



DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (DDC) REPORT ORGANIZED BY  
RÉSEAU SIGGIL JIGEEN TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING BY THE  
MAYORS, AUGUST 18, 2015  
DAKAR, SENEGAL

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## I. Introduction

In the follow-up of the mayors of commitments for increased funding of Family Planning (FP), the communes of Jeddah Thiaroye Kao, Mbao, Pikine Ouest, Pikine Nord and Tivavouane Diacksao, the Réseau Siggil Jigeen sparked the organization by the prefect of a special Departmental Development Committee (DDC) on family Planning on August 18, 2015 at the Prefecture of Pikine. The DDC was organized under the authority of the prefect of Pikine, represented by the deputy sub-prefect, in collaboration with the District Medical Officer of Pikine.

In addition to the councilors of raised Communes, the district reproductive health (RH) coordinators of Mbao, Pikine, Keur Massar, and the other actors such as sub prefects, presidents of Bajenu Gox (community health workers), religious representatives were widely represented at this meeting (see attendance list). The RSJ team was composed of Mrs. Safiétou Diop, President, Mrs. Fatou Ndiaye Turpin, Program Coordinator, Mrs. Fatou Touré Thiam, Member of the Board, Mr. Djibril Ousmane Ndong, responsible for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), Mrs. Ndoye Aida Ba, assistant, and Ms. Diallo Marieme Diouf, AFP / FG consultant for West Africa.

## II. Objectif of the DDC :

- Present the advocacy tool called "RAPID of Pikine" and the letters of commitment from mayors, FP champions;
- Create a tripartite committee involving city councilors, health care providers and FP key players to monitor the implementation of the mayors commitments;
- Share and validate the roles, tasks and responsibilities of the monitoring committee;
- Sparking engagement from mayors of other municipalities in the Pikine department.

## III. Expected Results :

- The RAPID Pikine is shared with all stakeholders.
- A tripartite committee was established and its role, mission, responsibilities was validated.
- Other mayors commit to support the PF.

- A list of potential targets is developed including the next steps for monitoring Pikine municipalities' commitments.

#### **IV. Proceeding of the Departmental Development Committee (DDC):**

##### **A. Opening session**

The session began at about 9: 30 pm under the chairmanship of the deputy sub-prefect of Pikine. After the usual introductions, the President of RSJ thanked all the participants, before explaining the genesis of the FP advocacy conducted by RSJ in the communities to support the efforts of the Government of Senegal, especially those of the Ministry of Health and Social Action in the sector of RH / FP.

The deputy sub-prefect, in his speech, thanking the RSJ, emphasized the need for a strong civil society. He also stressed the importance of setting up a committee to monitor the commitments made by mayors, taking into account the competences that were transferred to local communities. While giving examples based on his experiences in some areas, he added that behavior change was not an easy thing, and that we must praise the support of religious leaders and thank them, not to mention the enormous efforts of Bajenu gox that goes through the neighborhoods on a regular basis to inform and educate women.

##### **B. Presentation of the SOW:**

Sharing the SOW allowed the program coordinator to clarify the objectives of the meeting and the expected results. An important aspect was related to setting up a monitoring committee. RSJ also plans to work with the district team to identify the PF needs of the municipality for the rational use of the funds allocated by the mayors.

##### **C. Presentation of the « RAPID of Pikine » :**

The advocacy to raise awareness among mayors relied on the Pikine RAPID tool which is an analytical model of the population in relation to resources and its impact on development, developed with the demographic and health data of Pikine. The presentation of this RAPID by a member of RSJ board allowed to highlight the crucial issue of health and development that might occur if policymakers of Pikine does not engage to quickly improve access to FP by women who need in the area. She particularly stressed the magnitude of maternal and child mortality related to FP unmet needs in the community. This presentation showed lot of interest from the participants. Representatives of health districts who attended the meeting had suggested to improve the situation in that area through continued funding allocation for PF by local authorities. Furthermore, some participants felt that the rural exodus is among the reasons of the overcrowding and promiscuity found in the suburb of Pikine and Sicap Mbao; they added that authorities in this area should make a rational and fair distribution of state financial resources to keep young people in their own communities; this will prevent their relocation to other areas due to lack of employment.

It was also noted a positive attitude towards FP from the religious leaders who attended the DDC.

These very enriching discussions were preceded by the presentation of the official letters of the first mayors who have committed to support FP, such as DTK, Mbao, Pikine Nord, Pikine Ouest, etc. The fact that there is an advocacy team trained by RSJ in each of these communes was magnified.

The DDC yielded the following key points:

- The verbal commitment from the mayor of Thiaroye Gare through a representative (bajenu gox) who attended the meeting was announced;
- The representative of Pikine Nord reports that the letter of commitment will be made shortly;
- A tripartite committee was set up and will be under the authority of the “préfet” who will take an official "arreté" to make this committee, which will meet every three months.

#### CONCLUSION:

The DDC went very well. All items on the agenda were discussed and the expected results were achieved. The tripartite committee that was created will allow to better monitor the implementation of the quick wins for proper use of the funding received from the mayors and to better plan the next steps.