



WFP Senegal Country Brief

March 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Although stable and democratic, Senegal is one of the world's least developed countries: it ranks 67 out of 117 in the 2019 Global Hunger Index. Food insecurity stands at 7.2 percent while malnutrition is at 8.2 percent, with major regional disparities within the country (ENSANR 2019). During the 2020 lean season about 770,000 people are expected to fall into food insecurity (+124% compared to 2019)

Senegal is frequently subject to climate hazards, especially in the North. Insufficient food production, droughts, land degradation, high food prices and low resilience have compounded the food security of vulnerable communities. As a result, 47 percent of the population lives in poverty and have difficulty in meeting basic food, health, and education needs. Moreover, many Senegalese resort to migration for survival.

The Government is committed to improve economic growth and reduce poverty through its flagship Plan for an Emerging Senegal (2014 – 2035), and all WFP programmes are in line with national policies. WFP uses homegrown school feeding as an entry point in communities for a series of integrated and gender transformative activities: nutrition, resilience, capacity-strengthening and emergency operations. WFP also contributes to the national Social Security programme meant to tackle chronic poverty and make poor households more resilient to shocks. WFP operates in Senegal since 1963 and targets the most vulnerable rural populations.



Population: **16.7 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **166 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **19% of children between 6-59 months**

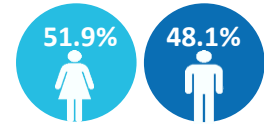
In Numbers

9 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0.296 m cash-based transfers

USD 10.6 m six months (March 2020 - August 2020) net funding requirements.

124,061 people assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) response:**
 In Senegal the first COVID 19 case was reported on 2 March, 2020. By late March the country has registered over 200 cases. On 23 March President Macky Sall announced a state of emergency, closure of land borders, suspension of commercial flights, creation of the FORCE COVID 19 trust fund and emergency food assistance to vulnerable households. WFP is actively working with the Government to provide logistic support for the implementation of the emergency food assistance and to provide guidance on how to organize food distributions in a manner that reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Following the activation of Phase 3 (emergency response) of the United Nation's Contingency Plan to the COVID-19 pandemic in Senegal, WFP staff members are teleworking to ensure the continuity of the operations. WFP fully complies with the preventive measures adopted against the COVID-19 concerning its activities at field level. Nutrition and resilience activities were the most affected, due to transport and field missions' restrictions. A remote monitoring system (by phone) was tested.

- School feeding:**
 WFP provided daily school feeding to 106,997 children in 516 primary rural schools. The construction of the infrastructure for the "model canteens" pilot project is ongoing. The project, launched in 2019, aims at strengthening the homegrown approach (via complementary services such as poultry rearing, school gardens, biodigesters...).

Advocacy efforts continued for the launch of the national school feeding programme in 2020, via the Group of Friends of School Feeding in Senegal (GAASS). To promote school feeding, the GAASS offered to the Minister of National Education a painting prepared by renowned artist and GAASS-member Kalidou Kassé. Furthermore, WFP Country Director Léna Savelli published an article on the need for a national school feeding programme in Senegal, in connection with the celebration of the International School Meals Day on 12 March: : <https://bit.ly/39S0mAO>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government decided to close schools in April and May. In partnership with the Ministry of National Education and the members of the social protection working group, WFP is exploring alternative mechanisms (such as providing children's families with home rations through cash transfers).

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Main photo credit: WFP/Martin Dixon

Caption: Children benefitting from school-feeding activities.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement 2020 (in USD)	Allocated Contributions 2020 (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.9 m	2.6 m	10.6 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure populations in targeted areas, including school-age children, have access to adequate and nutritious food all year.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- **Activity 1:** Provide seasonal food or CBT assistance to complement the Government's social transfers to food-insecure populations.
- **Activity 2:** Provide nutritious school meals to vulnerable children in targeted departments during the school year in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding).

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in targeted departments, including children, pregnant and lactating women and girls and other nutritionally vulnerable individuals, have improved nutritional status all year.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- **Activity 3:** Provide beneficiaries with specialized nutritious foods and programmes such as SBCC to prevent and treat acute and chronic malnutrition.
- **Activity 4:** Support the Government in addressing micronutrient deficiencies and enhance the availability of diverse, safe and healthy foods.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure populations and communities exposed to climatic shocks and other risks in targeted areas have resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- **Activity 5:** Provide livelihood and climate adaptation support to targeted groups through integrated risk management and links to market opportunities.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and local institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food and nutrition security, social protection and resilience-building programmes by 2023.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- **Activity 6:** Build and enhance the capacity of central and local government in food and nutrition security analysis, emergency preparedness and response, supply chain management, and gender transformative safety-net programme design and management.

- **Nutrition:** In collaboration with the Gaston Berger University, WFP signed a contract to conduct a study on the acceptability of locally fortified rice by the Senegalese population. The study will be carried out post COVID-19 emergency response. Furthermore, Dr Nafissatou Ba Lo, joined the Nutrition team as the National Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Facilitator. The SUN Facilitator will support communication as well as the coordination of the 4 SUN platforms in Senegal: 1) Government, 2) United Nations / Donors, 3) Civil society, 4) Private sector.
- **Resilience:** Resilience-building activities such as food assistance for assets (FFA) continued in the Southern departments of Tambacounda and Kolda. To compensate community work, in March electronic cash transfers reached 362 households in Kolda (USD 19,300) and 1,426 households (USD 74,300) in Tambacounda. Moreover, WFP initiated an awareness raising campaign on climate change, which started with 80 schoolgirls (9th grade) at the Notre Dame Institution (Dakar).
- **Cash-based transfers (CBT):** Following the pilot of digitalisation of WFP cash-based transfers which started in 2019, a technical committee was gathered to draw lessons learned. WFP and UNCDF continue partnering in favour of the financial inclusion of the most vulnerable households.

Emergency preparedness

- WFP prepared a concept of operation (CONOPS) to adjust its interventions to the COVID-19 by prioritising lifesaving activities. A budget revision of the Country Strategic Plan is underway to include a new strategic objective.
- WFP participated in the Cadre Harmonise (CH) conducted in March. The results revealed that food insecurity will deteriorate during the upcoming lean season (June-Aug 2020). The CH identified 436,650 persons under phase 3 (crisis) for the current period (March – June) and 766,725 persons (including 8,870 under Phase 4) for the projected period (June-August). The number of food insecure people may increase, as the March CH does not fully include the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Currently, the Government is preparing the National Response Plan in collaboration with the food security sectorial group.
- Ongoing preparedness activities include a rapid market assessment to evaluate food price fluctuations caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and defining the most appropriate strategy and modality of intervention for the coming months. This exercise will be jointly conducted with the National Food Security Council (CSA).
- Fundraising are ongoing to mobilise USD 2.6 m to tackle the pandemic socio-economies effects and fully implement the planned response plan: WFP will prioritize emergency food assistance through cash-based transfers. If WFP fails to raise these funds, about 435,000 vulnerable populations will not receive required emergency aid.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- WFP is adapting its monitoring system to COVID-19 related restrictions by piloting remote data collection (by phone). To be able to conduct remote surveys, beneficiary's phone numbers are being collected.

Donors

France, Green Climate Fund, Japan, Luxembourg, Madrid, UN Funds,