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Mathilde Perray, Djenebou Traore, Lucas Riegel, Daniela Rojas Castro, Bruno Spire, Marion Mora, Adam Yattassaye, Marie Préau

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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

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

### 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.

