



## **ADPP Guinea Bissau Accomplishments in Fighting HIV and AIDS**

The Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) programme was launched by ADPP Guinea Bissau in 2011 with assistance from the National AIDS Council (Secretariado Nacional de Luta Contra SIDA, or SNLS) and the Global Fund. TCE targeted vulnerable, young people in Gabu and Sonaco covering 70,000 people.

TCE is a flexible model that has been used in countries in southern Africa and Asia to integrate interventions that address illnesses such as HIV, TB, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and malaria. The foundation of TCE lies in building lasting capacity in people, volunteers, community members and local leaders to achieve sustainable results.

TCE is based on the understanding that only the people can liberate themselves from the HIV epidemic.

Success of the TCE programme in the Gabu Region was due to wider acceptance of the initiative by local authorities, including traditional leaders, church groups, and government authorities.

In 2011 alone, TCE Field Officers mobilised nearly 1,200 youth for HIV testing and 507,000 condoms were distributed. More than 400 mothers enrolled in the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programme.

The TCE programme mobilised communities to organise people into youth clubs and women's clubs. These clubs provided venues for women to perform income-generating activities and for the youth to join activities that promoted non-risky behavior.

Trained activists mobilised local communities to fight TB and an increasing number of people suspected of having TB visited health centers for TB screening and diagnoses.

TCE Guinea Bissau engaged the Guinea Bissau Armed Forces, Ministry of Public Health and the National AIDS Council to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS among military personnel, their families, the community around the camps and places frequented by military personnel known as "HIV Hot Spots"; these include drinking clubs, lodges, and markets.

The programme has equipped the Guinea Bissau Armed Forces and military health facilities with the necessary tools to provide adequate HIV treatment and TB services. The idea is to bring health services such as HIV prevention, testing, counseling, treatment and adherence to the people so the disease is brought under control.