

Sisters Cities International Senegal

NGO Presentation



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A. Who are we



Sister Cities International Senegal is a non-governmental, apolitical, secular organization, independent of any trade union, religious, or ethnic group, and committed to preventing any form of discrimination based on gender, race, or appearance. Its headquarters are located in Dakar, Senegal. SCIS is built upon the experience and expertise gained by Sister Cities International over decades, aimed at strengthening global ties and fostering relationships between the world's peoples.

Our mission is to reinforce local governance and support community-based organizations that collaborate with their communities to improve quality of life by fostering intelligent, sustainable, and scalable systemic changes.

SCIS actively engages in synergistic initiatives across multiple sectors, including decentralization, agriculture and food security, the environment and climate change, health, nutrition, education, as well as arts and culture. Special focus is placed on the empowerment of women, youth, and vulnerable groups such as the disabled, children, widows, and the elderly.

Our team is entirely African, with unparalleled knowledge of the continent's challenges, opportunities, and unique context. Through direct collaboration with the communities we serve, we deliver high-quality programs tailored to real, felt needs, utilizing innovative approaches based on cutting-edge technologies.

Since its establishment in 1956, the mission of Sister Cities International (SCI) has been rooted in the principles that inspired President Dwight David Eisenhower to create the People-to-People program. As he famously stated in his iconic speech: "If we are to take advantage of the belief that all people desire peace, then the challenge is that people must come together and, if necessary, bypass governments—seeking solutions not through one single approach, but through a thousand ways by which individuals can gradually learn more about each other."

B. Mission, Vision, Values



1. Mission & Vision

The Vision of Sister Cities International Senegal (SCIS): SCIS envisions the emergence of educated, healthy, and productive communities across Senegal and Africa, living in safe, resilient, and inspiring environments where they can thrive and actively contribute to development initiatives.

The Mission of SCIS: Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for populations in Senegal and Africa by driving intelligent, sustainable, and scalable systemic changes that meet the needs of communities.

What Do We Do?

a) Philosophie of intervention

SCIS operates across a variety of sectors aligned with the needs and expectations of local development. In its approach, SCIS draws on the principles of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, the aspirations outlined in **Agenda 63** and countries national development agenda. The goal is to promote actions based on the adaptation and implementation of these agendas at the local level. This approach translates global and national objectives into concrete actions within communities, cities, regions, and national territories, while considering the economic, social, cultural, and environmental specifics of each local context. Key aspects include:

1. Adaptation to Local Contexts:

While the SDGs are global in scope, their achievement necessitates a consideration of local realities. This means adapting goals and indicators to the specific needs and priorities of each territory, ensuring that global ambitions resonate on the ground.

2. Participation and Inclusion:

SCIS promotes a **participatory process**, where populations, local communities, local authorities, the private sector, and other stakeholders are actively involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of actions. This approach ensures that development is inclusive and reflects the needs of all groups within society.

3. **Local Appropriation:**

The success of this approach hinges on the **ownership** of the SDGs by local actors—municipal authorities, communities, and other stakeholders—who integrate these goals into their development plans. It is through this local appropriation that long-term change can be realized.

4. **Local Partnerships:**

Localization of the SDGs requires robust **cooperation** between a range of local actors, including local governments, businesses, civil society, universities, and research institutions. These partnerships are essential for mobilizing the resources, knowledge, and expertise needed to achieve the SDGs effectively.



We use our expertise

- ☐ Support for Local Authorities:
- ☐ Community Engagement & Capacity Building
- ☐ Behavioral Change at the Local Level
- ☐ Innovative Partnerships



As part of our technical specifications

- ☐ Local gouvernance ;
- ☐ Agriculture & Food Security;
- ☐ Environnement & NRM ;
- ☐ Health & nutrition;
- ☐ Education & Sport;
- ☐ Crafts & culture.



By promoting cross-cutting themes

- ☐ Economic development;
- ☐ Commitment to women;
- ☐ Commitment to youth;
- ☐ Support for the most vulnerable (disabled orphans, widows, etc.)

