



Safe Access To Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Senegal

Saving lives through SAFE cooking

WFP works to ensure that the food assistance provided can be consumed as safely and nutritiously as possible. While cooking may be thought of as a safe activity, in many circumstances, especially humanitarian settings, it poses serious health, safety and environmental risks. In Senegal, vulnerable populations are facing severe challenges related to a lack of access to cooking fuel in rural areas.

FACTS Senegal

- **About 86 percent of the rural population depends on biomass (mostly firewood) for cooking.** In many regions, access to fuelwood is restricted as a result of deforestation.
- **Adoption of fuel-efficient stoves in rural Senegal is limited.** Cooking on the traditional three-stone fire is fuel- and time-intensive, exposing cooks to toxic fumes and serious health hazards. **In Senegal, indoor air pollution causes an estimated 6,300 premature deaths per year.**
- Woodfuel collection takes **precious time away from more productive activities such as child care, education and income-generating activities.**
- During collection trips, women and children risk being exposed to **sexual and other forms of violence.**

Until 2015, Senegal has supported 405,348 people through the SAFE initiative. WFP has globally reached over 6 million people with SAFE in 18 countries.

The challenge

In Senegal, rural populations are highly dependent on firewood to prepare and cook their food, in contrast to urban populations that mostly use charcoal and liquefied petroleum gas. However, in many rural areas access to firewood is limited due to heavy deforestation, threatening the health, safety and livelihoods of the affected populations.

Women and children are particularly affected, as they are often the ones responsible for collecting firewood and preparing meals. In school kitchens where traditional three-stone fires are used to prepare the meals, the cooks face serious health risks from inhaling the toxic smoke emissions.

Large amounts of firewood are often required to prepare the school meals. With students having to contribute to its collection, school attendance can be negatively affected. When firewood is scarce, women and children can spend considerable time and energy in long collection trips.



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Working on sustainable solutions

The **success of SAFE in Senegal** relies on an innovative combination of energy-related and income-generating activities addressing various challenges linked to access to cooking fuel. These activities focus on nutrition, livelihoods, health, gender, environment and education.

SAFE in Senegal

The SAFE initiative in Senegal follows a holistic approach to address energy needs of populations in Ziguinchor, Sédhiou, Kolda, Kaolack, Fatick, Diourbel, Louga and Thiès, through the following activities:

1. **Provision of institutional fuel-efficient stoves in schools**
2. **Training local artisans** on the production of household and institutional fuel-efficient stoves
3. **Sustainability awareness-raising sessions** for students, parents, teachers, local and academic authorities, aiming towards the promotion of improved stoves and environmentally sustainable behavior



A global survey conducted by WFP in 54 countries in 2015 highlighted that two thirds of these countries had energy-related concerns affecting people's food security, nutrition or safety. WFP has cookstove activities in 27 of its country offices.

Progress to date

- A total of **3,857 improved stoves have been produced and distributed.**
- The stoves **emit less smoke and can reduce cooking time by 40 percent**, improving the conditions of school cooks and students.
- The fuel-efficient stoves **require 55 percent less firewood**, reducing fuel costs, the pressure on the environment, and collection time thus allowing children more time to devote to their studies.
- Fuel-efficient stoves provide additional free time and economic opportunities, especially for women. **Trained artisans now make and sell their own improved stoves**, increasing their households' overall income.

Future objectives Senegal

In the coming years, SAFE in Senegal seeks to expand its activities into the region of Matam to support 229 schools and 46,519 students through energy-related initiatives. In addition, SAFE will explore synergies with the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative to extend its reach to vulnerable households through food-assistance-for-assets and insurance-for-assets initiatives.

Activities will include training on the production and use of fuel-efficient stoves, sustainability awareness-raising sessions, reforestation and income-generating activities including plantations of fruit-bearing trees in market gardens.

WFP has globally committed to support 10 million people through SAFE activities by 2020.