach to health promotion, the RUCHE project has developed innovative intervention methods with workshops bringing together a pool of PSAs and patients, and the development of educational tools. The pool was taught to capitalize on this expertise with a view to disseminating it to their peers.

The project's CSO partners, the FEG and the member associations of the inter-associative collective for the defence of patients' rights, have been strengthened according to the plans drawn up in 2020 with a view to achieving the changes expected in terms of structuring and increasing their power in the mastery of advocacy and support.



THE RUCHE PROJECT

Source of funding : AFD, UNITAID, Paris City Hall & Caritas Foundation





Practice Analysis Group (PAG) co-facilitators are trained and have facilitated **39 PAGs** for **63 service providers**.

psycho-social assistants were trained to lead group workshops. Their intervention enabled 43 patients taking part in the workshops to improve their empowerment scores: self-esteem (98%), speaking up (93%) and critical awareness (100%).



association leaders trained in communication and advocacy techniques were able to share their experience by highlighting the most significant change during a study trip to Senegal. Thanks to Solthis, I no longer have any misconceptions about HIV. My relationship with patients has improved. Solthis has given me knowledge and skills, so I can now advise a patient with confidence, test them, treat them and ensure proper follow-up.

HIV nurse counsellor supported by the EMPOWER II project (Sierra Leone)

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS TO COMBAT HIV

Since its creation, Solthis has been committed to a nonsubstitution approach. This core value of our identity means that part of our activities focuses on capacity building. Working with public bodies and local players, our projects operate as much at individual, structural, as political and institutional levels.

On a structural and individual level, in 2022 in Niger, the LABO 2S project provided support for the national reference laboratory for HIV and tuberculosis, particularly in terms of enhancing staff skills through on-site training and practical placements in a partner laboratory, strengthening the viral load platform, improving the distribution of samples, drawing up standard operating procedures and enrolling in an External Quality Assessment (EQA) programme. At the same time, 203 people in benefitting locations received support in analysing and interpreting viral load results, setting up tools for managing laboratory equipment, reagents and consumables, and managing and dispensing antiretroviral and tuberculosis drugs.

Significant progress was made in 2022 in terms of patient access to early testing for exposed infants and testing for TB/ HIV co-infection at the Niamev and Dosso sites. A significant increase of 30% in the number of new HIV patients tested for TB in accordance with national recommendations was observed in the Dosso sites. In addition, HIV patients with suspected tuberculosis have benefited more from the GeneXpert test, with the percentage rising from 27% to 71% in 2022, again for sites in the Dosso region. In addition, an increase in prescriptions for Isoniazid preventive treatment (IPT) was observed among eligible patients, reaching over 90% (target) of these patients in the Dosso region. In the Niamev region, the turnaround time for early HIV testing results for infants exposed to HIV has improved: more than a quarter of them received their results in less than 2 weeks. These results testify to the efforts made by the LABO 2S project to support professionals at the sites in developing and implementing activities and tools needed to promote access to the various molecular biology tests, from prescribing, sampling and results reporting procedures, through to optimal use of the results.



In terms of individual capacity building, the PROSSAN project in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone has enhanced the skills of healthcare workers through various Solthis strategies, including participatory needs assessments, training on various subjects related to HIV management, mentoring and clinical coaching, and also awareness raising. PROSSAN has also helped to integrate HIV into the package of essential services provided by the health facilities it supports, and to improve the quality of HIV care.

In Mali and Sierra Leone, Solthis is the service provider chosen by the Ministries of Health to support the implementation of the New Funding Model 3 (NFM3) in order to accelerate the achievement of objectives 95-95-95. This has led us to work on strengthening health systems in terms of comprehensive HIV-related services, in particular diagnosis, starting patients on the recommended antiretroviral treatment, patient follow-up, management of HIV/tuberculosis co-infection and the strategy for preventing mother-to-child transmission, within the framework of assessment, coaching, supervision and evaluation workshops. I've been responsible for HIV services in my establishment since 2018, but I've never been trained. There were no registers or a designated HIV office. Thanks to Solthis' intervention, I now have an HIV office and have benefited from a number of skills-enhancing activities, which have had a positive impact on the quality of HIV services. My health facility now provides comprehensive HIV care services.

Mabinty Tarawallie, HIV counsellor at Newton CHC, Western Area Rural, Freetown



Over 65 % of patients on the sites covered by the LABO 2S project in the Dosso region of Niger received viral load tests, despite the absence of technical facilities during the period, thanks to the support of transport of viral load samples.



