

Action brief

Establishing, running and supervising Regional Nutrition Development Committees in Senegal

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Country: Senegal

Themes: Policy and budget cycle management

Sub-themes: Operationalization/implementation at the subnational level

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Overview



To help improve the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the National Nutrition Development Policy 2015–2025 and the establishment of the National Nutrition Development Council (CNDN), which replaced the Malnutrition Unit in September 2020, the Government of Senegal set up federal and cross-sectoral frameworks for managing nutrition at the various decentralized territorial levels (region, department and district).

Regional Nutrition Development Committees (CRDNs) were established to validate, target, propose, monitor and coordinate nutrition-related interventions at the regional level, contributing directly to the implementation of the PNDN 2015–2025.

The establishment of these committees is part of a wider context of devolution and greater decentralization in



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Senegal. The committees replace the Regional Monitoring Committees set up in 2003, broadening their scope by increasing the representation of key nutrition stakeholders and their powers as sole regional frameworks for the coordination and monitoring of all nutrition interventions. The broadening of their structure solidifies the multisectoral approach as an implementation principle of the National Nutrition Development Policy.



Objectives of the action brief

- Contribute to the strengthening of multisectoral coordination on nutrition at the regional level.
- Harmonize nutrition interventions at the regional level.
- Facilitate the evaluation of nutrition projects and programmes.



Period covered

The decree establishing the implementation of the CRDNs was published in 2021. Regional Governors, as the competent administrative authorities, began issuing decrees on the creation, organization and running of the CRDNs in order to gradually replace the existing Regional Monitoring Committees.



What action was taken?

Background and institutional framework

The Regional Monitoring Committees began helping monitor the nutrition enhancement programme in 2003. In 2021, the decree transforming the Malnutrition Unit into the CNDN introduced the possibility of regionalizing the coordination of nutrition by providing for the creation of the Regional Nutrition Development Committees. The CNDN coordinates the implementation of the National Nutrition Development Policy of Senegal. Among the objectives of establishing the committees was to consolidate the achievements made in nutrition at the regional level.

This approach consists of building capacities for nutrition monitoring and decentralization through regional administrations, ministry technical services and local authorities, with the ultimate aim of promoting better ownership of nutrition-related issues and facilitating access to domestic funding.

This is part of a general trend towards decentralization in the country.

Creation and running of the Regional Nutrition Development Committees

A CRDN is established by order of the Regional Governor. The structure of the CRDN is similar to that of the CNDN; it brings together the devolved technical services of the state, local authorities and civil society. Involvement from donors or the United Nations is uncommon at the regional level.

The CRDN validates, targets, proposes, monitors and coordinates nutrition interventions at the regional level. In



particular, it is responsible for selecting community-based implementing agencies (non-governmental organizations) that help implement specific and sensitive community nutrition interventions. The activities of the implementing agencies are overseen by the relevant ministry, but the funds are managed by the CNDN.

Each CRDN usually meets at least twice a year. The sessions are chaired by the Regional Governor and follow a predefined agenda. The members of the CRDN are expected to undertake regular field visits, once every six months.

The CNDN's Regional Representative regularly informs the CNDN about the implementation of activities and how the CRDN is operating and discusses any difficulties encountered with the Regional Governor.



Funding comes from the State budget, which means that the CRDN's work is on a more stable footing.

CRDNs are in place in 13 of Senegal's 14 regions; there is no CRDN in the Dakar region.

Effects

The benefits of introducing the CRDN are many:

- Increased ownership of nutrition issues and sensitivity of administrative staff and local elected officials

- Facilitation of nutrition interventions
- Better alignment of partners and harmonization of interventions
- Facilitation of conflict resolution through the authority of the Regional Governor
- Better consideration of local factors



Adaptation and applicability

A number of elements are essential for implementation:

- **A decentralized approach. It is advisable that the country already be engaged in a process of public decentralization or at least be familiar with such an approach.**
- **Stakeholder analysis.**
- **Freedom of action for regional committees. It is important that regional committees have room to manoeuvre. Their decisions must be considered and acted upon. Failing this, there is a risk that apathy will set in.**
- **Budget. A dedicated budget for these committees would provide stability and sustainability.**



Next steps

- The Strategic Multisectoral Nutrition Plan for the period 2023–2027 will be developed with increased participation from the regional level through the CRDN.



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Further information

Decree No. 2020-1802 of 24 September 2020 establishing and laying down the rules of organization and operation of the National Nutrition Development Council (CNDN).

Model decree on the establishment, organization and functioning of the Regional Nutrition Development Committee.

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