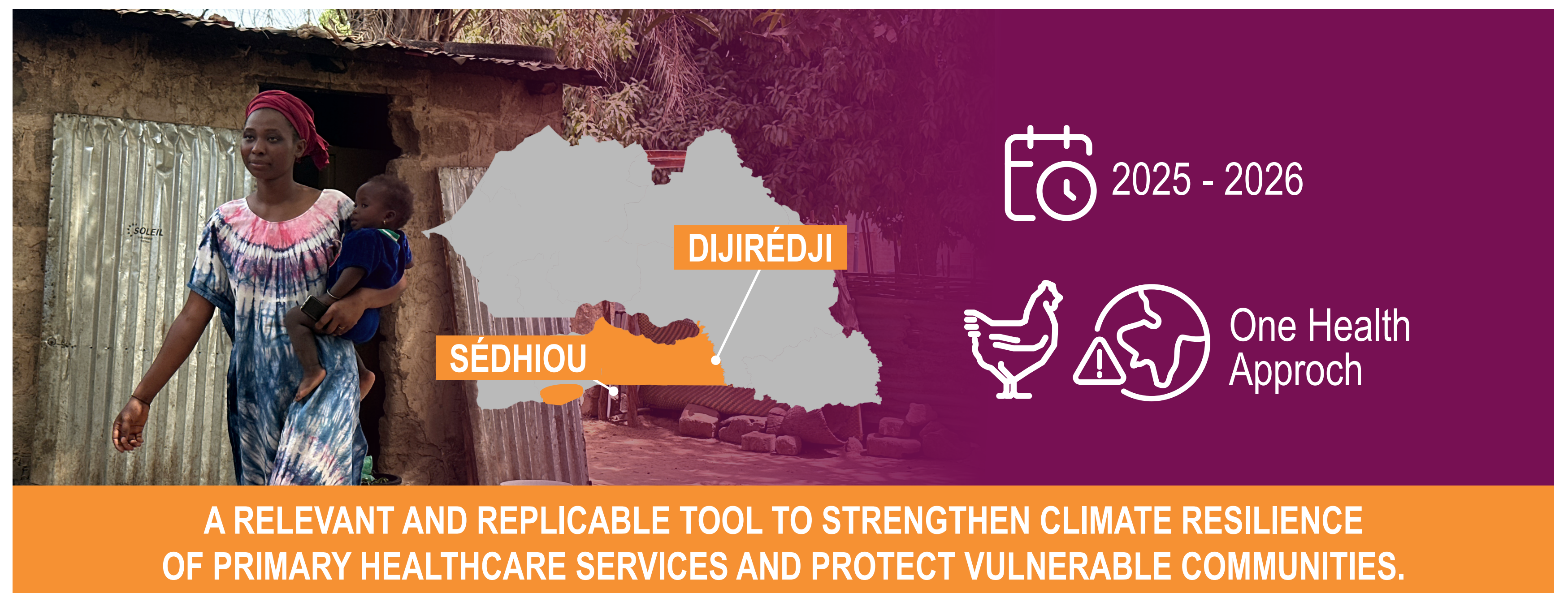


Strengthening Climate Resilience of Communities and Primary Healthcare Services through a One Health Approach: The SENEYA Project, Senegal

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INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a growing threat to human, animal, and environmental health in sub-Saharan Africa. In Senegal's Sédhiou region, environmental degradation, inadequate waste management, and vulnerable primary healthcare services compound this risk. SENEYA set out to strengthen the climate resilience of communities and primary health structures through a One Health approach, by testing and adapting a climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology to the primary-care context while building community and professional capacities.



METHODS

Two-year (2025-2026) participatory, multi-stakeholder project in Sédhiou and Djirédji, mobilizing communities, women's groups, health services, local authorities, and civil society; data collected using gender-sensitive tools. Interventions were structured around four axes:

- ▶ community awareness radio broadcasts, home visits (VADI), thematic events;
- ▶ capacity building of professional and community actors ;
- ▶ adaptation of primary health structures via the VCA methodology (diagnosis, planning, implementation);
- ▶ knowledge generation for advocacy.

CONCLUSIONS

The adapted VCA methodology is a relevant, replicable tool for climate adaptation of primary health services within a One Health approach. Vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans enable targeted, effective interventions, while community engagement and endogenous actions ensure sustainability. The results support integrating VCA into health policies and scaling it up in other regions facing similar climate challenges.



RESULTS

Key outcomes:

- ▶ VCA methodology successfully adapted to primary care; climate vulnerability assessments of 3 health facilities with concrete adaptation plans.
- ▶ Infrastructure gains: waste management & composting systems, revitalized Health, Safety, and Working Conditions Committee, green spaces, 50 native trees planted, 10 ha of mangrove restored.
- ▶ 76 actors trained (62 community + 14 professionals); knowledge increased for 64% of community actors and 78% of health professionals.
- ▶ 10,420 people sensitized (126% of the 8,270 target); 1,029 VADI home visits (108% of the 953 target); 12 radio broadcasts.
- ▶ 10 endogenous adaptation actions identified, 4 supported with a gender focus; 400+ participants mobilized at events.
- ▶ VCA methodological guide developed to support replication.

