

ARDHIS

AREMEDIA

LES CLÉS DE LA PRÉVENTION

Outreach screening for
LGBTQI+ Asylum Seekers

Association AREMEDIA



with the support of

PARIS & SEINE-
SAINT-DENIS
SANS SIDA

Presentation

- ❖ **AREMEDIA** is a health promotion association (since 1993)
 - active in the fight against **HIV** and, inseparably, in the **sexual health promotion**
 - among diverse **key populations** both **overexposed** to **HIV** & other Sexually Transmitted Infections (**STIs**)
 - and **far removed from mainstream screening** and care services
(due to systemic barriers mainly linked to precariousness, (self-)stigmatization and objective discriminations, etc.)

- **2001:** implementation in Paris north-east area of the **HOW** program (“*Hospital Outside the Walls*”) targeting diverse **HIV key populations** (e.g *MSM, SW, Migrants, IDU, etc.*)
- involving in **2024** some thirty **community** (or specialized) partner organizations (like **ARDHIS**) with in-depth **expertise** in their populations
- and, on the other hand, some partner proximity **Hospital sexual health centers**
- providing in this way “advanced” **sexual health consultations** (involving a doctor, a nurse and an associative stakeholder from the **AREMEDIA** team) in the living spaces of these diverse key populations
- An “outside the walls” medical consultation followed by an offer of a complete **serological & bacteriological STI screening**

HOW (« Hospital Out the Walls »):

Screening in the field



Objectives of the "Outside the Walls" screening program

- Addressing the **HIV undiagnosed epidemic** and **promoting sexual health** among key populations who are both over-exposed to HIV and other STIs and **far from mainstream screening & care services**.
 - providing early screening for **HIV** and other **STIs** (and access to prevention means like *PrEP*)
 - reducing « **missed opportunities** »
 - helping people to **(re-)access healthcare / « link-to-care »** (in **precarious** situations, with multiple exposure factors, etc..)
- People who suffer from a combination of **psychosocial exposure factors and powerful barriers** to accessing mainstream services (even if they are anonymous, free and proximity services)

AREMEDIA & ARDHIS

AREMEDIA has been a partner of **ARDHIS** on a regular basis for nearly 7 years, offering its beneficiaries:

- on-site sexual health and HIV/STI screening services
- as well as access to care and/or *PrEP* +++ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) where appropriate

Migrants & MSM, an overexposed population

Born outside of France MSM are a hard to reach HIV key population

➤ They present a '**double vulnerability**': both overexposed to HIV (and other STIs) as MSM and originating from highly endemic regions (mainly sub-Saharan Africa)

➔ And, as migrants (*ANRS Parcours Study, 2015*), **their risk of infection on French soil** (within **5 years** after arriving in France) is estimated at **between 35% and 49%**.

❖ For Migrants, it is known that all situations involving risk-taking sexual behaviors are more common in years when people have **no residence permit** and **no stable personal accommodation** (possible **sexual transactions** with their host, occasional or long-term **prostitution**, etc).

Challenges of our project in partnership with ARDHIS :

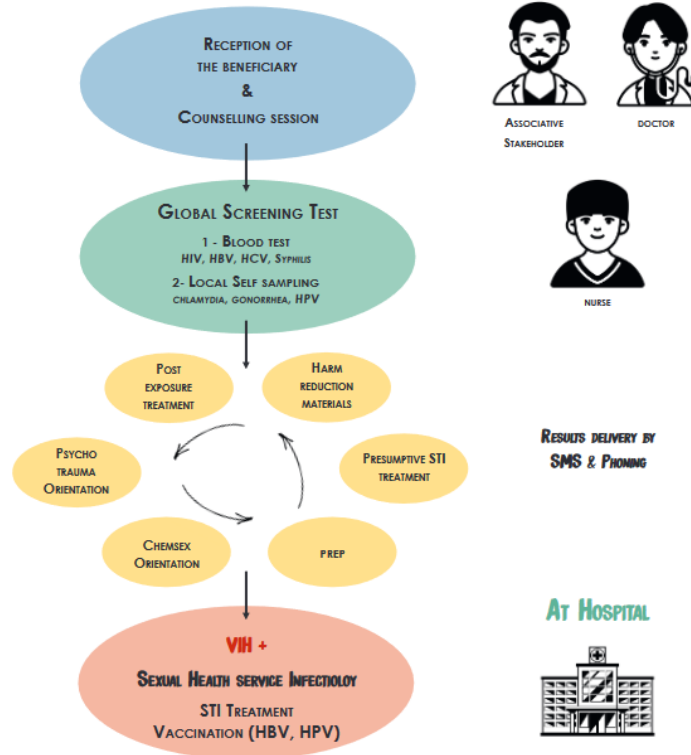
- ❑ **Increasing the number** of screening tests carried out among this specific key population (95% of people with should know their serostatus, according to UNAIDS)

=> *We know that HIV screening is the weakest link in the UNAIDS cascade.*

- ❑ Promoting **diversified prevention tools (including PrEp)** to complement the screening strategy
- ❑ Understanding **'intersecting vulnerabilities'**: **foreign-born MSM** are both overexposed to HIV because of their MSM status (discrimination, etc.) and because they come from highly endemic regions.
 - ➔ Taking into account **precariousness**, which is itself a major factor in **overexposure to HIV**, as well as the migrant status and all its social implications.

A comprehensive program :

from screening to access to care



In the “Bubble”, a reception area for LGBTQI+ migrants during the drop-in sessions organized by the ARDHIS association



Public reception and Sexual Health & Screening Advanced Consultation (behind the glass)



Our Nurse
in progress



'24 Some preliminary results

2024 (from January to July):

- 19 screening sessions (almost every week)
- 231 tested beneficiaries (155 men & 83 women)
- 20% positives for at least one STI (*HIV, Hepatitis B & C, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydiae*)
- 3 HIV+ (new discovery) and 5 HIV+ « out of treatment » (re-access to care)
- 3 HCV + (new dicoverry)
- 30 PreP orientations (nearly 20% of the men)

3.5%
Global HIV+