OUR EXPERTISE	TECHNICAL SPECIFICITIES	CROSS-CUTTING THEMES
<p>Support for Local Authorities: Providing technical and operational support to local authorities to strengthen their governance capacity and improve service delivery to communities.</p> <p>Community Engagement & Capacity Building: Empowering local communities through active engagement and training programs aimed at building their skills and enhancing their ability to drive sustainable development.</p> <p>Behavioral Change at the Local Level: Promoting changes in behavior and attitudes within communities, encouraging sustainable practices and fostering a culture of cooperation and resilience.</p> <p>Innovative Partnerships: Fostering new, innovative partnerships among local governments, private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to leverage resources, share knowledge, and achieve collective development goals.</p>	<p>Local Governance: Strengthening the capacity of local authorities to enhance democratic governance, improve public service delivery, and promote transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Agriculture & Food Security: Supporting sustainable agricultural practices and promoting food security to ensure that local communities have access to sufficient, nutritious food.</p> <p>Environment – Climate Change & RNM : Addressing environmental challenges by promoting sustainable practices that protect natural resources, mitigate climate change, and enhance resilience to environmental risks.</p> <p>Health & Nutrition: Improving health outcomes and promoting better nutrition through community-based programs that enhance access to quality healthcare and healthy food choices.</p> <p>Education & Sport: Fostering quality education and physical development through programs that promote learning, skills development, and sports as tools for personal growth and community cohesion.</p> <p>Crafts & Culture: Supporting the preservation and promotion of local crafts and cultural heritage, encouraging creativity and economic opportunities within the arts and culture sector.</p>	<p>Economic Development: Promoting sustainable economic growth by supporting local businesses, creating job opportunities, and fostering entrepreneurship to drive prosperity in communities.</p> <p>Commitment to Women: Advancing gender equality by empowering women through access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and leadership roles in society.</p> <p>Commitment to Youth: Investing in the future of young people by providing opportunities for education, skills development, and active participation in community life, ensuring they become positive agents of change.</p> <p>Support for the Most Vulnerable: Offering targeted support for the most vulnerable groups, including the disabled, orphans, widows, and other marginalized individuals, to ensure their inclusion and improve their quality of life.</p>

2. SCIS Values

The values and principles adopted by SCIS are as indispensable as the mission and vision: the distinctive attributes that characterize these values are the way in which SCIS behaves in the search for tangible and sustainable results. SCIS is apolitical, secular and independent of any trade union, religious or ethnic group, and prohibits any discrimination.

Respect for people, communities and cultures: Our success depends on the active participation of the people we are committed to serving and the partners with whom we work. We respect the needs, values and traditions of local communities and cultures, and we build relationships based on mutual benefit and trust.

Commitment to Diversity: We recognize the contributions of people from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and identities. We will recruit and develop people to create a diverse, inclusive and equitable organization that reflects our universal character.

One Community: Our strength and vitality lie in being one organization working together and collaborating locally and across national borders to achieve our universal mission. We value the collective and collaborative efforts that are so essential to our success.

Tangible and sustainable results: applying innovative solutions to complex problems at scale

- Develop, analyze and use the best available scientific and technical rigor to establish priorities, make decisions, take action and measure results.
- Promote innovation and creativity for the pursuit of excellence in our action.
- Conduct our business in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Always promoting transparency, responsibility and accountability in the way we do business.

C. SCIS Technical Specificities



Sister Cities International Senegal's specific areas of technical intervention include: Local Governance, Agriculture & Food Security, Environment & Natural Resource Management, Nutrition, Health, Education & Promotion of National Languages, and Crafts and Culture.

1) **Local Governance**

The primary objective is to support local governments and catalytic community organizations in their efforts to enhance the quality of life of their communities by fostering intelligent, sustainable, and potentially scalable systemic changes. Specific goals include:

- **Supporting the Development of Decentralized Cooperation and Resource Mobilization:** Contributing to the strengthening of decentralized cooperation mechanisms and actively seeking additional resources to support local development efforts.
- **Supporting the Management of Transferred Skills and the Localization of Public Policies:** Assisting in the management and effective application of transferred skills, as well as ensuring that public policies are tailored to the specific needs of local territories.
- **Facilitating Engagement with Private Sector Actors and Central Government to Promote Investment:** Acting as an intermediary to foster partnerships between local governments, private sector actors, and central government services to stimulate investment in local development.
- **Facilitating Collaborative Relationships Between Local and State Actors:** Promoting collaboration between local governments, state services, and other stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of government programs and encourage territorial dialogue.
- **Implementing Performance Monitoring and Evaluation:** Developing systems to monitor and evaluate the performance of local initiatives, ensuring that they meet objectives and contribute to sustainable development outcomes.
- **Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Adapting and integrating the global Sustainable Development Goals into local contexts to ensure that development actions align with both global and local priorities.

