



TPE ADVIH

HIV self-testing in Côte d'Ivoire: nationwide roll-out of an innovative tool to improve access to testing for most-at-risk populations

After decades of screening limited to offers within health structures, community screening strategies have more recently enabled demedicalization, but still do not reach the hardest-to-reach populations. HIVST contributes to this dynamic by making it possible to go further in terms of access to testing, while empowering the user.

- In Côte d'Ivoire, the HIV epidemic has a prevalence of 1.82% in the general population (240,000 adult women vs. 120,000 adult men).
- Key populations: Sex workers (SW) (4.8%), men who have sex with men (MSM) (7.7%) and drug users (DU) (3.4%), who account for the majority of new infections.
- 96% of people living with HIV (PLWHIV) diagnosed have access to treatment BUT those most at risk of HIV infection remain beyond the reach of testing services.

KEY INFORMATION

- 🕒 **Project duration:** 24 months (November 2023 - September 2025)
- 👤 **Beneficiaries:** High HIV prevalence and/or hard-to-reach populations
- € **Source of funding:** FID
- 🗨️ **Partners :** National AIDS Control Program
- 📍 **Country of intervention :** Côte d'Ivoire

OBJECTIVES

General objective: To support the implementation of the National HIV Strategic Plan 2021-2025 through ongoing **technical assistance** (TA) to the National AIDS Control Program.

Specific objectives:

S01: Support progressive national scaling-up in relevant health services and at community level for priority populations.

S02: Support the development, regulation, accessibility and quality of self-testing in the private sector.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Differentiated testing services are improved with HIV self-testing and contribute positively to national anti-HIV objectives.
- Access to free HIV self-testing for priority populations is extended nationwide, while ensuring a system that supports the link to confirmation and access to care.
- HIV self-testing is available to the general population at **an affordable price** in private pharmacies, with quality guarantees and communication on treatment linking devices.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Specify the timeframe and priorities for scaling up (progressive coverage).
- Harmonize and expand community-based dispensing approaches for key populations and their networks.
- Support the introduction of HIV self-testing in the private sector (pharmacies).
- To model the provision of HIV self-testing in health services (STI and HIV consultations), taking into account the structural barriers observed.
- Co-development of detailed scaling plan (months 1 to 6).
- Support for the effective deployment of HIV self-testing (months 7 to 20).
- Technical support for the National AIDS Control Program to monitor, measure, analyze and evaluate scaling-up and share results (months 1 to 24).
- Mobilize the necessary external resources.



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