

Edition #4 — November 2024

Key L'Initiative data

Focus on

**L'Initiative's support
to HIV response**

2011-2024





1 • Context and key data¹ on HIV/AIDS worldwide and in L'Initiative-eligible countries (2023)

Context overview



The spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) continues to pose a major global public health challenge, especially in low-income countries. In 2022, one person died every minute from AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Without treatment, AIDS leads to opportunistic infections and diseases as the immune system deteriorates. While access to ART has improved, there is still much to be done to eradicate the pandemic, including facilitating access to health services for certain population groups.

Despite these obstacles and the absence of a preventive or curative vaccine, countries that invest heavily in a coordinated, collective response have seen promising progress. L'Initiative aligns with the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026, which calls on political, social and economic actors, as well as people living with HIV (PLHIV), to mobilize against the pandemic.



UNAIDS identifies the five main key population groups that are particularly vulnerable to HIV and often lack access to adequate services as:

Men who have
sex with men

Transgender
people

Sex
workers

People who use
or inject drugs

Prisoners and people
in prison settings



Since the
beginning of
the epidemic

88.4
million

(71.3 – 112.8M)
people have become
infected with HIV

42.3
million

(35.7 – 51.1M)
people have died
of AIDS

-69%
deaths

related to AIDS since
the peak in 2004

And -51% since
2010 as a result
of consistent
investments over
two decades.

¹ Increase in TB cases and TB-related deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic (who.int)

General data in 2023²**39.9 million****(36.1 – 44.6M)**

people living with HIV globally,
17.8% of whom are in
L'Initiative-eligible countries

630,000

AIDS-related deaths in 2023,
including 170,000 TB-related deaths

≈ 10 million

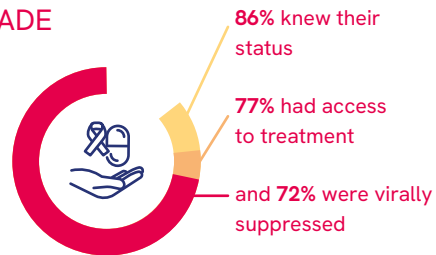
people living with HIV did not
have access to antiretroviral
therapy in 2023

1.3 million

new infections, of which 225,000 are in countries eligible for L'Initiative funding. This has reduced by 38% compared to 2010. However, progress is still far from the target of fewer than 200,000 new infections by 2030

CARE CASCADE

It is estimated
that in 2023 of
all people living
with HIV³:



Data specific to children and older people



Although children only accounted for 4% of all people living with HIV in 2021, this age group represented 15% of HIV-related deaths. Only **57% of children living with HIV are on ARV treatment**, compared to 77% of adults⁴.

9.9 million

people living with HIV are aged 50 or over and are at increased risk of major comorbidities – hypertension, diabetes, hepatitis B and C and cervical cancer

Vertical HIV transmission data



Global data in 2023 : **84% of pregnant women living with HIV** received antiretroviral drugs to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, compared to 68.5% in L'Initiative-eligible countries⁵.

It is estimated that vertical transmission among children born to HIV-positive mothers in the past 12 months is 10% globally, compared to 17.3% in L'Initiative-eligible countries.

² aidsinfo.unaids.org³ who.int⁴ unaids.org⁵ idem



2 • L'Initiative's support to the HIV response: an overview of interventions (2011-2024*)

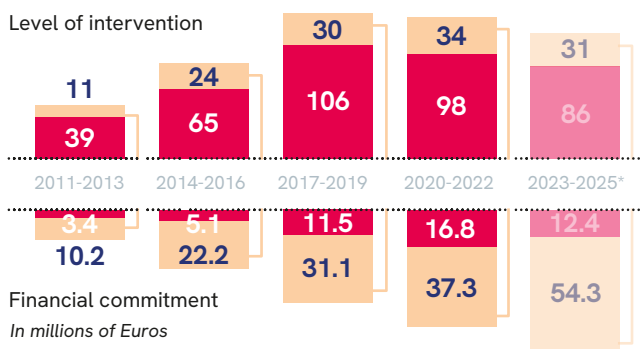
*Data as of 30/09/24 for the three-year periods and the "Key Takeaways" box

L'Initiative scales up and strengthens its support to the HIV response

L'Initiative's commitment to the fight against HIV has been steadily increasing since the first three-year term of activity (2011-2013), both in terms of the number of interventions – projects and technical assistance (TA) – and the amounts committed to the HIV response.

