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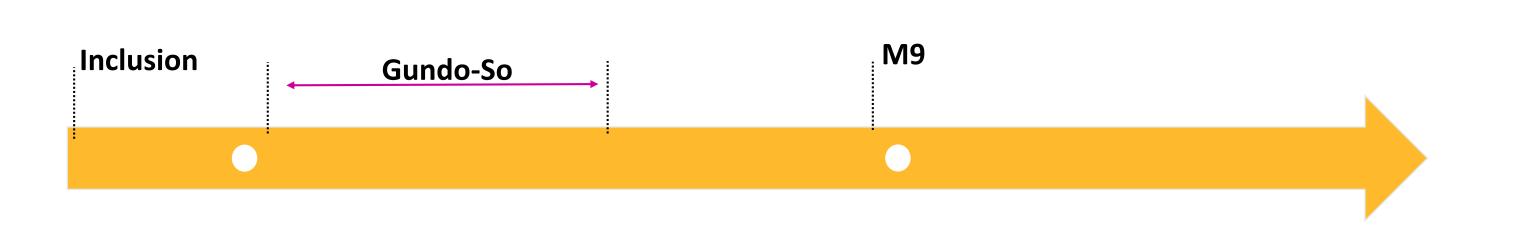


Pathways of women peer researchers living with HIV in the evaluation of the Gundo-So programme

Perray, M., Traore, D., Riegel, L., Rojas Castro, D., Spire, B., Mora, M., Yattassaye, A., Préau, M

Gundo-So

- A community-based program
- Supporting women living with HIV (WLHIV) in Mali regarding serostatus disclosure management
- ANRS-12373/Gundo-So was a randomized trial implemented in 6 community-based clinics in Mali in 2019/2021



METHODS

- Trajectory analysis based on reflective thematic analysis was conducted, in order to understand the psychosocial processes emerging during participation in Gundo-So and its evaluation (Braun & Clarke, 2019; Spencer et al., 2021)
- Facilitators (n=6) working in the community-based clinics took part in the interviews
- Each facilitator was interviewed twice: before and after the community-based clinics

RESULTS

Announcement of infection

- Status salience
- **Adjustment** to living with the infection

At the beginning it was a bit difficult, [...] I got really sick, and for my husband everyone knew he died of HIV. (A., 48 years old)

Beginning of community involvement

- Taking responsibility
- Participation in **activism**

I have accepted my illness. That's why I have the strength to do this work. If someone who has not accepted its illness. One can't support anyone else. (N., 52 years old)

Professionalization & Gundo-So

- Construction of a new professional identity
- Acquisition of **new skills**
- Regret about commitment

It allowed us to gain experience, skills [...] to strengthen our capacity to support. We were trained and this training will help us to help other people outside Gundo-So. (F., 45 years old)

DISCUSSION

 These results highlighted an activist commitment that was built up through several similar stages among the different facilitators. In particular, through their involvement in the community-based clinics, the increase in skills and knowledge through this commitment and the possibility of professionalization that follows were noted.

Psychological empowerment

- Increase in skills and knowledge
- Critical awareness
- Social support
- Activism

Organisational empowerment

- Involvement in the community-based clinics
- Leadership position
- Collaborative network
- Professionalisation
- Community participation















Community programs allow for the development of both psychological empowerment of community workers and organisational empowerment