+ of

65%

of HIV patients with suspected tuberculosis benefited from the GeneXpert test (compared with 27% before the project), as part of the LABO 2S project in Niger.

HIV and tuberculosis treatment sites have benefited from improved technical facilities, through material support, thanks to the LABO 2S project in Niger.

training courses in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone to improve the involvement of 82 community health workers from 27 health facilities in HIV prevention, counselling, testing and treatment compliance (PROSSAN).

HEALTH ISSUES

INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES



COVID-19

According to figures from the continent's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), by May 2nd 2023 Africa had recorded more than

12 million cases of infection since the start of the pandemic, and 256,542 deaths. The WHO estimated that these statistics were probably 7 times lower than the actual toll, mainly because of the large number of totally asymptomatic patients and under-testing. The situation has been under control since the wave of the Omicron variant in the winter of 2021-2022.

While the continent has been less affected in terms of deaths, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the difficulties faced by healthcare systems, particularly in the management of severe cases, access to oxygen, testing of suspected cases, the implementation of

protection, hygiene and prevention measures in healthcare facilities, and the vaccination coverage of the population, which is estimated at 31%. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has weakened healthcare systems, impacting the testing and treatment of HIV and tuberculosis.

To meet these needs, Solthis and its teams continued to mobilise in 2022 to support the national response in Niger and Mali, in particular through the ECoVAN, ECoVAM and COVACOM projects.

25 +2 500% +120 %

25 community health workers trained.

Compared with the national strategy, the COVACOM strategy has resulted in an increase of: 2,500% in the percentage of people suspected of COVID-19, who were tested ;

percentage of people with a fever treated for malaria.

6

COVACOM PROJECT Financial support: FIND

ullet

PROJECT ECOVAN/ECOVAM

Financial support: FIND PAYS : MALI / NIGER

COVID-19: INTRODUCTION OF ANTIGEN TESTS TO IMPROVE TESTING

In Mali, many people do not have access to health centres because of the distance and cost of transport, which means that Covid-19 cases are under-detected. The COVACOM operational research project assessed the feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of a community-based testing strategy for Covid-19 and malaria based on rapid antigen tests similar to the national strategy in the Fana health district.

- The rapid testing of Covid-19 Ag by community health workers (CHWs) enabled 79% of suspected patients to have access to diagnostic testing, whereas only 3% of patients in the referral group had access to diagnostic testing because of refusal or difficulties (lack of time and/or money) in getting to the health centre.
- The national strategy for triage and referral of patients suspected of having Covid-19 is not only ineffective, but also harmful, depriving patients who agree to be referred to the health centre of access to the primary care offered by community health workers in the event of fever.
- The strategy was very well accepted by the population, the community health workers and those in charge, helping to bolster confidence in the work of the community health workers.
- This strategy is cost-effective.
- The integration of community testing for Covid-19 and malaria is essential if community health workers are to tackle pandemic and endemic diseases.

HEALTH ISSUES

INFECTIOUS AND EMERGING DISEASES



TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of fatal infections and the leading cause of death among people living with HIV (PLHIV). WHO

has developed the End TB strategy, which, by 2035, aims to achieve a 95% reduction in mortality and a 90% reduction in the number of new cases compared with 2015. It requires better diagnosis and treatment, in particular of multi-drug resistant forms, to implement preventive strategies and to pursue collaboration between TB and HIV programmes. In 2021, according to WHO, 10.6 million people contracted tuberculosis and 1.6 million died, including 187,000 people living with HIV. These figures are rising, breaking with the progress made over the last 20 years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to conflict, population displacement and food insecurity. Access to rapid diagnosis remains limited

(38%), recommended preventive treatment among PLHIV and children exposed to TB is still not sufficiently implemented (42%) and the occurrence of TB exposes almost half of all families to catastrophic costs.

This disease is preventable and treatable. And yet we still have 3,000 people dying of tuberculosis every year.

D^r Mariama Mamoud, National Manager of the TB-Speed programme. 1.6 MILLION

1.6 million people (including 187,000 PLHIV) died of tuberculosis in 2021.



1.1 million children contracted tuberculosis worldwide in 2021, less than half have been diagnosed and treated. Barely a third of children exposed to tuberculosis benefit from preventive treatment (WHO, 2021).