Evolution of commitments and level of interventions funded by intervention type to respond to HIV

■ TA
■ Projects

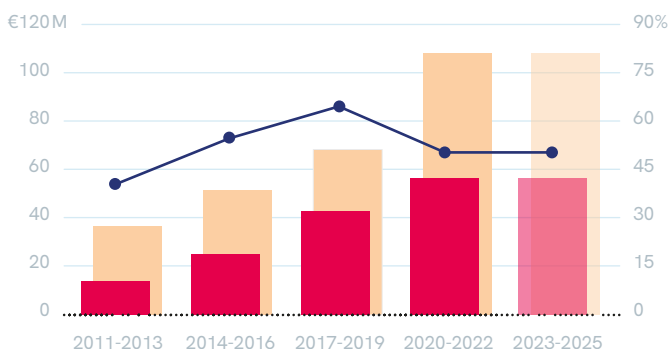


*2023-2025 three-year period underway: data as of 17/10/24

Evolution of funding allocated by three-year period to the HIV response in relation to total amounts allocated by L'Initiative

In million of Euros
■ Budget for TAs and Projects on HIV
■ Projects total three-year budget

As a percentage
● HIV proportion of the total



L'Initiative's intervention budgets have been increasing over the different three-year periods. The budget allocation for HIV increased significantly between 2011 and 2019 (from 40% to nearly 65% of the overall budget for interventions supported by L'Initiative). During the 2020-2022 period there was a slight change of direction due to rebalancing towards interventions responding to other pandemics and to health systems strengthening.

Interventions concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and targeted at the most affected and vulnerable countries

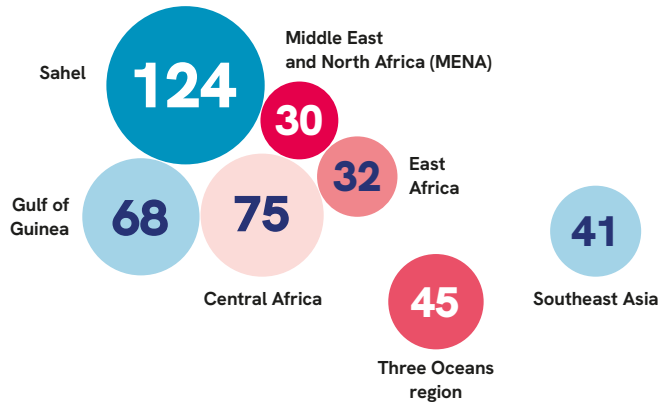
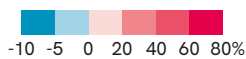
Regional distribution of L'Initiative's projects and TAs (number of interventions) and changes in HIV prevalence in intervention regions (only regions that include L'Initiative's eligible countries over the period)

