

PUTTING AN END TO PAEDIATRIC AIDS IN RIP+ MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Strengthening advocacy for support for children and adolescents living with HIV within the Ivorian Network of Organizations of People Living with HIV (RIP+)

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BACKGROUND

In Côte D'Ivoire, achievement of the 95-95-95 targets shows inequalities between adults and children in the 1st and 3rd 95s. For the 1st 95, **56%** (children), **57%** (adolescents) and **81%** (adults). For the 3rd 95, **71%** (children), **72%** (adolescents), **85%** (adults). Only **44%** (children living with HIV) know their serostatus, compared with **89%** (women). Out of **100%** of children who know their serostatus and are on ART, **34%** have had their viral load suppressed. These disparities are reflected in the fact that funding is almost exclusively directed towards adults, low level of political commitment to the issue of children and adolescents, low level of mobilization of domestic resources, and low level of commitment of adolescents and young people to the issue.

Côte d'Ivoire has fully embraced the Global Alliance's initiative to end AIDS in children by 2030.

To encourage community involvement, RIP+ is mobilizing people living with HIV to support the government in implementing the Global Alliance's recommendations, through a project entitled **"Putting pediatric HIV and community advocacy in Côte d'Ivoire at the heart of the action: Strengthening advocacy to support children and adolescents living with HIV within the Ivorian Network of Organizations of People Living with HIV (RIP+)"**.

RIP+ is committed to making the issue of pediatric HIV central to the work of its organizations.

METHODS

- The project is in line with Côte D'Ivoire's adherence to the Global Alliance's initiative to end pediatric AIDS in children by 2030. A five-pronged priority action plan is currently underway, involving both the public and private sectors. Actions are therefore planned in this direction.
- The Minister of Health read out a statement at the launch of the alliance in Dares Salam, pledging to put an end to pediatric AIDS in Côte D'Ivoire.
- The Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage, through the National AIDS Control Program (PNLS), is implementing the pediatric plan with its partners, including UNAIDS and RIP+.
- The community action plan implemented by RIP+ is based on the national priority action plan;
- The project was presented to the national entity and NGO members of RIP+;
- The national AIDS control program participates in project monitoring meetings and contributes to finding solutions to the difficulties encountered;
- The project brings together all the Ministry of Health's partners to gain a better appreciation of current advocacy initiatives, with a view to better addressing its national advocacy plan;
- Through the project, RIP+ and UNAIDS take into account the commitment of the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire to the elimination of pediatric AIDS.



Project follow-up meeting with stakeholders (RIP+, PNLS, ONUSIDA)

RESULTS



Training of 32 young change-maker leaders from RIP+ member CSOs to take action in their respective communities to influence policy.

After **3** months of project implementation, RIP+ has carried out the following actions:

1 kick-off meeting with partners, **1** webinar presenting the project to member organizations, **1** monitoring and evaluation plan, **1** action plan on community response and advocacy on pediatric HIV, **5** coordination team meetings and **1** stakeholder meeting.

In addition, **1** mapping files sent to RIP+ member organizations are being completed, and **32** young leaders, change agents and advocacy promoters have been trained. They will carry out community mobilization actions against stigmatization, discrimination and self-stigmatization to influence policies such as the adoption of the law on Reproductive Health and other practices that hinder initiatives to end pediatric AIDS in Côte D'Ivoire. RIP+ participates in meetings of the national Technical Working Group (TWG) on Pediatric HIV.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGENDA

During project implementation, a situational analysis of 10 RIP+ member CSOs is planned to take into account their organizational needs in terms of advocacy targeting children and adolescents.

- The 10 selected RIP+ member CSOs will benefit from capacity-building on child and adolescent issues.
- Children, adolescents and youth cells will be set up within CSOs to facilitate the participation of children and adolescents in activities, strategies and decision-making concerning them.
- The project will enable communities to intensify and complete screening GAPS, community follow-up actions and those related to viral load in the different regions by implementing differentiated services in the community and promoting the achievement of the 3x95;
- Through advocacy, the project will be able to encourage decisions and directives that can force the private sector to adhere to and take into account the national pediatric action plan in their actions to achieve the 3x95 target;
- Communities will be able to monitor indicators and identify bottlenecks through the CLM

LESSON LEARNED

- ✓ Leadership on pediatric HIV must be entrusted to organizations and networks run by PLHIV communities;
- ✓ Young community leaders must provide leadership and advocacy on issues that concern them;
- ✓ Domestic resources must be sufficiently mobilized to address the issue of HIV among children, adolescents and young people;
- ✓ Empowerment projects must be developed for the households of PLWHA adults, children, adolescents and young people to reduce their vulnerability Côte d'Ivoire