Meeting the challenge of under-diagnosis of tuberculosis in children and people living with HIV.

COVID-19

In Sierra Leone, Solthis is involved in the TB-Speed project, which aims to improve TB testing and access to treatment for children under 15 by decentralising access to diagnostic facilities. In Niger, the Labo2S project is helping to improve TB testing for malnourished children, as well as TB testing and preventive treatment for people living with HIV.



COMBATING CHILDHOOD TUBERCULOSIS IN SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone is one of 30 countries severely affected by tuberculosis, with an estimated incidence of 285 per 100.000 inhabitants (Stop TB Partnership, 2021). Among those most at risk are people living with HIV (PLHIV) and children, who are often under-diagnosed and accounted for almost 11% of the national incidence in 2021 (2,600 children out of 24,000 cases). To meet this challenge, Solthis, with the support of the national tuberculosis programme in Sierra Leone, is implementing the TB-Speed project, which was launched in 2018 in 6 countries by a consortium led by the University of Bordeaux to test new strategies for testing children for tuberculosis, particularly in remote areas. Coming to an end in 2022, TB-Speed has made it possible to enhance the skills of healthcare staff and support health facilities (National Hospital and 4 health centres) in the Bo and Port Loko districts. In particular, this support has involved the supply of innovative diagnostic and treatment tools such as GeneXpert Ultra cartridges, which are more suitable for diagnosing tuberculosis. The TB- Speed project has improved the identification of childhood tuberculosis, increasing the number of suspected cases by 385% and the number of children treated by 242%.

HEALTH ISSUES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



Globally, a woman dies every two minutes from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth:

70% of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa (WHO, 2020). Africa also has the highest rate of infant mortality, with 72 deaths per 1,000 live births (WHO, 2020), well short of the United Nations target of 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. Within this infant mortality, neonatal mortality accounts for 27 deaths per 1,000. Here again, Africa has the highest rate in the world. Yet most of these deaths could be avoided if health systems as a whole were strengthened.



still die every day from largely preventable or curable causes. (WHO 2020)

Ensuring the availability and quality of the maternal, newborn and child health

Women's and children's health is a priority for Solthis. Our action is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the ambition to reduce the global maternal mortality rate to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. We are working to ensure the availability and quality of maternal, neonatal and child health services, particularly in Guinea and Niger, through the AIR-POP, IPOP and AIRE projects.





Our ultimate ambition is to use drones in all 8 regions of the Republic of Guinea, to make this project a reality. **99**

Dr Abbas Diakité (Executive Secretary CNLS)

LEARN MORE

PROJET ANRS 12407 AIR-POP

Financial support : ANRS-MIE

ANRS PROJECT
 12412 IPOP

Financial support :

ANRS-MIE, Rotary Foundation Guinée

PROJET
 AIRE – SAFIR
Financial support :

UNITAID and AFD

Niger Guinea

IMPROVING THE PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-INFANT TRANSMISSION OF HIV FROM BIRTH

In Guinea, only 22% of infants exposed to HIV receive an early HIV test, and it often takes several months for the results to be delivered, preventing early treatment, which is vital if they are to have a better chance of survival. The AIRPOP project explored the acceptability and modelled the impact of drone transport of samples taken from HIV-exposed infants throughout Conakry for same-day diagnosis. This strategy seems to be well accepted and is cost-effective, compared with transport by motorbike. The IPOP project, for its part, is exploring the benefits of setting up an easy-to-use machine so that carers themselves can make a rapid diagnosis in Conakry's largest maternity hospital, and thus optimise preventive treatment. By 2022, the departments were equipped and the staff trained so that care for women and their newborn babies can begin in 2023.

IDENTIFYING RESPIRATORY DIFFICULTIES IN CHILDREN

After the introduction of the pulse oximeter in 2021, the year 2022 of the AIRE project was mainly devoted to consolidating the gains made. Additional training sessions were organised to reduce the impact of staff turnover in the Integrated Health Centres (IHCs) and Reference Centres. Three quality control sessions on aggregated data were also held with the managers of the 40 project sites. Finally, an ancillary study, «Itinér/AIRE», on the care pathway for severe cases, was conducted in order to understand and explain the gaps in severe cases observed in the main study.

As the project enters its final year, advocacy and knowledge transfer activities have also been a priority in 2022, in line with Solthis' values of non-substitution and transition / scaling up.