Over the 2011-2023 period

Number of TA assignments and projects

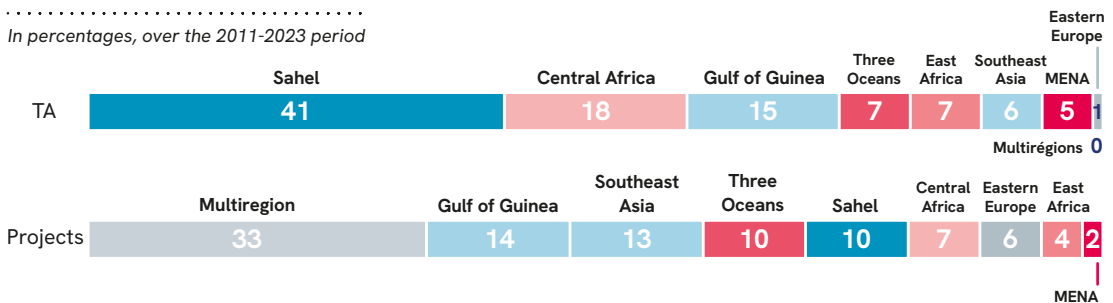


Changes in prevalence⁶



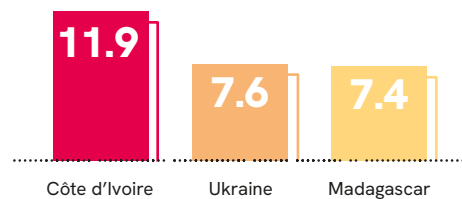
Total budget for interventions

In percentages, over the 2011-2023 period



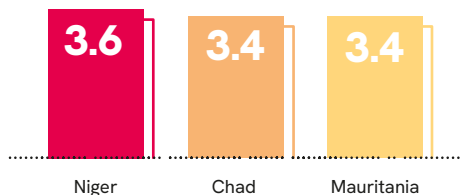
The 3 countries with the highest level of commitment for projects⁷ responding to HIV (since 2012, excluding multi-country)

In millions of Euros



The 3 countries with the highest commitment from the Expertise Channel focused on responding to HIV (since 2012, excluding multi-country)

In millions of Euros



⁶ Percentage change in the number of people living with HIV between 2011 and 2023 by region of intervention

⁷ OR, VP and HSS calls for projects and L'Accélérateur projects

FOCUS ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)



Over the last three-year period (2020-2022), 20 LDCs (including 13 from Francophone Africa) were supported by L'Initiative through one of its intervention modalities. 64 TA assignments (65% of HIV TAs) and 19 projects (nearly 56% of HIV projects) supported by L'Initiative for an amount of €34.7 million were implemented in LDCs between 2020 and 2022. This trend continues during the current period (2023-2025), with already €43.8 million committed for TA and HIV projects in LDCs.



Key takeaways

Between 2011 and 2024, L'Initiative:



Committed nearly €204M

to responding to HIV across all intervention modalities



Supported 130 projects

responding to HIV for an amount of €155 million. This represents nearly 48% of the committed budget for projects supported by L'Initiative (*L'Accélérateur, Projects Channel - vulnerable populations, health systems strengthening and operational research*)



Delivered 394 technical assistance assignments

with a financial commitment of €49.2 million, which represents more than 36.7% of the total budget for agreed assignments under the Expertise Channel



Increased financial support to the HIV response

Across all intervention modalities, financial support to the HIV response has increased fourfold between the first (2011-2013) and the most recent period (2020-2022), from €13.6M to €54M



3 • HIV response projects funded by L'Initiative



An average annual budget
that is consistently growing

1.1
million euros
2021

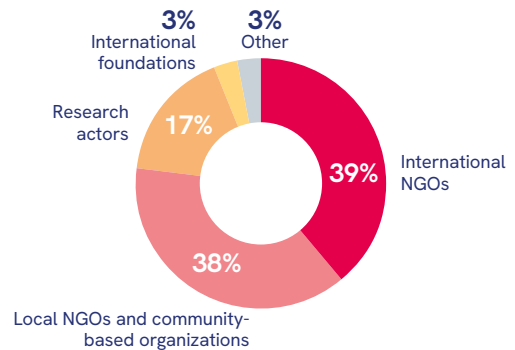
1.2
million euros
2022

1.8
million euros
2023

Civil society and the response to HIV: L'Initiative's historic and sustainable support to NGOs

Distribution of projects by type of project lead (2011-2023)

8 out of 10 HIV projects funded by L'Initiative are implemented by civil society organizations (local NGOs, including community-based organizations and French NGOs/foundations with an international focus). Between 2011 and 2023, **€106 million** were committed to support civil society organizations (CSOs) to respond to HIV.



