

Free ART in Côte d'Ivoire: perceptions, issues and challenges

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In a general epidemiology context (3.7%), Côte d'Ivoire still faces universal access to ARVs. Only 51 820 infected populations have access to antiretroviral therapy and UNAIDS estimates is at 150,000 the number of people in need each year. Long sought by those infected, free treatment appears in this context to health authorities as the solution to universal access in the country. The question then is how stakeholders perceive that decision? This study sought to capture people living with HIV/AIDS actors in the chain of care and NGOs leaders the perceptions on free ARVs strategy and to identify Issues and Challenges.

The study, based on a field survey carried out in Abidjan and Bouake, focused on qualitative (interviews and focus group discussion) approach. Interviews were conducted with the informed consent of participants.

Free ARVs is for the community of persons infected as for NGO leaders saving decision. The discourse analysis confirms that this measure is meaningful to double material and psychological as it raises the financial constraint, contributes to a better ethical management of infection by dispelling stress and anxiety by the user. It presages increased visitation and use of HIV/AIDS structures supported. Provided some concerns related to therapeutic value of ARVs link to free access pose a wave of pessimism reveal challenges. They concern the optimal management of inventories and regular supply structures, measures to support that decision for the effectiveness of the device and the effective decentralization of the management for the health system and adherence to patients.