

An association creates a healthcare center in the heart of the bush to combat plagues and mother and child mortality in southwestern Senegal.

Kinkeliba

The leaves of the kinkeliba plant reportedly have medicinal powers when brewed as a tea. Le Kinkeliba is also the name Dr. Gilles Degois chose for an association founded to combat mother and child mortality. Le

Kinkeliba has been active in Senegal since 1995, notably in the region of Tambacounda. In 1998, the association opened its first medical center in Sinthian. Veolia Water Force helps out by replacing its well pump or disinfecting nearly

200 polluted wells. Since 2002, Le Kinkeliba has added education, agronomy, the rural economy and sustainable development to its lists of missions. The new Wassadou medical clinic is one by-product. "Our goal is to cre-

ate an integrated rural development pole combining a healthcare system with educational and agro-economic activities," explains Gilles Degois. Located on the edge of the national highway, to facilitate access to the site, the health-



The association Le Kinkeliba has been active in medical development in rural areas for 10 years. After creating its first community medical center, in Sinthian, a second was inaugurated in November 2005, in Wassadou.

care center features three pavilions, for medicine, maternity and pharmacy, an area for minor procedures, ophthalmology and dental care, and four hospital huts able to accommodate eight patients. The initial medical team

includes an African doctor assisted by a registered nurse and two healthcare officers. Specialist physicians, pharmacists, biologist and dentists provide coverage in their final year at the Dakar

university hospital center or volunteer Senegalese and European doctors. The Sinthian and Wassadou healthcare centers also aim to educate the population about hygiene and illness prevention. In

addition, Veolia Water Force teams teach inhabitants how to measure water quality and clean and maintain the well.



Both finances and expertise

Gilles Degois, dermatologist, chairman of Le Kinkeliba and member of the Veolia Environnement Foundation's board of directors, gives his definition of corporate sponsorship.

"The Veolia Environnement Foundation provided 150,000 euros for the financing of the project, representing more than 25% of the total. It donated all of the center's water and wastewater facilities, thanks to the technical expertise of Veolia Water Force. Corporate sponsorship is a very constructive practice, one that combines financial aid and professional technical input. With the help of Veolia, we hope to continue our work: excavating old wells, digging new ones and equipping them with pumps, building family latrines in villages and schools, etc."

Employees rally strongly through Veolia Water Force

The following people in particular were involved:

Jacques Chaigneau (former head of major projects development at Dalkia and later Veolia Environmental Services), chief contractor for the project and one of its sponsors;

Lucy Lytton (Veolia Water UK), project sponsor in charge of prospecting and drilling authorizations;

Pierre-Yves Oger (Veolia Water Force) and **Franck Haaser** (Veolia Water), for the design of the drinking water and wastewater system and consultation with companies;

Dominique Frick (Sade Lyon), for the creation of the water distribution system from the overhead water tank.

The involvement of residents and their repr



Wassadou's missions combine agro-econom



ber 2005 by the president of the Republic of Senegal.



Left to right

• Local construction materials help reduce building costs and protect the environment.

• The construction site head, Badou Alioune Niang, supervises construction of the huts.

• Except in the case of surgical buildings for hygienic reasons, the roofs are built of straw.

• Inauguration of the village, attended by the Republic of Senegal President, Abdoulaye Wade.

• The village heads in the surrounding areas serve as effective ambassadors for the project and its missions among the people.

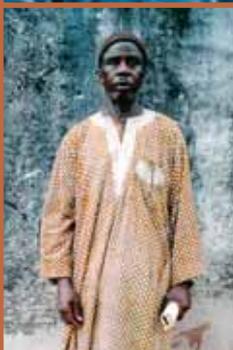
• Constance Mbaye, facility director.

• Fruit, vegetable and poultry production and the manufacture of handicrafts will generate wealth to benefit the healthcare center and populations.

• Gilles Degois, chairman of Le Kinkeliba, in the field.

More information about Le Kinkeliba is available on its Website: www.lekinkeliba.org

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