Operational research and HIV

L'Initiative supports scientific projects that have a significant impact on the HIV response and are put into practice at the country level. The purpose of this funding is to support and promote innovative solutions developed by projects, to ensure their efficiency in a given context and to promote their integration into national or international strategies.

The 2021 call for projects focused on **cervical cancer**: 3 projects were selected in 2022, which focused on both HIV and cervical cancer:

"Cervical cancer screening among women living with HIV in Ghana"
with Noguchi Institute in Ghana

"Optimizing cervical cancer screening approaches following positive HPV tests among women living with HIV in Cameroon"
with IRD in Cameroon

"Combatting cervical cancer in clinics and communities in Cameroon (C3UC3)"
with Institut Bouisson Bertrand de Montpellier in Cameroon

Since 2014,

7 HIV research projects

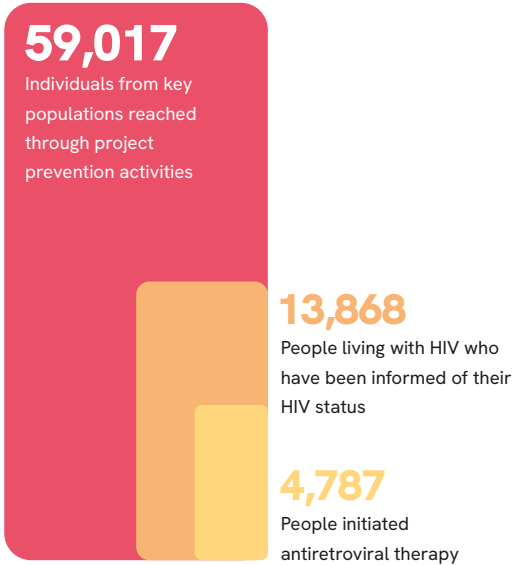


have been funded, with a total budget of **€6.4M**

Overview of the outcomes of HIV intervention projects in 2023⁸

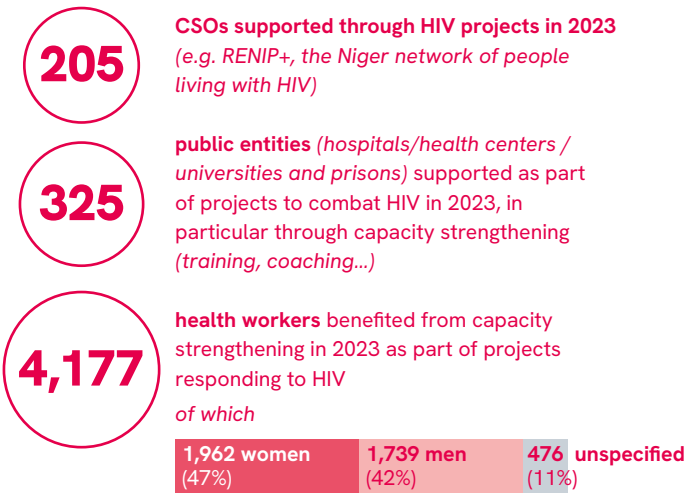
End beneficiaries of projects

L'Initiative's active projects have contributed to facilitating access to care, strengthening the capacities of health facilities and their staff, and changing health and institutional environments to improve HIV care and support.



Capacity strengthening

L'Initiative's active projects have helped facilitate access to care, strengthen the capacity of health facilities and their staff, and transform health and institutional settings to improve HIV care and support.