Drone transport could provide access to rapid diagnosis to the **778** HIV-exposed infants born each year in Conakry's 33 maternity hospitals.

of newborns, infants and children eligible for pulse oxymeter have benefited in Niger.

national documents have been revised for integrating POs into IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness): the Guide to Supplying POs, the Scale-Up Plan and the Costed Operational Plan.

HEALTH ISSUES

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In West and Central Africa (WCA), access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

(SRHR) continues to come up against multiple obstacles: financial and geographical barriers, legal, administrative, socio-cultural factors, lack of information, gender inequalities, taboos around sexuality, poor quality of services, etc. While progress has been made on the main key indicators in this area in recent years, the trends remain extremely fragile and fall far short of the targets set, with 2030 (the deadline for achieving the SDGs) looming on the horizon and in many contexts we are witnessing a rise in conservatism on SRHR issues. For example, at the end of 2021, the rate of contraceptive use in WCA was 22% (compared with 63% worldwide), and the regional average for

early marriage was 39% (compared with 8% worldwide)¹. In addition, at the end of 2022, the WHO warned that the progress made to date on maternal mortality would stagnate², with the global rate being recognised as an indicator of the quality of care. Problems related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) account for 17% of deaths among adolescent girls³.

1/3

In WCA, only 1/3 of women have the opportunity to make autonomous decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights (UNFPA 2021). of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa are among young women aged 15 to 24.

In WCA, the teenage pregnancy rate is twice the world average

A PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH

Focusing services on users is one of the pillars of Solthis' work to better meet their needs. People in vulnerable situations and/or facing discrimination are particularly exposed to SRH problems. This is the case, for example, with adolescents and young people, or key populations. All too often, the services on offer remain largely generic and not individualized, resulting in a poor match between supply and needs. In this context, Solthis is helping carers to take better into account individual circumstances and to provide inclusive care that is part of more respectful and balanced care relationships. The organization also deploys a range of strategies to empower people as actors in their own SRH and to make the most of the knowledge they have acquired through experience.

This approach extends from communities to healthcare facilities, along a continuum of SRH care that meets the needs of people at every stage of their lives. This is illustrated by projects specifically targeting adolescents and young people: JADES in Niger, SANSAS in Senegal, PAJES in Guinea, and AGIR in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as projects specifically targeting the SRH needs of key populations: POUVOIR and AGIR in Côte d'Ivoire.



1, 3. UNFPA 2022 2. WHO 2022

HEALTH ISSUES

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Financial support: MAIRIE DE PARIS, AFD, EUROFINS FOUNDATION AND FONDATION DE FRANCE

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PAJES PROJECT

Financial support: L'INITIATIVE (EXPERTISE FRANCE)

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SANSAS PROJECT

Financial support: AFD, WITH CO-FINANCING FROM UNITAID, THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, THE LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE L'ORÉAL FUND FOR WOMEN AND DEPRODIVERSA SPAIN

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POUVOIR AND AGIR PROJECTS

Financial support: EXPERTISE FRANCE, AFD, MAIRIE DE PARIS, L'ORÉAL FUND FOR WOMEN

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EMPOWERMENT AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Raising awareness by and for young people

Raising awareness of SRHR issues among adolescents and young people remains at the heart of our efforts to promote sexual and reproductive health. Helping them to understand their rights, speak out and access the care they need involves educational talks, health education sessions, community action and social networking. These activities have an even greater impact when they are conducted by peers who, once trained, become the best allies for raising awareness of SRHR.

In Senegal, the SANSAS project trained 55 young leaders in SRHR and leadership in 2022. The film debates organized by our partner RAES, which include screening and community broadcasts of the TV series «C'est la Vie», followed by discussions between youth workers and presenters, have raised awareness among more than 1,700 youth workers. The SANSAS project also collaborated with other RAES projects (HelloAdo and 'POSITIFS') to produce additional multimedia content (podcasts, videos, posters) for young people, which helped to boost demand for stimulation activities.

In Niger, awareness-raising and mobilization activities for young health ambassadors from the JADES II project were carried out with a view to promoting SRH. As a result, 32 young health and NICT ambassadors from Niamey and Maradi were trained or retrained and in turn carried out 996 coaching sessions for their peers. The tools and messages on SRH developed with the young people and adolescents were distributed during awareness-raising sessions held in partnership with the health ambassadors: 38 film screenings on SRH adapted by the project were held. Cultural activities were carried out as part of the 2 health promotion campaigns in Niamey and Maradi.

