



Inter-delegation meeting in Moroni, in June 2023, bringing together Santé Diabète teams from Mali, Burkina Faso, the Union of Comoros and France.

OUR 2020-2023 PROGRAM IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, WITH ACTIVITIES ENDING IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR IN A COMPLEX SECURITY CONTEXT.

The first half of 2023 saw the finalization of Santé Diabète's latest 2020-2023 program in Mali, Burkina Faso and the Union of the Comoros. The NGO is closing three years of activities and will launch, in July 2023, a new program for the period 2023-2026. Despite a complex security context, Santé Diabète teams continued their missions of prevention, training, health system strengthening, research and advocacy in Africa and internationally from January to June. These major results are presented in this half-yearly newsletter.

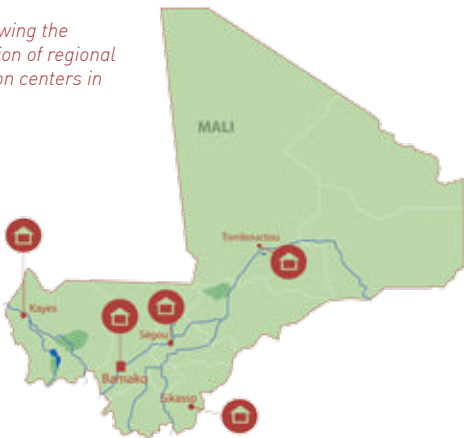
MAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD


I. OUR MAIN PREVENTION INITIATIVES

1. In Prevention Houses

From January to June 2023, the Maisons de la Prévention (Prevention Houses) in Mali, Burkina Faso and the Comoros organized personalized workshops on various themes such as: diabetes prevention and its risk factors, diet and health, the benefits of physical activity and weight management. The Maison de la Prévention in Bamako organized an open day on January 28, 2023, a highlight of the first half of the year that included free diabetes and hypertension screenings, culinary workshops, a skit, sports and a game contest.

Map showing the distribution of regional prevention centers in Mali



 **In Mali, 98 workshops** were held in Bamako, Kayes and Sikasso, Ségou and Timbuktu, in conjunction with the Fédération Nationale de Diabétiques du Mali (FeNaDiM). **432 people** took part, of whom 265 had at least one risk factor (RF) for diabetes, and 94 were already being monitored for diabetes.

 **In Burkina Faso, 3 workshops** were held in Ouagadougou with our partner association, Association Diabète Laisse-moi Vivre (ADLMV). **39 people** took part.

 **In the Comoros, 33 workshops** were held with our partner association, the Association Comorienne de Lutte Contre le Diabète (ACLD). **162 people** took part, including 103 with at least one RF for diabetes and 59 were already being followed for diabetes.

In the various houses, users with diabetes risk factors were given a free blood glucose test, and 56 cases of hyperglycemia were referred to the nearest health centers for better management.



Open day in Mali




2. Off-site prevention activities

Peer educators (PEs) carried out risk factor prevention activities for type 2 diabetes in community settings and for gestational diabetes in prenatal consultation (PNC) centers.

 **In Mali, 116 events** were held in the capital. They reached **1,074 people**. In the regions, 93 events raised awareness among 863 people.




232 events were held at 31 PNC sites in Bamako, reaching **2,434 participants**. Of the women present, 509 had at least one RF for gestational diabetes, and 28 already had diabetes.

 **In Burkina Faso, 154 events** reached **1,361 people** in the capital. In the regions (Tenkodogo, Koudougou, Manga, Bobo-Dioulasso), PEs carried out 160 events in the local community reaching 1,553 people.



80 activities were carried out in 8 PNC centers in Ouagadougou, reaching **1,195 women**. Of these, 106 had at least one RF for gestational diabetes and 16 already had diabetes.

 **In the Comoros, PEs** carried out **61 community events** in Grande Comore, reaching **601 people**. In Anjouan and Mohéli, PEs have carried out 179 events, raising awareness among 2,147 people in the community.



134 events were held in 4 health centers, reaching **1,195 participants**. Among the women present, 565 had at least one RF for diabetes and 1 was already living with diabetes.

Prenatal consultations: Awareness-raising and prevention activities on the RFs of gestational diabetes led to the diagnosis and management of gestational diabetes in around a hundred women, thanks to the NGO's collaboration with the various diabetes management services in the 3 capital cities.

