

CCISD'S HISTORICAL

HIGHLIGHTS

Where it all started

Faculty members from Laval University's Faculty of Medicine put together a team to support the Comoros in organizing their health care system. For several members of the team, this project is a real introduction to international health; **a positive experience that motivates Laval University to do more** to help improve the health of populations around the world.

The birth of CCISD

Laval University decides to fully commit to international development and adopts a resolution **creating a new faculty center at the Faculty of Medicine**, dedicated to coordinating and promoting the university's activities in the field. Dr. Pierre Viens is thus appointed to the management of the Center for International Cooperation in Health and Development, otherwise known as CCISD.

New opportunities

In the early 1990s, CCISD is going strong. In addition to carrying out several institutional **support projects for medical schools and research institutes**, the team implements, as a complement to the AIDS Program, an innovative project which contributes to strengthening the management of health information for improved disease surveillance.

Until 1998, the **Epidemiological Surveillance Support Project**, or PASE, contributes to the establishment, in five West African countries, of Centres for Epidemiological Surveillance (CES's) that are integrated into the existing national health information systems. Two additional funding phases then make it possible for CCISD to do more under the **Integrated Epidemiological Surveillance Support Project**, PASEi (6 countries, 1999-2002), and PASEi 2 (5 countries, 2003-2011).

A major shift

The field of international development assistance changes with every request for proposals and becomes increasingly competitive. In order to better meet the new requirements of financial partners, **CCISD becomes a stand-alone not-for-profit organization, fully independent of Laval University.**

Providing support for improved Primary Health Care (PHC) services

CCISD expands its areas of intervention and uses its project management expertise through initiatives aiming to improve access to quality PHC services.

In the DR Congo, for example, projects like **PROSA-KIN (2003-2011)**, **HSRSP (2007-2012)** and **PASSKIN (2012-2017)** make a difference by providing valuable support for health system strengthening in several of the country's provinces.

Focusing on women and children

As the main users of health services, women and children are always among the key beneficiaries of CCISD projects. Over the years, CCISD's team develops a number of effective tools and strategies aiming at improved and sustainable health outcomes for women and children.

This experience leads CCISD to design an original intervention, entirely focused on women and children's health. Thanks to an integrated and comprehensive approach aiming at supporting health facilities, health governance and communities, PRISMA becomes an exemplary project.

The Organization celebrates its 25th anniversary

The CCISD team takes stock of the activities, experience and lessons learned that have marked its first 25 years of operation. In addition to several festivities organized to commemorate this important milestone, the year leads to the **renewal of the collaboration agreement between CCISD and Laval University** for five more years.

CCISD also takes the opportunity to **thank Dr. Pierre Viens for his dedication as his second term as Chair of the Board comes to an end**. Before taking over the chairmanship of CCISD, Dr. Viens had, since 1987, served as Director, Scientific Director and Scientific Advisor.

All in for the environment

Recognizing the undeniable impact of the environment as a key determinant of health, CCISD has mainstreamed environmental protection as a crosscutting theme in all of its projects. However, **CCISD takes a step further when designing its first initiative solely focussing on improving environmental health as its ultimate outcome**. Known as BECEYA (2015-2020), which means "hygiene" in Bambara (one of Mali's local languages), this project contributes to increasing access by Malian women, men and child to clean and safe health facilities, thereby improving the quality of health services.

Promising partnerships

With multisectoral and synergistic approaches in mind, **CCISD creates and strengthens partnerships in order to broaden the scope of its interventions, as well as to diversify both in terms of location and nature of its initiatives**. These efforts lead to innovative projects such as the Multisectoral Programme to Improve Livelihoods in Rural Areas of Bolivia (PROMAVI), carried out in consortium with SOCODEVI.



2012



2017

The beginning of a great adventure

CCISD is assigned the task of designing and implementing a **major Canadian AIDS Program in Francophone Africa**. Known as **AIDS 1**, this \$ 21.3-million initiative is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 1990 to 1995.

Operating in 13 countries, AIDS 1 quickly becomes a flagship project for CCISD and enables its team to **lay the foundations of its expertise in the management of health projects**. It is then followed by two other phases, **AIDS 2 (1996-2000)** and **AIDS 3 (2001-2006)**, and recognized by UNAIDS as an International Best Practice in the response to AIDS.

Promoting Africa's expertise

Wanting to find new ways to promote and develop Africa's resources in a sustainable way, CCISD contributes to establishing **BASP'96, a fully independent and locally incorporated African Bureau of Public Health Studies** (based in Benin and Burkina Faso), to which it assigns a few mandates and with whom the CCISD still collaborates to this day.

The launch of activities in Haiti

Building on the expertise acquired in the response to AIDS in West Africa, CCISD (in consortium with CECI) begins its operations in Haiti under the **Project to Support the Fight Against STIs/HIV/AIDS in Haiti (PALIH, 2002-2007)**. This first experience in the Caribbean leads to other initiatives, such as **PALIH 2 (2006-2012)** and the Project for Integrated Management of Maternal and Child Health in Artibonite, or **PRISMA (2011-2016)**.

Working towards improving access to skilled human resources

Based on the experience gained from the **Paramedic Training Support Project (2005-2010)**, CCISD enhances its contribution to the **training of health professionals in Mali through DÉCLIC (2010-2018)**, an initiative implemented in consortium with the University of Sherbrooke and the *Cégep de Saint-Jérôme*. This innovative project helps increase the number of skilled medical and paramedical personnel for front-line services in the Community Health Centres (CHCs) of Mali, in particular by establishing University Education CHCs.

A proven approach

Because of CCISD's experience in strengthening epidemiological surveillance in West Africa, **the World Bank requests the organization's collaboration for the implementation of a catalytic project** known as the West Africa Regional Disease Surveillance Capacity Strengthening Project (WARDS).

Recognized on several occasions for its efficiency between 1991 and 2011, the PASEi approach becomes a central element of CCISD's involvement in the WARDS project, implemented in 15 West African countries.

CCISD - Pierre Viens Award (2016 Edition)

CCISD launches an annual award that aims to recognize the contribution towards improving populations' health by organizations that host interns from Laval University's Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Nursing. For five years, a total of CA \$20,000 will be awarded each year following a request for applications.