⁸ Indicators from THEMA and accountability indicator data covering 38 HIV and co-infections projects that had activity during the year 2023

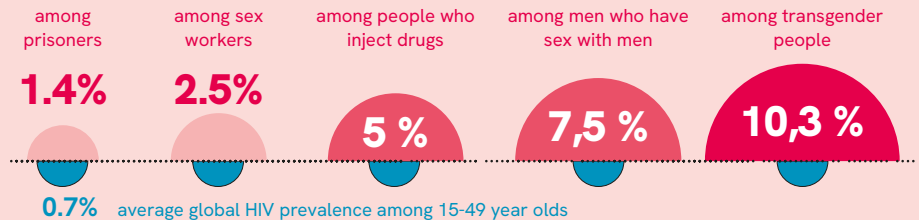
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Equitable access to testing and treatment : a priority for key populations most at risk of HIV

Key populations

Key populations are more severely affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic and often face limited access to health services. Widespread social rejection and discrimination, violence and harassment by state and non-state actors, restrictive laws and policies, and the criminalization of certain behaviors or practices increase their vulnerability and hinder their access to health services. Meaningful involvement of key populations is essential to ensure the delivery of quality services that meet their specific needs - they are central to an effective HIV response.

Globally, the average HIV prevalence among 15-49 year olds is 0.7%, yet among key populations it is:



LGBTQIA+ populations

41 HIV-related projects have supported at least one LGBTQIA+ population group since 2012, with a total funding commitment of **€46 million**.

Examples of projects: CohMSM research projects providing access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for men who have sex with men: acceptability and feasibility study in community clinics in West Africa.

In 2023, ongoing projects with LGBTQIA+ populations as their ultimate beneficiaries reported the following results:

7,061

People living with HIV who found out their HIV status

1,221

People initiated antiretroviral therapy

1,131

People on antiretroviral therapy with an undetectable viral load

Accelerator projects responding to HIV in 2023



5 projects



€6.7M

as part of L'Initiative's new intervention area, L'Accélérateur, projects are actively responding to blind spots in HIV policies:



L'Accélérateur: what is it?

For more information, please refer to L'Initiative's website

→ initiative.expertisefrance.fr/lacceleateur

Ukraine emergency fund

Since the expansion of the war in Ukraine, more than 13.5 million people, including people living with HIV and member of key populations, have been internally displaced or forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries, often losing access to health services in the process. HIV and TB prevention and diagnosis services have been disrupted, resulting in some people stopping treatment^{9 10}.

In response to this challenge, L'Accélérateur funded **5 projects** through its Ukraine Emergency Fund for a total of **€5M**.

HIV and stigma/discrimination

The "Community response to stigma and discrimination and legislative reform in West and Central Africa (WCA)" project, led by UNAIDS, aims to promote access to inclusive, human rights-focused HIV services for key populations, adolescents, young women and girls in 6 WCA countries: **€1,921,519**.

⁹ theglobalfund.org

¹⁰ unaids.org



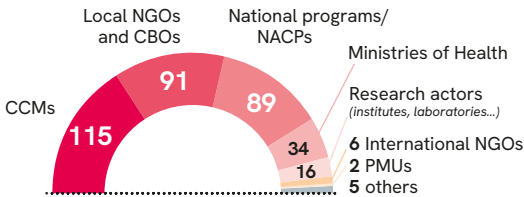
4 • L'Initiative's technical assistance in the HIV response

The average committed budget for technical assistance assignments focused on HIV and AIDS increased by **more than 57%** between the last two triennia, from **€108,853** (2017-2019) to **€171,151** (2020-2022).

1,216 technical expert roles were deployed through HIV TAs. The total doubled between the 2014-2016 period and the 2020-2022 one.

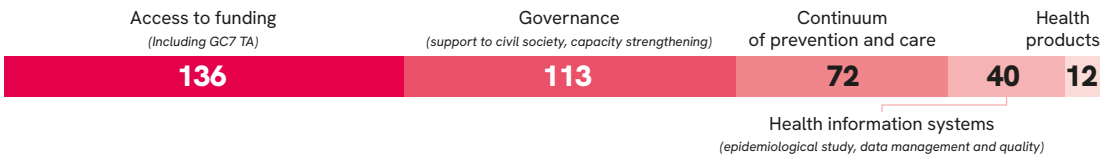
Technical support provided mainly to national coordination mechanisms, national programs, and local civil society

Type of TA recipients



CCMs and national programs are primary beneficiaries of technical expertise aimed at strengthening national HIV response strategies and supporting funding applications to the Global Fund. Countries receive focused support, particularly within the framework of HIV and HIV-TB grant application processes to the Global Fund.