3. Awareness campaign in the media


Awareness-raising in the media through the journalists' network


Santé Diabète has invested, since 2021, in structuring networks of journalists trained in the specific issues related to diabetes, thus strengthening journalists' knowledge of the subject and enabling better coverage of the actions undertaken by Santé Diabète while ensuring the dissemination of quality information to the population.

In February and March, Santé Diabète rewarded the network's journalists for their high-quality productions.

Awareness-raising in the media by patient associations and healthcare professionals

Awareness-raising activities carried out by patients and healthcare professionals are additional but complementary to those of journalists. Thus, after a schedule of programs and communication supports had been drawn up during the previous half-year, several programs and papers were produced in the 3 countries through the most listened-to media, thus contributing to the strategy of raising public awareness. These programs covered topics such as general information on diabetes, type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, diabetes and Ramadan, diet and physical activity, and the missions and operations of prevention houses, the actions of the NGO Santé Diabète, access to medicines:

 **In Mali, 16 programs** were produced, including one television program and 15 radio programs.

 **In Burkina Faso, 26 shows** including 4 TV shows and 22 radio shows were carried out.

 **In the Union of the Comoros, 39 programs**, including 15 TV and 24 radio broadcasts, and 8 awareness-raising messages in trailers were produced.

Refresher course for journalists from the network

From April 25 to 27, 2023 in Bamako (Mali), 24 people took part in refresher training led by journalist Stéphanie Gardier. This training also took place from June 6 to 8, 2023 in Moroni (Comoros) for 24 journalists from the island, 13 of whom were newcomers. It was an opportunity to review good journalistic practices and improve oral and written health-related productions.

In the first half of the year, 27 pieces of content on diabetes were created by network journalists in Mali, 22 in the Comoros, and 17 in Burkina Faso.



Journalists Moussa Samba Diallo, Adja Fatoumata Traoré and Diakalia Dembelé, recipients of Mali's 2022 journalism prize.

4. Capacity-building for associations


We have continued our efforts to strengthen the skills of diabetes patient associations in associative, administrative and financial management. In all 3 countries, we carried out field accompaniment missions with these associations. The main objectives of these companionships were:


- Evaluate the extent to which the recommendations made during the companionships carried out in 2022 have been taken on board.
- Support associations in the 3 countries in drawing up their 2023 action plan, and define together a mechanism for supporting and implementing this action plan.
- Finally, the aim was to evaluate and strengthen the skills of peer educators and regional focal points in implementing prevention actions in the various regions outside the capital cities.

These companionship missions took place between February and April 2023 in the 3 countries and involved 19 associations.

5. Our actions in schools

Santé Diabète continues its diabetes education and awareness campaigns in schools in Mali, Burkina Faso and France.

 **In Mali**, from January 11 to 13, 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, we trained teachers from high schools in Bamako, Kayes and Ségou in diabetes RF prevention activities. In all: 19 teachers, members of the management and academy staff, 12 community organizers and the prevention officer from the Maison de Prévention team. Activities continued in twelve 11th and 12th grade experimental science classes; 24 activities were carried out, raising awareness among 429 high school students.

 **In Burkina Faso**, 3 training sessions for middle and high schools were organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education in January. A total of 43 teachers, 42 head teachers, directors and censors, 15 pedagogical supervisors, 20 community organizers and 3 Ministry representatives took part. Subsequently, 42 middle and high school classes benefited from 84 diabetes and risk factor prevention activities. A total of 2,573 pupils were reached, including 1,104 boys and 1,470 girls.

FOCUS: INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN SCHOOLS IN FRANCE AND BURKINA FASO

Since 2012, Santé Diabète has been running a school exchange in France and Burkina Faso simultaneously. From November 2022 to July 2023, three Grenoble classes from the Ampères and Christophe Turc schools and three classes from the Naaba Anbga, Wayalghin A and 1,200 Logements schools in Ouagadougou took part. Over the course of twelve sessions, pupils from Grenoble and Ouagadougou exchanged and worked on the themes of food and health, as well as similar lifestyles in the two countries and everyday habits.

At the end of the program, each class was able to present its work at a feedback session to which parents and Santé Diabète partners were invited. In all, 257 new children took part in this new edition of the exchange.




Video conference meeting between Burkinabé and French pupils.



Invitation for parents to the intercultural exchange feedback session in a school in Grenoble.

