

CIDES SALOUM HAS STARTED ITS ACTIVITIES FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE KAOLACK REGION (SENEGAL)

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The CIDES Saloum has begun his work for the competitive inclusive and sustainable economic development of the Kaolack Region, in Senegal.

The CIDES, which is inspired by the experiences of Local Economic Development Agencies [Local Economic Development Agencies](#), is adapted, through a participatory approach, to the institutional, economic and social realities of the territory, building an integrated service system capable of improving the use of local resources and give concrete answers to the communities, giving priority to the economic inclusion of women and youth.

From March 2016, the CIDES Saloum has started to be fully functional, relying on a technical team and its own headquarters. Specifically, the technical team is formed by a Director, an Expert of Economic Animation and Financing, an Expert of Capacity Building and Planning. The temporary headquarters of the CIDES Saloum is located in Kaolack, at the offices of the Italian Cooperation Agency.

The General Assembly of CIDES Saloum, approved on February 2015, is composed of 48 members, representatives of 17 youth and women associations, 6 social associations, 11 local productive structures, 9 Local Authorities and 5 representatives of the territorial economic and financial services.

One of the main activities started by the CIDES Saloum, is the agreement reached with the Integrated Programme for Economic and Social Development PIDES for the implementation of its Credit Program. In particular, in the coming months, the CIDES Saloum will be involved in the organization of the training program for about 500 people (specifically women and young people) belonging to approximately 350 micro and small enterprises. The CIDES will also provide specific technical and financial support to 22 enterprises, owned by women and young people, with particular potential of growth, belonging to the strategic value chains of cereals and *bissap*. These value chains have also been prioritized from the regional platform for the promotion of local economic development of the Kaolack Region.



The CIDES is finalizing partnership agreements with structures (members and non-members) which provide services for economic development at the local level. The aim of this work is to bring these structures together in a more coherent and integrated system in order to gradually improve their quality according to the needs of the most vulnerable population. Specifically, the CIDES is going to sign strategic partnership agreements with the Deconcentrated State Services of Agriculture, Livestock, Tourism, Community Development, Social Action and Youth in order to jointly implement actions of technical assistance and training. In the same logic, the agreement with Regional Development Agency ARD of Kaolack will establish collaboration on strategic planning. The agreement with University of Sine-Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima Niass Ussein will start collaborations on innovative agricultural methodologies and training.

The CIDES Saloum has already made a check-up of 19 enterprises, owned by women and young people operating in the two prioritized value chains of cereals (cereal producers, cereals-processors and cereal-traders) and *bissap* (hibiscus producers, bissap-processors, bissap-traders). The purpose of the checkup is to deeply analyze the status of these enterprises from the perspectives of market, production, organization and external relations. This work will allow to better organize the technical and financial support for those enterprises from both individual and value chain viewpoints.

Moreover, the CIDES has presented a technical and financial proposal to the KIP International School for the realization of activities in order to strengthen the tourism industry in the Sine Saloum territory, in the framework of the partnership between Liguria Region (Italy) and the Ministry of Local Governance, Development and Territorial Planning.

The CIDES design and implementation is developed within the framework of the National Strategy for Social Protection of vulnerable groups, promoted by the Ministry of Women. With the support of the Integrated Programme for Economic and Social Development PIDES, funded by the Government of Italy, the Ministry of Women is making many efforts to identify new paradigms of response to poverty challenges of vulnerable groups by facilitating access to services, economic opportunities and reducing inequalities. In this framework, KIP International School and the [ILS LEDA Program](#) have provided technical support for the design, creation and start-up of the CIDES, and encourages its future participation in networks of structures that promote inclusive and sustainable territorial development and innovation.

To know more

[CIDES Saloum brochure](#)

