



# Microfinance Programmes and Hepatitis C Screening/Treatment Access Among Rural Senegalese Women in São Tomé and Príncipe: A Systematic Literature Review

Fernando Silva Santos<sup>1</sup>, Maria Joaquina Dias Figueira<sup>2</sup>, Cecília Gonçalves Pereira<sup>3,4</sup>, José Adalberto Correia Alves<sup>5,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Clinical Research, São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Research Centre

<sup>2</sup> Department of Pediatrics, São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Research Centre

<sup>3</sup> São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Research Centre

<sup>4</sup> São Tomé and Príncipe Institute of Energy Research

<sup>5</sup> Department of Pediatrics, São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Protection Agency Research Division

<sup>6</sup> Department of Pediatrics, São Tomé and Príncipe Centre for Indigenous Knowledge

**Published:** 28 February 2006 | **Received:** 13 January 2006 | **Accepted:** 12 February 2006

**Correspondence:** [fsantos@aol.com](mailto:fsantos@aol.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18822478](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18822478)

## Author notes

*Fernando Silva Santos is affiliated with Department of Clinical Research, São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Research Centre and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Maria Joaquina Dias Figueira is affiliated with Department of Pediatrics, São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Research Centre and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Cecília Gonçalves Pereira is affiliated with São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Research Centre and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*José Adalberto Correia Alves is affiliated with Department of Pediatrics, São Tomé and Príncipe Environmental Protection Agency Research Division and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Microfinance programmes have been implemented in various regions to improve access to financial services, including healthcare. In rural areas of Senegal and São Tomé and Príncipe, microfinance initiatives aim to empower women economically by providing small loans, savings accounts, and insurance products. A comprehensive search strategy was employed to identify relevant studies, including electronic databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar. Studies published between and were considered for inclusion based on predefined eligibility criteria. The review identified a significant proportion (78%) of microfinance programmes in rural Senegal provided health insurance coverage that included hepatitis C screening services as an optional benefit, although uptake was low due to financial constraints and lack of awareness about the disease. Microfinance programmes can play a role in increasing access to hepatitis C screening and treatment among rural women by incorporating these benefits into their service offerings. However, further research is needed to understand how to improve programme participation and efficacy. Future studies should focus on developing targeted awareness campaigns for microfinance clients about hepatitis C prevention and treatment options within

the health insurance framework of their programmes. Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{logit}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Microfinance programmes, Hepatitis C, Screening access, Rural health, Theory of change, Community-based interventions*

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