II. OUR MAIN INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE: TRAINING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, PROVIDING THERAPEUTIC EDUCATION AND REINFORCING THE MANAGEMENT OF T1D.


1. Training non-diabetes referent healthcare professionals

 **In the Comoros**, Santé Diabète and the Ministry of Health have trained healthcare professionals who are outside diabetes care units and working at the 1st level of the healthcare pyramid. These training sessions were followed by the provision of diabetes consultation equipment for the concerned structures. A total of 49 healthcare professionals from 46 health posts were trained:

- In Anjouan, the week of January 25: 17 health professionals trained
- Grande Comore, week of February 7: 24 health professionals trained
- In Moheli, the week of February 14: 8 health professionals trained

Then, a few weeks after the training sessions, we supervised diabetes consultations on the 3 islands.

- In Anjouan from April 20 to May 5
- In Moheli from May 10 to 16
- In Grande Comore from May 29 to June 10

 **In Mali**, similar training sessions were held in the 6 districts of Bamako from January 3 to 13. These training courses reached 232 health professionals



Healthcare training in Moheli


2. Training healthcare professionals of secondary level facilities

We supervised the diabetes consultations carried out by these trained healthcare professionals in various regions:

 **In Mali:**

- In Sélingué: January 04 to 06
- In Sikasso: January 10-13
- In Koutiala: January 16 to 18
- In Bougouni: January 24 to 26
- In Ségou: January 24 to February 2
- In Gao: February 14 to 17
- Timbuktu and Diré: February 14 to 17
- In Mopti and Douentza: February 20 to 24
- In San: May 23-25

Supervision of consultations in Mali enabled us to define the educational objectives of a refresher course that was held later from April 15 to 29. Organized in conjunction with SOMED, the course trained 63 second referent healthcare professionals.

 **In the Comoros**, diabetes consultations were supervised on the 3 islands:

- In Anjouan: April 20 to May 5
- In Moheli: May 10 to 16
- In Grande Comore: May 29 to June 10




Supervision of a diabetes consultation in Ségou, Mali.

3. DES in endocrinology and DU in diabetology

DES in endocrinology: January 19 saw the graduation of the 5th class (2018-2022) of the DES in endocrinology, marking the end of training for 18 students (out of 20) who are now specialists in endocrinology, metabolic diseases and nutrition. A new class (2022-2026) was born, comprising 12 students from 5 different countries.

DU in diabetology: January 2023 saw the graduation of the 6th class (2021-2022) of the DU in diabetology, marking the end of training for 11 diabetologists (8 from Mali, 2 from Comoros and 1 from Burkina Faso) out of the 14 trained.

4. E-training

 **In Mali**, Dr Nientao carried out the following e-training activities: 1 teleconsultation with 2 cases discussed with participants, 1 theoretical course and 5 case studies. On average, 8 to 10 doctors took part in each session. In January and February, Dr Nientao was fully mobilized for face-to-face training in Bamako and supervision of diabetes consultations in the other regions.

High-level scientific day on the diabetic foot

On June 7, in Mali, in partnership with the Société Malienne d'Endocrinologie et de Diabétologie (SOMED), we organized a high-level scientific day on the diabetic foot, attended by 91 healthcare professionals.

5. Management of T1D, therapeutic education, endowments

Therapeutic patient education (TPE) days in Burkina Faso

Since the end of March 2023, Burkina Faso has been receiving insulin pens and insulin analogues (Basaglar) from Life for a Child. As this insulin is new, it was necessary to train healthcare professionals and children living with type 1 diabetes. A first training session on the prescription of insulin analogues and the use of insulin pens took place, followed by a second session dedicated to the therapeutic education of young Burkinabe:


In Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, from April 17 to 19 and April 20 to 22: training for doctors and nurses (17 in Bobo Dioulasso and 34 in Ouaga) involved in the care of children and adolescents living with diabetes.

Therapeutic patient education days for children and adolescents living with diabetes:

- In Ouagadougou on April 29, the TPE workshop involved 46 young people and 11 parents.
- In Bobo Dioulasso on April 16, the TPE workshop reached 27 young people and 8 parents.
- In Ouahigouya on May 27, the TPE workshop involved 13 young people and 9 parents.
- In Tenkodogo on May 27, the TPE workshop involved 20 young people and 5 parents.



Therapeutic education day for young people, April 2023..