TA thematic areas



Looking back at GC7: unprecedented support to strengthen funding requests in the fight against HIV

Under the Global Fund's new funding cycle (GC7 — implemented in most countries between 2024 and 2026), L'Initiative provided **47 GC7 TAs** with an HIV/AIDS component. They include reviews of national strategic plans (NSPs), support to write funding requests and support with grant-making for a committed value of **€9.4 million**, with **252 technical expert roles**. Across all L'Initiative-eligible countries, the total amount for GC7 HIV allocations is **US \$2,433,882,006**.



A concentration of support focused on GC7 grants (including at least one HIV component) in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the Sahel region, the Gulf of Guinea, and Central Africa.



| | Volume of TA assignments | Budget |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Sahel | 17% | €2.5M |
| Gulf of Guinea | 24% | €2.5M |
| Central Africa | 24% | €2.4M |



5 • Targeted, innovative efforts around priority themes in the response to HIV

Highlights of L'Initiative's HIV/AIDS support

Pediatric HIV management support

Support to combat antiretroviral resistance through a call for projects focused on "Resistance"

For the first time, L'Initiative supports research projects specifically focused on HIV in connection with human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancers associated with this co-infection

Launch for the pediatric call for expressions of interest

2012



2015



2021



2024



2014

Support for the prevention and care of adolescents, girls and young women through the adolescents call for projects

2018-2019

Project support for access to PrEP (preexposure prophylaxis). Support for the care of older people living with HIV (VIHeillir project) and comorbidities

2022

Cervical cancer prevention and screening support for women living with HIV. Provision of the cervical cancer toolkit for program experts

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HIV across age groups

Overview of growing older and aging with HIV

According to UNICEF, there has been little progress in recent years in HIV prevention and treatment for children, adolescents and pregnant women. Globally, **only half of all children living with HIV are receiving treatment.**

Among adolescent populations ages 10 to 19, **AIDS remains the leading cause of death in Sub-Saharan Africa**, and the second leading cause of death in the world.

At the same time, thanks to advances in medical and scientific research and the widespread use of effective ART, AIDS-related mortality has significantly declined. **People living with HIV are increasingly recognized as having a long-term, chronic condition – one that must be managed over time, including as they age.**

L'Initiative's work around "growing older and aging with HIV more effectively"

Projects Channel

Since 2012,
33 projects have been
funded, with a total
amount of **€35.9M**



→ 10 projects

that primarily target children and combatting pediatric HIV

→ 20 projects

primarily targeting adolescents and young adults

→ 3 projects

targeting older people that integrate comorbidities and aging management across clinical and community settings

Projects results in 2023¹²

Data on adolescents and young adults

11,951

Adolescents and young adults from key populations benefited from HIV prevention activities

1,110

Adolescents and young adults living with HIV who have been informed of their HIV status

491

Adolescents and young adults initiated antiretroviral therapy

Data on older populations

VIHeillir project in Cameroon and Senegal:

1,039 older people benefited from health services (prevention, testing, treatment)

including 734 women in 2023

Expertise Channel

Since 2012,
€3M committed
including



→ 18 TAs

mainly targeting children (e.g.: support for the prevention of parent-to-child transmission, support to conduct a situational analysis of pediatric HIV care, etc.)

