



Aidemet Ngo



Introductory Workshop of the Project: "Bringing Health Care nearer to the people in Zégoua Municipality".

1. Introduction.

The Introductory Workshop of Project “Bringing Health Care nearer to the people in Zégoua Municipality” was carried out on Tuesday, October 16th, 2007, in the courtyard of the City Hall of Zégoua.

The ceremony took place in the presence of: the Regional Directors of Health and Social Development; the President of the District Council, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief of Social Development Service of Kadiolo; the Prefect of Zégoua, the Mayor and the members of the Municipal Council of Zégoua, the traditional authorities of the nine villages of the Municipality, the ASaCo (Association of Community Health) and the technical team of CSCom (Community Health Center) of Zégoua, the representatives of the Women organizations, of the Association of Traditional Healers and of all people involved in health in the Municipality, and the *Aidemet* Ngo Team.

2. Presentation of the Project.

The intervention area of the project, the rural municipality of Zégoua, is located in Kadiolo District in the Sikasso region, 1st zone of poverty of the Strategic Frame of Poverty Fight. It has an area of about 449 km² and includes nine villages. The resident population was estimated at 26,324 people in 2005.

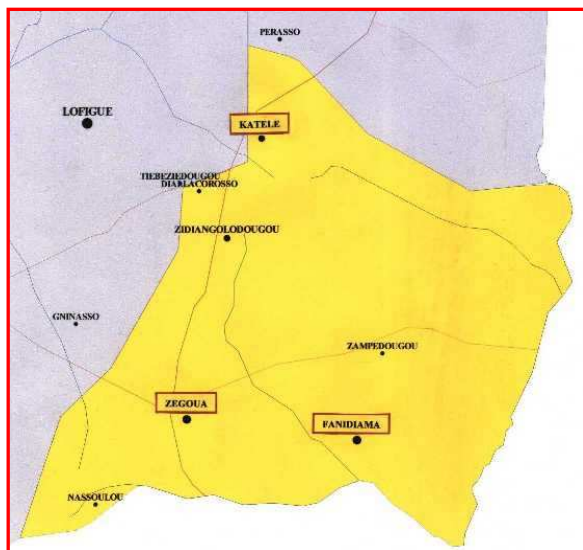


Figure 1 : Map of Zégoua

The Zégoua Municipality, with the support of associations of the migrant citizens and communities, has invested heavily to bring the health care nearer to people and to establish local health teams. In this context, some important health infrastructures have been carried out over time in different villages and particularly in Katélé and Fanidiama.

This project was conceived by *Aidemet* Ong, in partnership with the Municipality, ASaCo, and all the local actors of Health, with the support from the migrant citizens Associations of Zégoua in Bamako, to be able to valorize and rationally manage these investments, and to better meet the

health challenges of the commune. The goal is to make available an offer of quality health care closer to beneficiaries. The planned activities are carried out in the frame of support to local good governance, strengthening of community participation, improving health coverage and geographic and financial access to quality care.

The project will participate in the new trend created in Mali by decentralization, which promotes

the empowerment of local governments and populations in development activities in general, and improving health in particular.

Funding for the project is provided by the French Cooperation under the Health Concerted Program Mali 2, whose Health and Population Pivot Group provides the Executive Board.

3. Objective, strategies and methodology of the project.

The main objective of the Project is to bring healthcare nearer to users in the Zégoua Municipality, in the frame of transfer of skills and resources in health to local governments.

The Project propose to improve the health of populations, with emphasis on women and children, by supporting the implementation of a Polycentric CSCom managed by a single Community Health Association, with a primary care center in Zégoua and two decentralized health centers in Fanidiama and Katélé. Around the accompanying of implementation of the polycentric CSCom are structured the other strategies and activities of the project, including:



Photo n° 1 : The Zégoua Prefect speech

- a) the scaling up of the quality of care, through training of staff and allocation of a doctor in Zégoua and two nurses in Katélé and Fanidiama;
- b) the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality by the involvement of traditional birth attendants in the detection and reference obstetrical risk cases;



Photo n° 2 : The participants

attention to the gender specificities.

The sustainability of actions is provided by the commitment of the City Council, the contribution of ASaCo and of village communities, and the support of associations of migrant citizens.

The planned activities agree with national priorities in health, including:

- a) Health and Social Development Program II, especially with regard to the decentralization of health, the accessibility to Minimum Package of preventive and curative Activities, and the promotion of the quality of care;

- c) the consolidation of municipal leadership in health, by the animation of partnerships and communication between local social actors;
- d) the strengthening of community participation in curative and preventive health activities, through the establishment of the ASaCo in the village realities.

The methodology of intervention is based on the principles of dynamic exchange, of intercultural communication, with particular

- b) the Millennium Development Goals, with regard to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality;
- c) the National Policy of Traditional Medicine, with regard to the utilization of resources of the Traditional Medicine, including Traditional Birth Attendants

4. The implementation of the Project.

The project will be managed by a coordination desk, in which will be involved representatives of the City Hall, of technical team of CSCoM, of ASaCo, of Mutual Health Insurance Company, of Women Groups, of the Association of Traditional Healers, and of community leaders. The community involvement in the thinking on, and in the implementation of Project Activities, will build local capacity and effective participation to the choices and actions concerning health.

Monitoring and evaluation activities will be provided by District Council, Reference Health Center, and Social Development Service, with the involvement of the Local Federation of Community Health Associations, of the Coordination of Women's Associations, of the Union of Associations of Traditional Healers and of Commune Counseling Center (CCC). The animation, as well as the follow up at the local level, will be provided by the team of *Aidemet* Ong, in collaboration with Support Team to the Local Development (CADEL), CCC operator, who



Photo n° 3 : Questions of participants

has an extensive experience in coaching and monitoring of community groups and local authorities. Two animators (male and female) will be also recruited.

The thinking and the actions will be carried out in synergy with other projects and programs acting in Zégoua, among others: Research-Action on decentralization and community health in the communal areas, which *Aidemet* Ong is carrying out on behalf of the Swiss Cooperation, the Partnership Health and Social Development Program (Switzerland) and *Keneya Ciwara* Project (USAID).

5. Budget and timing.

The total cost of the project amounts to 134,107,500 CFA Francs. The co-financing of PCSM 2 was 45 million CFA Francs, or 34% of total costs. The contribution from the Municipality totaled 56,756,300 CFA Francs (42%) of which 48,820,000 CFA Francs as recovery of investments and 7,936,000 CFA Francs in cash. The contribution of ASaCo, with the support of communities and migrant citizens amounted to 25,266,200 CFA Francs, which 18,236,200 valorized and 7,030,000 in cash. The participation of *Aidemet* Ong is 7,085,000 CFA Francs, or 5% of the total cost. The project duration is 18 months.

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Photos: Archives *Aidemet*