 **In the Comoros**, the Life For A Child program is continuing. The TPE tools developed by Santé Diabète in Mali have been reviewed and adapted to the Comorian context in preparation for the next education days, and 7 young people living with T1D are officially included in the program.

6. Preventing diabetes using new technologies

Another awareness and prevention channel used by Santé Diabète is Whatsapp via educational videos. In the first half of 2023, based on the databases in each country, two groups (people with diabetes and people with RFs) were formed and received 12 awareness-raising videos in the form of cartoons through two Whatsapp groups:

Group 1 - targeting people with risk factors:

- Comoros: 43 people
- Burkina Faso: 409 people
- Mali: 289 people

Group 2 - targeting people living with diabetes:

- Comoros: 13 people
- Burkina Faso: 82 people
- Mali: 280 people

Shares increase the reach of prevention videos.

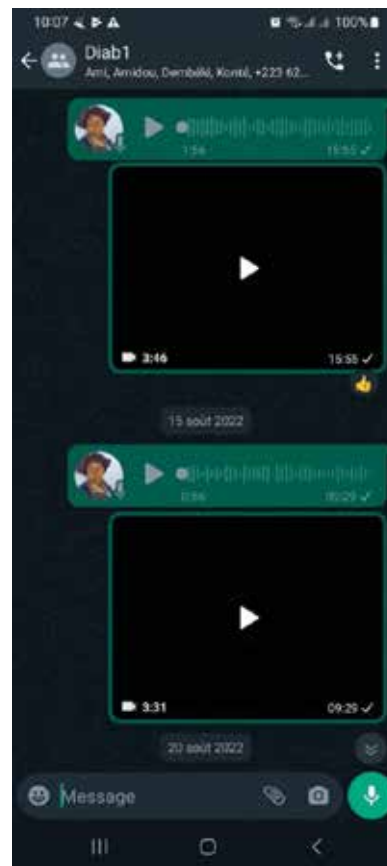
7. Screening for diabetes, hypertension and their risk factors

In Mali

9 screening days reached **1,607 people**. The proportion of screened people with overweight and obesity was 25% and 21% respectively. 73% had at least one diabetes RF and 72% at least one cardiovascular RF. Among those screened, we recorded 9% new cases of pre-diabetes, 4% new cases of probable diabetes and 28% new cases of probable hypertension.

In Burkina Faso

36 screening days reached **5,407 people**. The proportion of screened people with overweight and obesity was 29% and 20% respectively. 77% had at least one diabetes RF and 75% at least one cardiovascular RF. We recorded 9% new cases of pre-diabetes, 10% new cases of probable diabetes and 42% new cases of probable hypertension.





Screenshots of a WhatsApp conversation with patients living with diabetes (Diab 1) and risk factors (FDR1).

III. PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES/HIV AND DIABETES/TB COMORBIDITIES


1. Ongoing prevention activities

Diabetes and tuberculosis (TB) prevention activities for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and HIV and TB prevention activities for people living with diabetes (PWD) continued in Burkina Faso and Comoros:

 **In Burkina Faso:** These events involved a total of **3583 people** with diabetes through **370 events** and **9,179 PLHIV** through **795 activities**, 12 762 people in total.

 **In the Comoros,** **141 events** took place, reaching 637 PWD. The first half of the year also marked the start of events targeting PLHIV: 4 activities took place, affecting 10 people.

2. Reinforcing the training of HCPs in the management of comorbidities

 **In the Comoros,** after an initial training period in 2022, the time has come to collect data on comorbidity cases.


Inter-country meeting

From June 22 to 24, 2023, Santé Diabète held a meeting in Moroni for players involved in the fight against diabetes and the comorbidities diabetes/HIV and diabetes/tuberculosis in Mali, Burkina Faso and the Union of the Comoros. This framework for inter-country dialogue responds to the need to pool best practices, exchange methodologies and effectively capitalize on our activities in the 3 countries. 89 people attended, including our institutional, political, medical and financial partners.




Inter-country meeting organized in Moroni (Comoros) in June 2023.

3. Training for leaders of civil society organizations (CSOs) and national programs to advocate for greater political awareness of comorbidities.

 **In Burkina Faso,** from February 15 to 17, 39 associative leaders have been trained on the issue of diabetes/TB and diabetes/HIV comorbidities in order to lobby for this issue to be taken into account in the future concept note to be submitted to the Global Fund.