+ **1 toolkit** designed for TA experts, particularly those from West and Central Africa

→ 16 TAs

primarily targeting adolescents and young adults (e.g. support to conduct a bio-behavioral study (IBBS), support to develop a plan for transitioning to Dolutegravir-based ARVs)

→ 2 TAs

focused on older people

¹² THEMA indicator source

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HIV among women and girls

Overview of the issue

The health status of individuals and their access to health services are largely determined by the social gender norms in their environment. Depending on the geographic location and social context, the care pathway differs depending on whether you are a woman or a man. Gender discrimination (family, cultural, political constraints) can be major barriers to testing, to the quality of care experience, to treatment adherence, and even the way that professional health interventions are structured.

The links between HIV, human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancers are well established: immunocompromised women are more vulnerable to HPV infection, which can progress to cervical cancer.

L'Initiative's interventions to combat HIV among young women and girls

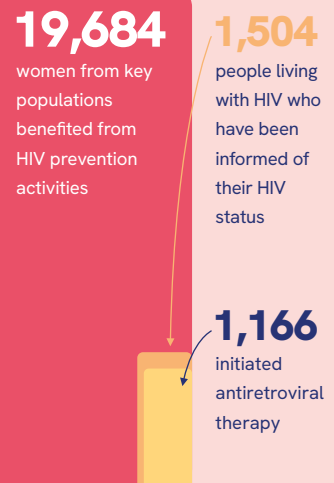
Since 2012, **50 HIV projects specific to women and adolescent girls** have been committed for a budget of **€60.9 million**, including 2 phases of the "Access to PrEP for women" project in Morocco and Mauritius.

Since 2012, **32 HIV TAs** dedicated to women and adolescent girls have been committed for a budget of **€3.5 million**.

Project results in 2023¹³

Of the interventions that specifically target women:

- 3 operational research projects for the 2022 call for operational research projects focused on HIV/HPV co-infection and associated cancers. In addition with **6 other projects focused on cervical cancer** and HIV funded by L'Initiative with a budget of **€10.6 million**.
- **5 TA assignments focused on cervical cancer** and HIV were funded by L'Initiative for a budget of **€0.5 million**. For example: 1 expert assignment to Cambodia to set out and develop a national action plan for the screening and treatment of cervical cancer and papillomavirus infection among women living with HIV.



¹³ THEMA indicator source

Through L'Accélérateur, L'Initiative is also funding phase 2 of the SUCCESS project (Scale Up Cervical Cancer Elimination), which aims to strengthen secondary prevention through HPV screening and the treatment of precancerous lesions by thermal ablation. The project's target is to screen 175,000 women, 40% of whom are living with HIV, in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo and Burundi. (Budget of €5M)

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Gender projects (DAC 1 and 2)¹⁴

In line with the SDGs and Expertise France's gender strategy, L'Initiative applies the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) aid gender equality policy marker in projects it supports.

This scoring system is based on 3 values (0: does not target gender equality / 1: significant objective / 2: principal objective).

2

Principal objective

1

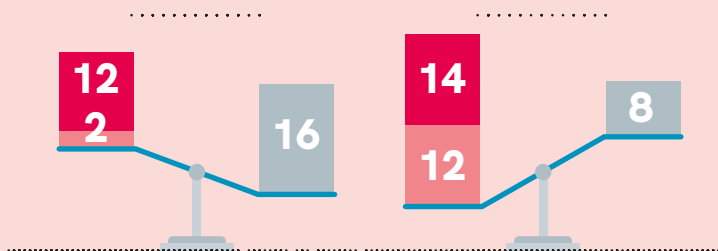
Significant objective

0

Not targeted on equality

Three-year period
2017-2019

Three-year period
2020-2022



Since the 2017 – 2019 three-year period, **there has been positive progress in gender mainstreaming** in HIV projects.

¹⁴ DAC gender equality policy marker – OECD

To find out more



For more information on the HIV-focused projects supported by L'Initiative: see [L'Initiative's website](#)



To consult [previous issues](#) of the Key Figures of L'Initiative



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L'INITIATIVE

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DANS LE CADRE DE
LA CONTRIBUTION
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