



WFP Senegal Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Senegal ranks 37 out of 76 countries in the Global Hunger Index. Over the past decade, inadequate and unstable household food production due to deficit harvests caused by recurrent drought, floods, desert encroachment and salinization of arable lands, persistently high food prices and low resilience have compounded the food security of households and communities. As a result, nearly half of its population continues to live in poverty and have difficulty meeting basic food, health, education and housing needs. Poverty and food insecurity are highest in the southern Casamance region, further burdened by continuing low level conflict.

The Government is committed to boost national economic growth and reduce poverty through the Plan Sénégal Emergent. A National Programme is being rolled out for *Family Social Security Transfers* to tackle chronic poverty and make poor citizens more resilient to shocks. This programme, however, only targets a quarter of a million people in need. Many Senegalese resort to migration for financial survival. The Government of Senegal is also committed to gender equality and has a legal framework to protect women's rights. WFP has been present in Senegal since 1960.



Population: **14.6 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
170 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **17.1 % of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: Marie Dokh, Supply Chain Officer
Caption: School Feeding Day celebration in Diaglé primary school (Fatick region)

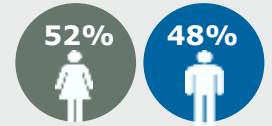
In Numbers

52.094 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 71,369 cash based transfers made

US\$ 11.4 million six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements, representing 75.5% of total budget needs

158,835 people assisted in March 2018



Operational Updates

- Sahel Shock Response:** The March 2018 *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis indicates that 750,000 people will require assistance during the lean season (versus 550,000 according to November 2017 projections). The situation has been deteriorating since the beginning of 2018 and the lean season is expected to last longer this year. Assessments conducted by WFP, the Government and food security partners indicate an early adoption of negative coping strategies (cutting down number of meals, decreased dietary diversity, taking children out of school) and a risk of increasing malnutrition rates. A government response plan (PUSA 2018) targeting 375,000 people in six northern departments was finalized and is expected to be validated in April. WFP will assist 139,500 people identified as acutely food insecure through targeted food assistance (TFA) and nutritional interventions. Distributions will start in May and prioritize the most affected agropastoralist livelihood areas located in Podor and Matam departments.
- School meals:** On 1 March, WFP Senegal celebrated the third African School Meals Day (JAAS), under the theme "Realising African Child Full Potential Through Effective Home-Grown School Feeding". Diaglé school, located in the Fatick region, was selected for the event due to the dynamism of the school management committee. Participants included WFP Representative, the Head of the National School Meals Division (DCAS), the Deputy Governor of Fatick and various local authorities. School meals' benefits for children and surrounding communities were emphasised, as well as WFP's contribution to the local economy, via the cash and voucher modalities.
- Rural Development:** The R4 Initiative mostly carried out market gardening, an off-season activity, in the Tambacounda region. After harvesting the field crops in November-December, women focus on their vegetable gardens, usually set around a water point (well). This activity allows households to improve their basic diet and supplement their income. Seeds (okra, eggplants, chili) and equipment (wheelbarrows, rakes, watering cans) were provided to women's groups, who also benefited from numerous trainings.
- Consultations:** The Country Director held several strategic consultations with key stakeholders in the food security landscape in Senegal. Meetings included government officials (ministers of Education, Agriculture, Social Protection) and financial and technical partners (USAID, DFID, EU). The Country Director also led a field mission in the southern region of Kolda to visit WFP beneficiaries, partners and sub-office staff.

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WFP Senegal Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January - December 2018)

15.1 m	2.6 m (17.2%)	12.5 m (82.8%)
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure households and vulnerable populations, (including school-aged children), are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs all year-round.		
7.8 m	1.2 m (15.2%)	6.6 m (84.8%)
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted populations, including children 6-59 months and pregnant lactating women in targeted districts, have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2025		
2.2 m	1 m (45.5%) The US\$ 1 m contribution is an advance to be reimbursed.	2.2 m (100%)
Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs by 2023.		
4.4 m	0.3 m (6.8%)	4.1 m (93.2%)
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 4: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2023.		
0.7 m	0.1 m (14.3%)	0.6 m (85.7%)

WFP Senegal Activities

SO 1 Food-insecure households and vulnerable populations, (including school-aged children), are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs all year-round.

SO 2 Targeted populations, including children aged 6-59 months and pregnant lactating women in targeted districts, have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2025.

SO 3 Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs by 2023.

SO 4 National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2023.

Monitoring

- **Monitoring coverage:** A total of 19 sites (12 rural development sites and 7 primary schools) were monitored in the Tambacounda region. Due to underfunding only 32 percent of the monitoring visits planned for the month of March were eventually carried out.
- **Complaints and feedback mechanism:** A toll-free number (800 800 802) is in place as a complaints and feedback mechanism. The majority of beneficiaries are satisfied with WFP assistance. Calls are mainly related to information requests from retailers.

Challenges

- WFP needs USD 12.5 million to implement planned activities, under the new T-ICSP framework. If the underfunding is not addressed, the lack of resources will negatively affect WFP planned activities in 2018 such as school meals, rural development and capacity development.
- An additional USD 4.6 million is required to enable WFP to expand TFA and nutrition interventions in support of the Government's PUSA.

Praises

- During IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) on 26-27 March, the nexus between migration, agriculture and rural development was explored: 75 percent of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas and are mostly dependent on agriculture, making them highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters.
- The important role of UN agencies was highlighted, including when the representative of the Senegalese Government praised the work of WFP Senegal to promote rural development by investing in improved agricultural performance.

Gender Commitment

- WFP mainstreams gender sensitivity as an integral part of every project to address Senegal's gender indicators, which reveal the disadvantaged position of girls and women.
- WFP implements tailored interventions across the agriculture, education and nutrition sectors to contribute towards gender equality and women's empowerment and access to food for people living with disability and the elderly.

Donors

USA, United Kingdom, European Union, Japan, France, Finland, Green Climate Fund, Canada, Japan, Luxembourg, Private Donors