In Burkina Faso and the Comoros, during the week of February 20, program managers from TB/HIV/diabetes as well as from the sectoral unit and the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) were also trained in this issue, so that it could be taken into account when revising the policy documents governing these pathologies. These training sessions involved 17 and 13 program managers in Burkina Faso and Comoros respectively.


 **In Mali,** Santé Diabète was invited by the CCM-Mali April 2023 to take part in the work of the technical groups writing the concept note for the TB/HIV and RSS 2024-2026 grant.




Training for organizations leaders on comorbidity issues, in February 2023 in Burkina Faso.


IV. IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICINES


In Mali and the Comoros, work continued on the recommendations of the last meeting of the framework for dialogue on medicines.

 **In Mali**, bilateral meetings were held with the Pharmacie Populaire du Mali and the Direction of pharmacy and medicines to try and improve the situation and supply of antidiabetic drugs. Consideration was also given to improving the pharmacovigilance system.

 **In the Comoros**, a third meeting was held during this period. It focused on improving each facility's supply chain to avoid shortages of both medicines and medical analysis reagents. This work enabled us to define a roadmap with priority actions to be taken to improve the flow of drug consumption and medical devices.

V. STEERING COMMITTEES

 **On June 9, in Bamako (Mali)**, the diabetes program steering committee met with the entire partners in the fight against diabetes in the country (Ministry of Health, patient associations, CSOs, healthcare professionals and Santé Diabète).

 **On March 17**, in the Comoros, the second steering committee for diabetes actions was held with all our partners (Ministry of Health, specialists, patient associations, healthcare professionals' associations) in the country's 3 islands.



Second steering committee for diabetes actions in the Union of the Comoros, March 17, 2023.

VI. DATAHUB

During this period, work began with Santé Diabète's various partners to move from a system of data feedback for patients living with type 1 diabetes or type 2 diabetes to a more comprehensive patient record for tracking clinical data for these two categories of patients. This fundamental work will be carried out throughout 2023.

VII. RESEARCH

- The HEIQ (Health Education Impact Questionnaire) study continues.
- The Switch Basaglar study (evaluating the impact of introducing a long-acting insulin analogue) ended in Mali in May. Participants received a final consultation and were also asked to complete two questionnaires:
 - › quality of life score questionnaire for people living with T1D and T2D
 - › satisfaction questionnaire, only for children in group A (under basaglar))

Healthcare professionals completed a feedback questionnaire to gather their opinions and experiences of the transition process from human insulins to insulin analogues, and the resulting outcomes.

The data collected is currently being processed and the results will be available in future reports.

- In early 2023, Santé Diabète joined the Colive Voice study conducted by the Luxembourg Institute of Health. Its aim is to identify voice biomarkers to improve and simplify the monitoring of diseases such as diabetes. The LIH needs a large number of participants from all over the world, speaking different languages and with varying health conditions: it will therefore be collecting the voices of patients living with diabetes in Bamako.

VIII. INTERNAL STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

During this period, we continued our internal structuring and reinforcement with the arrival of Mr David Nouet as project manager in charge of reinforcing the follow-up of prevention and care activities. He works in close collaboration with Santé Diabète's Technical Director, Dr Moïse Nguemeni, to reinforce the qualitative impact of all the prevention and care actions supported by Santé Diabète in its various countries of intervention.

Inter-delegation meeting

On June 25 and 26, 2023, Santé Diabète teams met in Moroni, Comoros, for the inter-delegation meeting, which brought together all executives in charge of technical, administrative and financial management from each delegation and from the French head office. Discussions focused on the following topics: team organization, financial and security concerns, and the implementation of the new 2023-2026 agreement.



