



Aidemet Ong

Aid to the Development of the Traditional Medicine

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The 2nd Phase of the Research-Action on "Decentralization, Community Health and Traditional Medicine in the Municipal Space".

The activities of the 2nd Phase of the Research-Action (RA) on "The elaboration by the territorial collectivities of equitable, accessible and effective community health politics, valorizing the resources of the traditional medicine", had really started, with a mission on the field at the end of July 2007. The mission allowed meeting the different actors of health and decentralization at Region, District and Municipalities level. The different interviews realized in Sikasso, Kadiolo, Zégoua, Dioumaténé and Lofigué permitted to inform the partners of the starting of the 2nd phase of the RA, to introduce the Terms of Reference and the Mechanism, and to prepare the Workshop of Launching. We remember that it deals with a mandate that the Swiss Cooperation Office in Bamako entrusted to *Aidemet* Ngo¹.

The Launching Workshop was carried out in August the 14th 2007 in Kadiolo, and allowed the consultations among the actors of the health and the decentralization at Municipalities and District level. The objectives of the Workshop were:

- (i) To remember the hypotheses, the objectives, the methodology and the approaches of the RA and to share them with the actors;
- (ii) To introduce the Terms of Reference of the 2nd phase of the RA to the different actors;
- (iii) To elaborate the program of activity of the 2nd phase of the RA for the next three months with the participation of the different actors.



Photo n° 1: The Launching Workshop participants.

The team of animation of the RA was composed by: Dr Sergio Giani, Programs Officer of *Aidemet* Ngo, Coordinator of the RA; Dr Rokia Sanogo, Chairwoman of *Aidemet* Ngo, expert in gender and intercultural communication; M. Mamoutou Diarra, Coordinator of CADEL, Support Team to the Local Development, adviser in communication and accompanying of the community organization.

The priority axes of intervention during this 2nd Phase of the RA concern:

- (i) The strengthening of the Local System of Sanitary and Social Information and his adaptation to the environment of the decentralization;

¹ For the synthesis of the activities of the 1st phase of the RA, please see: "Decentralization, Community Health and Traditional Medicine" in the page: "Our recent experiences" of this site.

- (ii) The struggle against malaria;
- (iii) The promotion of the weak risk maternity;
- (iv) The improvement of the scholastic health.

The accent was put on the strengthening of the partnership among Territorial Collectivities, decentralized Public Services and Organizations of the Civilian Society. It was underlined that the hypotheses of concrete actions elaborated by the “think tanks” of the RA and validated by the



Photo n° 2 : The planning of activities.

territorial collectivities will be taken in account by the Health and Social Development Partnership Program (Swiss Cooperation, Sikasso).

The financing of the actions will be realized through the territorial collectivities, according to the general rules of the public accounting. The Partnership Management Team of Sikasso will examine the financing requests and will play a role of accompanying, and of support to the reflection and to the elaboration of municipal politics.

The municipal “think tanks” of the RA are composed by the persons in charge of: Municipality Board, Community Health Association, Community Health Center, Committee of Scholastic Management, Association of the Parents of Pupils, Direction of the School, Association of the Mothers of Pupils, Associations of the Traditional Healers, the Women's Groups, the Young People Coordination, Health Insurance, Radios of proximity, specific Ngo.

The working groups carried out during the Workshop allowed to identify some ideas of concrete actions, to include in the Budget Program of Municipalities for the year 2008, which should be adopted by the Municipality Councils before the end of October 2007. The actions thus prioritized will be submitted to the PSDS for financing.

The final recommendations of the Workshop have brought on:

- (i) The improvement of the sharing of the information among the Partnership Management Team of Sikasso and the Partners of Kadiolo on the mechanisms of financing;
- (ii) The effective implication of the representatives of the District level, Reference Health Center and Social Development Service, in all the activities of this 2nd phase of the RA.

A later mission on the field, which was held in September, from the 9th to the 15th, 2007, permitted to note that the engagement and the mobilization of the actors of health in the various municipalities' spaces are not lacking.

According to the decisions taken and the recommendations adopted during the Launching Workshop, the local “think tanks” are actually identifying some concrete actions on the axes prioritized by RA, to insert in the Operational Plans of the Municipalities, and to submit to the PSDS for financing. It deals particularly with the fight against Malaria and the promotion of maternity at the weak risk, by using all the locally available resources, including the Traditional Healers and the Traditional Midwives. The Communal Budgets will be buckled before the end of October 2007, according to the Law 95-034 bearing Code of the Territorial Collectivities.

Text compiled by Dr Sergio Giani, Programs Officer of Aidemet Ong.

Photo: Archive Aidemet