Mobilizing an advocacy force

In addition to acquiring knowledge, it is essential to develop a strong advocacy force to bring the voices of young people to the highest level so that healthcare policies are adapted to their needs and act in favour of their rights.

The municipal forums for the promotion of SRHR organised in Guinea as part of the PAJES project were an opportunity to bring together 36 participants in the Kindia region in the presence of local authorities (Prefectural Health Director, Mayor of Kindia, local CSOs, religious leaders) and to lobby for the needs of adolescents, young people and vulnerable people to be taken into account in the various municipal health programmes in the region. The SANSAS project in Senegal also has a major advocacy component, implemented by our partner Equipop. In 2022, 6 «incubation labs» were organized at regional and national level to strengthen the empowerment and leadership of young people on SRHR issues. From these incubation labs, five local advocacy plans, one national plan and one knowledge transfer plan were developed with a validation process scheduled for April 2023.

Training to secure the future

Non-substitution and the transfer of knowledge are at the heart of Solthis' work, and training remains one of the most important aspects of our action. In 2022, in Niger, as part of the JADES II project, which ends at the beginning of 2023, 48 health workers were trained in SRHR and 31 received training in values clarification.

In Guinea, the PAJES project has trained 19 youth workers in specific facilitation techniques that they will be able to adapt and re-use with their peers. The training improved their knowledge of SRHR and the anatomy of the genital organs, which initially varied greatly from one participant to another, as well as their knowledge of quality facilitation/training.

In Senegal, 309 health professionals involved in the SANSAS project benefited from capacity-building sessions on SRHR, norms and representations and gender-based violence, following validation of the roadmaps by the district teams and validation of the training plan by the Mother and Child Health Department. Thanks to the RAES C'est La Vie kits, 273 teachers were also trained in SRHR for young people and communication techniques in the school environment.

Strengthening the healthcare offer

Health services are not always adapted to the specific needs of people, particularly young people or people in vulnerable situations. Strengthening the SRH service offer is therefore an essential part of any project.

As part of the JADES II project in Niger, 635 flyers were produced in 2022 and made available to target groups in order to better direct young people towards care facilities and strengthen the existing reference framework. In addition to the training component (see above), 3 inter-site meetings were organised to build the capacity of health workers and promote the exchange of best practice on young peoples' SRH.

In Senegal, the SANSAS project is devoting a large part of its work to this theme of strengthening healthcare provision. In 2022, this enabled 16,912 consultations to be carried out with adolescents and young people, both in health facilities and off-site with ENDA's mobile clinics. Two hundred and six clinic outings reached 7,138 adolescents and young people. Thirty per cent of these did not attend school or worked in the casual sector, 56% of these consulted for SRH needs other than STI treatment (contraception, advice and education), and 111 were offered family planning in the second half of the year by the mobile clinic. In 2022, the SANSAS project also developed a protocol for dealing with cases of gender-based violence (GBV). This protocol made it possible to identify, guide and refer 12 cases of GBV received in the points of service supported by the project.



HEALTH ISSUES

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

FOCUS ON POUVOIR ET AGIR PROJECTS

In Côte d'Ivoire, two SRHR projects began in mid-2022 with the aim of promoting this empowerment approach:

- the POUVOIR project, which aims to improve the SRHR of cisgender and trans sex workers (SWs);
- the AGIR project, which targets adolescents and young people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, to improve their knowledge of SRH and strengthen the expression of their rights.

During this first phase of the project, a number of participatory diagnoses were carried out with users and healthcare providers:

- a community diagnosis with SWs to deploy a suitable community strategy for the prevention and reduction of sexual risks (Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV/AIDS, Gender Based Violence, Unwanted Pregnancy) in the context of their professional activity;
- a diagnostic study among youth workers to identify and raise awareness of the factors hindering their power to act, with the aim of building collective responses to which the project can respond;
- an analysis of the SRH services on offer in 11 partner health facilities in order to draw up a roadmap for the improvements needed in the material and organizational conditions of SRH services to provide care adapted to the specific needs of SWs and young people.

