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The success of community-based research relies heavily on **the participation of all the research stakeholders,** including community members.



A training session addressed to local coordinators, as part of the Gundo-So program's evaluation

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INTRO

- The Gundo-So program is an intervention that aims to empower Malian WLHIV, while supporting them in the process of disclosing or not their serological status.
- An evaluation of the impact of the Gundo-So program is scheduled to take place from 2019 to 2021.
- In January 2019, a training session was organized to teach local coordinators

METHODS

- The training session took place in Bamako for 5 days,
- With 16 female local coordinators, some of whom were WLHIV + 6 researchers from Mali and France in social sciences.
- Programm: Presentation of how the evaluation phase would be led and how the group meetings would organized.

DISCUSSION

- This training session illustrates how, through a community-based research, research stakeholders and community members are complementary:

Theoretical framework brought by researchers

Experiences and experimental knowledge by community members

Tools and methodology are worked together

- Training sessions appear to be an essential stage to boost participation and commitment in community-based research programs. Both ways exchanges are crucial to build interventional health programs that fit the local reality of the field, and therefore increasing the chances of success.

RESULTS

Adaptation to the Malian culture:

- Election of the "village leader" to lead the training
- Discussion either in Bambara or French, translation was offered for French researcher.
- Cheering on by dancing and singing

Reshaped of the research project and the program's animation:

In agreement with the local coordinator's experience and cultural background

Experience and experimental knowledge enhanced:

Some of the local coordinators had previous experience with Gundo-So and presented the program's activity to the others.

Elements highlighted by the trainees themselves:

- Gundo-So is most of all a research built by and for women,
- The importance of their roles in the program implantation,
- Their own disclosure process towards the participants.

