

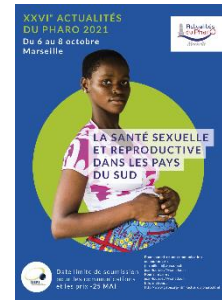
## Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 5

### Management of gender-based violence (GBV) during the response to Covid 19 in Greater Abidjan from March 2020 to May 2021

Keywords: Covid, contact subject, GBV, multisectoral

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**Introduction:** The Centre des Opérations d'Urgence de Santé Publique (COUSP) involved social workers from the Ministry of Women, Family and Children in the response to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. This multisectoral collaboration, initiated with the aim of ensuring good adherence of the population to the health implications of social public health measures, has provided results in the follow-up of contacts and psychosocial care of subjects affected by Covid 19.

**Method:** We conducted a descriptive cross-sectional survey from March 2020 to May 2021 on the activities of two pools of social workers set up to collaborate with the rapid response teams and to reinforce the contact follow-up teams at the Abidjan health district level. These activities were coordinated by a third pool responsible for coordinating and providing technical support to the teams.

**Results:** The activities carried out focused mainly on raising awareness among the population, home visits, listening, management of cases of gender-based violence (GBV), prevention and treatment of cases of stigmatisation and discrimination, psychosocial support and guidance for NGOs and associations on barrier measures and preconceived ideas about COVID-19. From March 2020 to May 2021, regarding gender-based violence (GBV), the teams recorded and monitored 58 cases of rape, 07 sexual assaults and 177 physical assaults, 125 situations of psychological/emotional violence, 35 cases of abuse and 07 forced marriages. An increase in the number of cases of violence was noted during the pandemic in COVID-19. Social workers provided psychosocial care for these cases, which is based on listening and identifying imminent danger, assessing needs and developing an action plan with the survivor. Legal and judicial support has sometimes been initiated. This activity identified good practice in collaboration and value for money. However, it was confronted with difficulties, notably the lack of communication means for the follow-up of contact cases, the provision of food and non-food items to Covid 19 families in confinement and the coordination between health and social structures.

**Conclusion:** The Covid-19 pandemic was marked by an increase in cases of violence, the consequences of which were limited by appropriate management.