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### ► To cite this version:

Mathilde Perray, Djenebou Traore, Lucas Riegel, Daniela Rojas Castro, Bruno Spire, et al.. Pathways of women peer researchers living with HIV in the evaluation of the Gundo-So programme. AIDS IMPACT 2023, Jun 2023, Stockholm, Sweden. 2023. halshs-04467559

**HAL Id: halshs-04467559**

**<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-04467559>**

Submitted on 20 Feb 2024

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



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## 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