Transformative workshops on representations, norms and practices relating to SRHR, the sexuality of young people and key populations, and risk behaviours were organized to help healthcare professionals question their own values and encourage mechanisms for transforming attitudes in order to promote a new positioning, a non-judgmental, non-discriminatory, gendersensitive welcome, attitudes and practices that encourage listening and confidentiality, and support the right to decide.

To promote a social and political environment that is more favourable to the SRHR of SWs and young people, an advocacy plan is being drawn up as part of a coalition approach and in conjunction with initiatives already underway by our partners in civil society (youth associations, identity associations) and institutions (national programmes).



We are here to fight violence at school. We organize discussion clubs with teenagers and young people to prevent violence in the school environment. We favour dialogue as a tool and the involvement of school management in making and implementing decisions. **yy**

Mariama Bilguissou Baldé, a 9th grade student and president of the Discussion Club (a ten-member board) at Collège Tafory in Kindia.





DROITS ET SANTÉ SEXUELS ET REPRODUCTIFS (DSSR)

Find out more about Solthis' positioning and strategy on sexual and reproductive health





Find out more about Solthis' positioning and gender strategy





357 health workers trained in the care SRH in Niger and Senegal.

Nearly 17,000 consultations for adolescents and young people, including 8,123 advanced strategy consultations via mobile clinics with the SANSAS project in Senegal.

996 peer coaching sessions led by 32 young health and ICT ambassadors, trained or retrained, in Niamey and Maradi, Niger.

HEALTH ISSUES

ONE HEALTH

Community players and local people have a growing understanding of the need for multisector collaboration between animal and human health in managing their problems and the active involvement of local governance bodies.

Jacques Mendy, presenter of THIELLAL project



The news of 2022 has been punctuated by issues associated with the One Health concept.

In May, the emergence of an epidemic of monkeypox in the United Kingdom took on an international dimension, and in September an Ebola epidemic occurred in Uganda, which had remained contained. In early 2023, Marburg virus disease emerged in Equatorial Guinea. Alongside these emerging disease issues, data on antimicrobial resistance testify to the seriousness of this problem. In 2019, 1,270,000 deaths are believed to be linked to this resistance. More recently in France, the contamination of soil, water and food by pesticides illustrates the extent to which our farming practices can disrupt ecosystems, with a knock-on effect on human and animal health. Finally, the possible consequences of climate

change on health are already being felt. All these health crises remind us the extent to which human health is more than ever linked to animal and human health issues and we need to anticipate their emergence.

To reduce these risks and be effective in the long term, we need to work at the interface between these areas and offer innovative solutions. This is the ambition of the «One Health» approach: to better understand to identify, prevent and respond to these emerging issues in order to contribute to the resilience of populations and systems. Acting on the determinants of health (One Health) for people, animals and the environment for an agro-ecological transition and better health.

While a global response to the One Health challenge is necessary, as illustrated by the creation of the Pandemic Fund, it is not enough on its own. Solthis and its partners in this area (AVSF in the lead, and Casades) believe it is essential to also act at the most local level, to work with communities and local players, to help raise awareness of the issues and prepare them to respond.

In 2022, Thiellal project in Senegal continued to carry out diagnostic studies and set up or revitalize One Health bodies at departmental and local level. These consultation frameworks, which bring together producers' and consumers' organizations, NGOs, research institutions, civil society organizations and local elected representatives, carry out awareness-raising, advocacy, experience-sharing and support activities for areas in transition. Specifically at local level, the integration of the One Health issues raised by the Thiellal project as part of the territorialization of public policies in Senegal has been envisaged by setting up committees to deal with issues relating to pesticides, diseases and medicines, as well as to hygiene and waste management.

The Dimitra clubs, communication forums created in the belief that endogenous solutions to community problems can be found through the commitment of the communities themselves, ensure that the opinions and thoughts of the various population groups are taken into account. By 2022, 15 villages will have been targeted in the 4 intervention communes.

Finally, the diagnostics carried out on messages promoting health and chemical products have led to the production of visual aids to illustrate the guides and presentation scenarios. Training sessions were organized for the 15 relays and facilitators, who then organized talks and home visits.

THIELLAL PROJECT Financial support: AFD

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direct beneficiaries

indirect beneficiaries

Talks: 80 for 2,014 people reached

Home visits: 241 for 999 people affected

Impact of the project: inclusion of new themes (sanitation, etc.), greater ownership of the project by the administrative and local authorities, community approach, as part of the top-down modelling phase of One Health Council.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCES



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PLAYERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMICS

In addition to the projects carried out by Solthis, technical assistance aims to meet the specific needs for technical expertise expressed by public and community structures in order to improve the quality of healthcare provision and support the demand for care.

