

Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 2

Citizen and political mobilisation for DSSRAJ in West Africa: how to support civil society action?

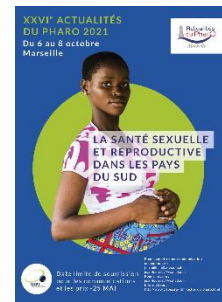
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Fatima KANDINE

fkandine@wahooas.org

Sané NDIAYE

sanejolie@yahoo.fr



The paper will focus on a West African health organisation civil society funding mechanism supporting citizen and political mobilisation actions in defence of sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR): FONDEMSAN. How is this mechanism bold? How does it support the realisation of the rights-based approach? What are the effects after 3 years of implementation?

Why focus on community health organisations (CSOs)?

The involvement of CSOs is a decisive element for the sustainable improvement of SRHR. Indeed, they play a central role in the evolution of public policies by identifying the needs of populations and relaying them to the various authorities. They also play a watchdog role by closely monitoring the implementation of the commitments made by the States and the quality of the programmes. They are also valuable partners both in changing social norms and in implementing government plans and programmes.

How can their development and sustainability be supported?

To fulfil their various roles, CSOs face three major challenges: 1. lack of time and tools to develop innovative projects 2. understanding the social and political changes that occur during the project period Ensuring their organisational development in order to sustain their action. FONDEMSAN's innovation is based on the establishment of a mechanism to support these three aspects: support for innovation, learning management and organisational development. Since its creation, this fund has reached 23 CSOs organised in consortia in Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Mali and Niger. The presentation will look back at the lessons learned from 3 years of personalised support.

For which projects and which changes?

The projects carried out by FONDEMSAN's beneficiary CSOs are committed to putting into practice the rights-based approach and the principle of accountability in the area of DSSRAJ. Based on the socio-ecological model of change, and with the aim of changing national policies and programmes for SRHR, the funded projects combine empowerment and youth participation actions with the construction of structured dialogues between authorities and citizens. The paper will present one of the projects financed in Mali that allowed the creation of an online platform for monitoring the implementation of commitments: the Layidu-meter.