2) **Agriculture & Food Security**

The overall research objective is to enhance household resilience in the face of food insecurity and sustainably increase their income. Specific goals include:

- **Increasing Agricultural Productivity and Diversification:** Supporting the adoption of improved inputs and appropriate technologies to boost agricultural productivity and diversify production.
- **Modernizing Agriculture:** Contributing to the modernization of agricultural practices through the introduction of innovative techniques and technologies that increase efficiency and sustainability.
- **Strengthening the Capacity of Producers and Community-Based Organizations:** Enhancing the skills and capacities of individual producers, grassroots community organizations, and producer groups to improve their production capabilities and market engagement.

- **Promoting Agribusiness Development:**

Encouraging the growth of agribusiness through a value chain approach, focusing on key sectors like agriculture and livestock to create added value and improve market access.

3) **Environment and Natural Resources Management**

SCIS aims to contribute to environmental protection, the sustainable management of natural resources, and provide effective responses to the challenges posed by climate change. Key areas of focus include :

- **Support for the Creation and Management of Forests, Protected Areas, and Natural Sites of Interest:**

Assisting in the establishment and management of forests, protected zones, and ecologically significant natural sites to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem health.

- **Support for Developing and Implementing Environmental Action Plans, Emergency Response, and Risk Prevention:**

Contributing to the development of comprehensive environmental action plans, including strategies for emergency response and risk mitigation in the face of environmental threats.

- **Support for the Protection of Ground and Surface Water:**

Promoting sustainable practices to safeguard groundwater and surface water resources, ensuring access to clean water for communities and ecosystems.

- **Contribution to the Protection of Nature:**

Engaging in conservation efforts to protect ecosystems, wildlife, and natural habitats from degradation, while promoting sustainable resource use.

- **Contribution to Waste Management:**

Supporting waste management initiatives, including recycling, waste reduction, and sustainable disposal methods to reduce environmental pollution.

- **Promotion of Research and Innovative Solutions for Climate Change Challenges:**

Encouraging research and the development of innovative solutions to address the environmental impacts of climate change, with a focus on long-term sustainability.

4) **Nutrition**

SCIS aims to contribute to improving the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, including children aged 0 to 5 years, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers, among others. Key initiatives include :

- **Screening and Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in Children Under 5 Years:**

Implementing screening and management programs to identify and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in young children, ensuring timely intervention.

- **Implementation of Weight Monitoring Systems for Children Under 2 Years Old:**

Introducing weight monitoring systems to track the growth and nutritional status of children under two, allowing for early identification of nutritional deficiencies.

- **Promoting Behavior Change:**

Encouraging positive changes in dietary and health-related behaviors through community-based education and awareness campaigns focused on good nutrition and health practices.

- **Promotion of Technical and Technological Innovations to Combat Global Acute Malnutrition:**

Supporting the use of innovative technologies and research, such as

predictive models, to better understand and reduce global acute malnutrition and improve nutritional interventions.

5) **Health**

The overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality, with a focus on vulnerable populations, as well as addressing non-communicable and chronic diseases. Key initiatives include :

- **Improving the Quality and Availability of Information, Products, and Services:** Enhancing access to high-quality health information, products, and services, ensuring that communities have the tools they need for better health outcomes.
- **Support for Community Ownership:** Empowering local communities to take ownership of their health initiatives, fostering active participation in health decisions and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Improving Relationships and Collaboration Between Health Teams and Community Stakeholders:** Strengthening cooperation between health teams, local leaders, and community stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to health challenges.
- **Promoting Innovation in the Community Health Sector:** Encouraging the development and adoption of innovative health solutions that improve service delivery and address emerging health challenges at the community level.
- **Enhancing Community Resilience to Health Emergencies and Developing Alert Systems:** Strengthening community resilience by innovating in the implementation of health emergency response systems and developing effective community-based alert systems to address health crises.