Spotlight on one of our technical support services

Solthis has been selected by the Initiative (Expertise France) to support two Niger CSOs, SongES and MVS, in the development, implementation and evaluation of two pilot projects on preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and HIV self-testing (HIVST) for key populations.

The technical assistance helped to confirm the feasibility (situational analysis and feasibility study) of the two pilot projects, to define the implementation strategies, standards and procedures and training reference frameworks with the national partners, and to develop appropriate and contextualized operational plans.

Beyond the roll-out of the pilot projects, which is scheduled for 2023, the introduction and evaluation of these two innovations will help to confirm their relevance to HIV strategies in Niger and to consider/define strategies for scaling them up nationally, in order to feed into the Global Fund's C19RM and GC7 funding cycles in particular.

In a complementary way and in addition to the two innovations, there is a need to consider strengthening activities that will enable the provision of HIV prevention, testing and care to key populations in Niger to be extended in an appropriate and secure way.

These two innovations will have to be scaled up at national level under the leadership of the National AIDS and Hepatitis Control Programme (PNLSH). The involvement of all stakeholders, including the populations concerned, in defining the strategies and steering the scale-up will be essential. Strategies to ensure the integration of HIV self-testing and PrEP into existing systems and programmes, the delegation of tasks and complementarity with community services will be decisive factors in the success of scale-up.

Anthony Vautier, Head of Differentiated Services and Key Populations in the Solthis Technical Department









__OUR ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC WORK

Created by university doctors and supported by a scientific group of health and development experts, Solthis is developing numerous partnerships with research and public health institutes, university hospitals, universities and faculties, networks of partners, particularly in Africa, and with other humanitarian organizations. Since its creation, Solthis has participated in major international public health conferences.

Virtual Conference: «Empowerment of individuals and organizations: the importance of community approaches to health» 25 January 2022

Co-organized by AFD and Solthis, in collaboration with its associative partners in Côte d'Ivoire, France, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone, this virtual conference testifies to Solthis' commitment to community approaches to health that promote the empowerment of individuals and civil society organizations. Staff from Solthis and its partners presented their experiences of projects implementing approaches that promote the collective and collaborative construction of solutions for equal access to healthcare.

Watch the replay of the conference

AFRAVIH 2022 From 6 April 2022 to 9 April 2022

The 11th International Francophone Conference of AFRAVIH was an opportunity to present the results of the ATLAS project. With a stand, posters and a symposium, the ATLAS teams and their partners reported on the four years of distribution of HIV self-testing kits. The conference also provided an opportunity to present the AIRPOP study during a presentation.

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See the ATLAS symposium and posters and scientific publications

ICFP - International Family Planning Conference / From 14 November 2022 to 17 November 2022

Solthis attended the 6th International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Bangkok, Thailand. A «flash» oral presentation of a poster and a preformed panel co-moderated by Solthis and RAES, «Analysis of sexual and reproductive health service provision for adolescents and young people in 2 regions of Senegal», provided an opportunity to present the SANSAS project.

Discover the SANSAS poster







SEE OUR ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS



OUR ADVOCACY WORK

Thanks to its projects in West Africa and its scientific base, as well as its links with French and international institutions, Solthis develops advocacy actions based on the analysis of its projects and research results. The aim of this advocacy is twofold:

- scaling up projects that have proved their worth,
- sharing its experience and that of its partners with the international community to improve healthcare policies and the operation of international initiatives.

Solthis also contributes to raising the awareness of French public authorities and international institutions about their role in global health through its participation in groups of organizations involved in health and international solidarity, such as Collectif Santé Mondiale and Coordination Sud.

Strengthening advocacy actions in countries of operation and in France

On 4^{th} April, Solthis, in partnership with AFD, organized a conference to discuss the challenges of scaling up and sustaining pilot health projects.



Replays and summary are available here.

At the same time, the association is continuing to strengthen its teams and partners in order to deploy advocacy initiatives that will enable the practical application of this strategy of sustaining and scaling up projects to projects developed, through feedback workshops, experience sharing in the countries where the projects are carried out, etc.

The teams also work alongside civil society in France and in the countries in which they operate to advocate around the issues of HIV, tuberculosis, SRHR, vaccination against hepatitis B at birth and vaccination against HPV to prevent cervical cancer.

