



OPP-ERA

ENDING HIV/AIDS THROUGH
BETTER PATIENT FOLLOW-UP:
INCREASE ACCESS TO
VIRAL LOAD TESTING



OPP-ERA PROJECT CLOSURE GUINEA - JULY 2019

A project implemented by:



A project supported and funded by:



With the support of Guinea from:

The Ministry of Health, Donka National Hospital and National Institute of Public Health

THE OPP-ERA PROJECT

4 INTERVENTION COUNTRIES



CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVE THE UNAIDS 3rd 90

Performing viral load testing for people living with HIV makes it possible to monitor the effectiveness of their antiretroviral treatment and can warn of treatment failure and the need to improve treatment adherence. An undetectable viral load also helps to avoid the risk of transmission. This exam is recommended for any HIV patient on ARV treatment. However, access to it is still very limited in sub-Saharan African countries.

Since its inception, the OPP-ERA project has been part of the global strategy to respond to HIV/AIDS, including the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets, and particularly the "3rd 90": to achieve the target of 90% of patients on antiretroviral treatment who have an undetectable viral load by 2020. The OPP-ERA project has helped improve routine access to and use of this test in four countries in West and Central Africa.

This project was supported and funded by Unitaïd and implemented by a consortium, led by Solthis, responsible for operational coordination and implementation in Guinea; ANRS, providing co-financing and scientific leadership; Expertise France, providing project implementation in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon; and Sidaction, providing implementation in Burundi.

CREATING FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS IN THE HEALTH SYSTEM

In addition to addressing the technical challenges of conducting this test in a laboratory, the OPP-ERA project also helped to improve all essential factors that facilitate access to viral load testing in a country.

Available at webdoc-chargevirale.solthis.org or at chargevirale-oppera.solthis.org



2013–2019: PROJECT SUCCESSES



THE OPP-ERA PROJECT IN GUINEA

Bridging the gap in access to viral load testing in Guinea

Access to viral load measurements in Guinea is one of the major challenges for improving the care of people living with HIV: ensuring their virological success and strengthening their follow-up.

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is relatively low in the country, at around 1.7 per cent. But of the 122,937 people living with HIV, only 39% are on ARV treatment and access to viral load remains limited: it is estimated at less than 35% in 2018. (source: PNLSH)

Since 2014, the OPP-ERA project has been working closely with the National Programme to Combat HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis and, for the first time, has introduced viral load measurements in the public health sector in Guinea.

The Guinean partners

- Ministry of Health:
 - National Programme to Combat HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis (PNLSH)
 - National Laboratory Directorate (DNL)
- National Institute of Public Health (INSP)
- Donka Hospital
- 11 medical sites for the care of patients living with HIV in Conakry
- Patient association networks:
 - REGAP++
 - REFIG



26,000 viral load tests performed
from 2014 to the end of 2018



100 trained health professionals

OPP-ERA project successes in Guinea

Since 2014, the OPP-ERA project has conducted over 26,000 viral load tests, with 79% of tested PLWHA in virological success. Two Molecular Biology Units for viral load testing have been opened in Conakry (INSP and Donka CHU), and a laboratory has been rehabilitated in the region (Kankan Regional Hospital).

79% of patients tested in 2018 via OPP-ERA had an undetectable viral load.

6 laboratory technicians and biologists have been trained at the national level (including 4 up to the accreditation level) to perform HIV-1 viral load testing on an open platform.

More than 100 health professionals have been trained (in biosafety, laboratory data management, laboratory product inventory management and supply, viral load test prescription and treatment failure management). They also received constant mentoring in quality assurance throughout the viral load chain and guidance in implementing quality procedures at all levels.

The project supported the drafting and implementation of the 2019–2022 National Strategy to scale up viral load testing and provided technical support to establish the “3rd 90” Working Group in Guinea.

What transition to ensure the project sustainability?

Most of the OPP-ERA project activities have already been taken over by the main partner, the PNLSH. The implementation of the transition plan at the end of 2017 has already resulted in establishing a “3rd 90” Working Group, bringing together all viral load stakeholders. A 4-year operational action plan to scale up viral load testing in Guinea was also prepared. All inputs needed to perform viral load testing have been integrated into the quantification process at the national level: the PNLSH has taken over them through the Global Fund grant.



The OPP-ERA project introduced and scaled up viral load testing for patients undergoing treatment in Guinea: this is a considerable step forward for quality care.

Prof. Cissé, Head of the Dermatology Department at Donka University Hospital



Practical resources on HIV viral load at your disposal

A handy toolkit with downloadable documents.

Register today to be informed of the launch in October:

 toolkit-chargevirale-oppera.solthis.org

An up-and-running site that will be supplemented with resources and a lessons learned document (in October):

 chargevirale-oppera.solthis.org

A web documentary to explain the project's practical implementation:

 webdoc-chargevirale.solthis.org

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