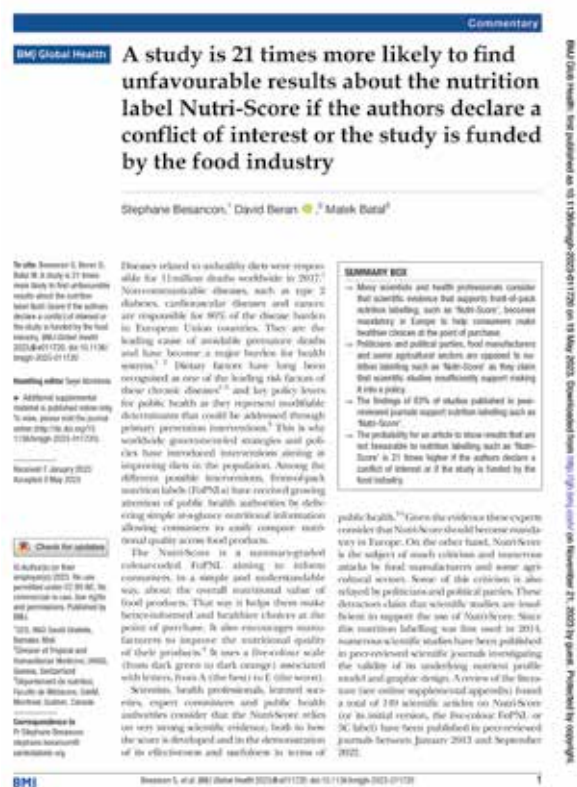
IX. ADVOCACY

- On January 25, 2023, the conference «Integrating prevention and care: diabetes/tuberculosis and diabetes/HIV to strengthen healthcare systems» was held in Paris, co-organized by Santé Diabète, the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) and the AFD Group (Agence Française de Développement), including Expertise France/L'Initiative. The aim of the conference was to contribute to the debate, through contributions from international organizations and international and field experts, on how best to integrate the prevention and management of diabetes/HIV and diabetes/TB comorbidities to help strengthen healthcare systems and improve people's access to healthcare.
- On May 24, the Helmsley Charitable Trust organized the conference «Advancing Equity: Global Action for People Living with Diabetes» at the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva. The event brought together representatives from WHO, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, Santé Diabète, the NCDI Poverty Network and other partners for a focused discussion on the needs of people living with diabetes.

X. PUBLICATIONS, FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

Publications

- Balcou-Debussche M, La Hausse V, Roddier M, Sokolowsky C, Rastami J, Besançon S, Ballet D, Caroupin J, Dowlut S, Debussche X. *Strengthening Health Literacy Through Structured Sessions for Non-Communicable Diseases in Low-Resource Settings: The Learning Nest Model*. Community Health Equity Res Policy. 2023 Jun
- <https://doi.org/10.1177/2752535X231184346>
- Beran D, Besançon S. *Accès à l'insuline: le(s) rôle(s) des gouvernements*. Med Mal Metab [2023]
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mmm.2023.05.004>
- Besancon S, Beran D, Batal M. *A study is 21 times more likely to find unfavourable results about the nutrition label Nutri-Score if the authors declare a conflict of interest or the study is funded by the food industry*. BMJ Global Health 2023
- <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2023-011720>



The screenshot shows the article's title, authors, and a summary. The article discusses how studies funded by the food industry or with conflicts of interest are more likely to report negative findings about the Nutri-Score labeling system. It highlights the need for transparency in research funding and potential biases in the scientific literature.

- Kehlenbrink S, Kiran J, Ansbro E, Roberts B. A *framework for improving diabetes care in humanitarian emergencies*. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2023 Feb
- [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587\(23\)00033-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587(23)00033-5)
- Beran D, Højlund K, Besançon S, Mundt ML, Ogle GD, Ramaiya K, Robinson T, Svensson J, Tuomilehto J, Wild S, Green A. *A plan to improve global type 1 diabetes epidemiology data*. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2023 Feb
- [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587\(23\)00029-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587(23)00029-3)

Opinion Pieces

- P. Londeix, J. Martin, S. Besançon, “Pénuries de médicaments: augmenter les prix pénalisera les pays les plus pauvres”, Libération, May 3rd 2023.
- https://www.liberation.fr/idees-et-debats/tribunes/penuries-de-medicaments-augmenter-les-prix-penaliser-les-pays-les-plus-pauvres-20230503_I6VKW7YGF5DXFN2KUDKWHHJQLI/



Conferences

Société Francophone du Diabète 2023

Besançon. S. *Crises sécuritaires et migratoires et diabète: point de vue Afrique et méditerranée*, March 24th 2023, Montpellier, France.

East Africa Diabetes Study Group Congress 2023

Besançon. S. *Type 1 diabetes: strengthening the health system to improve data gathering the example of Mali*/ April 24th 2023, Dar Es Salam, Tanzania.

International Sweet meeting 2023

Besançon. S. *Type 1 diabetes in Mali: strengthening the health system to improve data gathering* / April 2nd 2023, Paris, France.

OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