Mobilising for global health

Improving the availability of diagnostics so that people are no longer treated «blindly».

Solthis drew on its experience of deploying the ATLAS project's HIV self-test to promote this self-care approach, enabling its inclusion in national testing strategies in the countries where the project was implemented, and then extended the self-care approach to other countries in the region.

Solthis has also supported Mali and Niger in testing the use of COVID rapid detection tests, confirming the presence of the disease in these countries among the population.

On the strength of this experience, Solthis and its partners are pressing **for the deployment of diagnostic resources in West Africa**, particularly in neglected areas, to improve patient care and avoid treating patients without having identified the cause of the disease.

More resources for health in international solidarity funding

Solthis joined with other organizations to call on the French public authorities and ask for a greater share of health funding in France's official development assistance budget, by approaching the presidential candidates and then President Emmanuel Macron, through several initiatives. The organization continues to promote an approach based on strengthening national health systems.

Mobilization to defend women's rights

Solthis works on a daily basis to combat violence against women

and girls and give them access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, through projects aimed at improving the social, legal and political environment and empowering women and girls: POUVOIR, AGIR in Côte d'Ivoire, SANSAS in Senegal, PAJES in Guinea and JADES2 in Niger.



On 8th March, the organization highlighted the major challenges faced by women: domination in relationships, taboos and stigmatization in their communities and in healthcare, lack of information, failure to respect their sexual and reproductive health rights, and gender-based violence that hinders and undermines their health (harassment, non-

Solthis

consensual sexual relations, unwanted and early pregnancies, sexual mutilation, gynecological and obstetric violence).

On 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Solthis took part in the #CHAQUENONCOMPTE campaign.

Solthis has also teamed up with Canal + to raise awareness of the fight against HIV/AIDS and the risks of infection among women and young girls in West and Central Africa, by repeatedly broadcasting a spot on the CANAL+ Afrique channels during the 1 month 1 cause operation.

_ FINANCIAL REPORT

KEY FIGURES

The year 2022 was marked by the end of the ATLAS project, supported by Solthis from 2018 to 2022, which enabled the deployment of HIV self-tests in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. Solthis has also renewed a programme agreement with the Agence Française de Développement for the 1st quarter of 2022, and has started up new projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sierra Leone. E 9.7 MILLION budget achieved in 2022



Solthis' resources in 2022 come from grants and financial contributions from our public and private partners, donations from the general public and the growing activity of technical assistance. Solthis continues to work on diversifying its sources of funding, by strengthening and developing new financial partnerships, which are essential for the momentum of our projects and the strengthening of our business model.

SOURCE OF FUNDS IN 2022 89% Grants and financial contributions

Technical

assistances

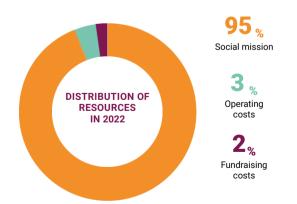
0.37 % Donations

0.6% Other products

USE OF FUNDS

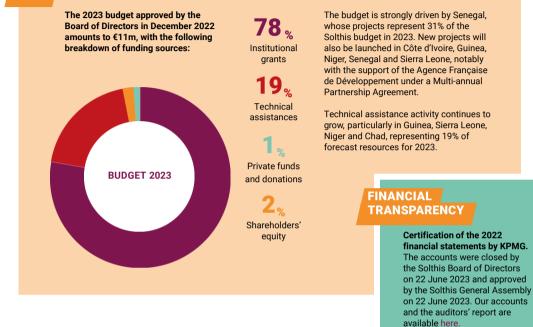
The 2022 funds can be broken down as follows:

- The social mission includes expenditure incurred on operational activities relating to activities to strengthen health systems and services, operational research and advocacy, as well as support for operations.
- **Fundraising costs** correspond to expenses incurred in the search for public and private funds.
- Operating costs mainly cover the costs of the association's head office, which oversees the operational activities of the country teams, internal control and the proper use of resources. They also enable us to liaise with our academic, institutional and associative partners.



For every 100 euros spent, 95 euros went to social missions, 3 euros to the association's operating costs and 2 euros to fundraising.

OUTLOOK





THANKS TO ALL OUR PARTNERS





HEALTH IS A RIGHT Having access to it is vital

Let's act together





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