6) **Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages**

SCIS aims to contribute to the establishment of universal basic education and the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning. Key initiatives include:

- **Support for the Construction and Equipping of Socio-Educational Infrastructure:** Assisting in the construction and furnishing of schools and educational facilities to create a conducive learning environment.
- **Support for the Acquisition of Textbooks, School Supplies, and Teaching Materials:** Facilitating access to educational resources by supporting the purchase of textbooks, school supplies, and teaching materials to enhance the quality of education.
- **Support for the Operation of Educational Management Bodies:** Strengthening the capacity of educational management bodies to effectively oversee and administer education systems at the local level.
- **Support for the Development and Implementation of Illiteracy Eradication Plans:** Promoting adult literacy programs and supporting the development of strategies to eliminate illiteracy, particularly in underserved communities.
- **Support for the Promotion of Inclusive Education:** Advocating for and supporting inclusive education practices that ensure equal access to quality education for all children, including those with disabilities.

- **Support for the Promotion of Civic Values and Active Citizenship:** Encouraging the integration of civic education into curricula to foster the development of responsible citizens who contribute actively to their communities.
- **Promotion of Sport in Schools:** Supporting the inclusion of sports and physical education in school programs to promote healthy lifestyles, teamwork, and the holistic development of students.

7) **Crafts & Culture**

The overall objective of SCIS is to contribute to the development of crafts and the promotion of a robust cultural industry, leveraging the opportunities offered by Senegal. Key initiatives include :

- **Contributing to the Identification and Development of the Economic Potential of Crafts and Culture:**
 - Mapping the craft and cultural potential of the territory.
 - Conducting territorial diagnostics to assess the needs of craft and cultural businesses.
 - Developing territorial strategic plans for the crafts and culture sectors.
 - Forward planning for job creation and skills development in the craft and cultural industries.
 - Promoting the development of craft and cultural professions, value chains, and businesses.
- **Promotion of Artisanal and Cultural Value Chains:**
 - Promoting artisanal and cultural value chains within the territories to foster economic growth.
 - Raising awareness of crafts and culture among the general public.
 - Promoting local know-how and traditional skills.
- **Development and Promotion of the Craft and Cultural Economy:**
 - Supporting initiatives that strengthen the craft and cultural economy, positioning these sectors as key contributors to local and national economic growth.
- **Support for Projects to Revitalize and Maintain Craft and Cultural Activities:**
 - Assisting in the establishment and maintenance of craft and cultural activities tailored to local contexts.
 - Encouraging innovation through digitalization, new equipment, and services for craft and cultural businesses.
 - Providing support for training in craft and cultural professions to enhance skill development.
 - Identifying and facilitating access to new markets and outlets for craft and cultural products.

D. The 4 Pillars of our Administrative & Financial Management

Pillar 1: Accounting Management

- Accounting Software (Quick Books)

- Secure IT environment
- Controlled accessibility

Pillar 2: Efficient Administrative Management

- Organization of expenditure according to the approved budget and validated action plans.
- Logistics & Inventory Management.
- Operational performance monitoring.
- Internal Control.

Pillar 3: Human Resources

- Recruitment of qualified & experienced personnel.
- Extensive network of consultants & external speakers.
- Strong division of labor.
- Well-defined Roles & Responsibilities.
- Staff performance monitoring.

Pillar 4: Use of Best Practices

- Approval & Visas.
- Monitoring efficiency in actions.
- Spot Check.
- *Data Quality Assessment* (Quality of reported data).
- AGILE practices in task management.
- Evaluation of project, program and staff performance.

E. Our Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning System - MEL

- Baseline Studies & Final Surveys - Development of a Monitoring Plan for the operational performance of our projects and programs and development of Project & Program Performance Improvement Plans - Adoption of the Randomized Evaluation System - Use of advanced methods such as 'Impact Mapping'.
- Risk management plan.
- Development of efficient tools for MEL and PMP - Performance Management Plan (Indicators & Definition, Target, Collection Frequency, Collection Sources, Verification Method, Assumptions).
- Data Collection Management System - Data Quality Assessment (DQA).
- Reporting, Joint Visits, Case Studies & Success Stories, Academic research – longitudinal studies.

F. Innovative Partnerships

“SCIS a catalyst for change through local investment and promotion of Innovative Partnerships »

SCIS positions itself as an NGO committed to playing a key role in fostering innovative partnerships. As a respected civil society actor, it offers high-quality expertise, legitimacy, and a proven ability to mobilize communities. This makes SCIS a trusted and reliable partner for both the government and national or international companies looking to invest in Senegal and host countries.