



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Senegal Country Brief April 2020



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 percent 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

0 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 m cash-based transfers

USD 6.4 m six months (May – October 2020) net funding requirements.

0 people assisted
in April 2020



Operational Updates

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) response:** Since the COVID-19 outbreak in Senegal on 2 March 2020, the Government has taken various measures including state of emergency, curfew, closure of land borders, suspension of commercial flights, creation of a COVID-19 trust fund, and mandatory protection masks in public areas. By late April, Senegal registered over 1,000 confirmed cases and 9 deaths.
Due to the pandemic, most WFP operations were put on hold. WFP took advantage of this period to proceed with the required operational adjustments needed to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. A new operational plan and a budget revision will be prepared to include new needs arising from the pandemic. In addition, the Government requested WFP technical support for the emergency food distributions planned as part of the national COVID-19 response. WFP is an active member in the logistics committee and is providing guidance on transport, storage, targeting and distributions. WFP also provided logistics support for the arrival of protection equipment donated by WHO to the Ministry of Health.
- **School feeding:** School feeding activities on site were suspended in April, as all schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, WFP collaborated with the Ministry of National Education to provide alternative food assistance to students and their families through cash transfers. This alternative mechanism will ensure that vulnerable pupils receive at least one daily meal through a cash transfer to their respective families. The Government has set up remote learning platforms (including via the National television RTS) so children can continue to learn despite the pandemic's restrictions (<https://bit.ly/2y1RziZ> ; <https://bit.ly/2VKDLIQ>).
In partnership with the Group of Friends of School Feeding (GAASS), WFP launched an online campaign to advocate for schools' quick reopening and share messages on how to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Personalities such as Fatma Samoura (FIFA) and artist Youssou Ndour joined the movement. (<https://bit.ly/2YhtOOg>).
- **Nutrition:** In partnership with the National Unit Against Malnutrition, WFP reviewed the implementation strategy of activities in line with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines. Moreover, WFP worked with the Government and stakeholders to mitigate the challenges emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic: a new strategy was developed by WFP's SUN Business Network (SNB) Coordinator and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Facilitator. Efforts are ongoing to involve the private sector in the pandemic response. Moreover, preparations are underway to launch a rice fortification pilot project in Matam during the next school year (2020-2021): WFP intends to introduce fortified rice in school canteens.

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Main photo credit: WFP

Caption: WFP provided logistics support to WHO to enable a donation to the Ministry of Health.

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	6.4 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.

Resilience: Resilience-building activities such as food assistance for assets (FFA) did not take place since April due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An alternative solution is underway: WFP will collaborate with financial partners to ensure that assisted villagers receive cash to compensate their recent participation in community works (eg: creating sustainable assets). The 2020 target for food assistance for assets activities projects in the regions of Tambacounda and Kolda 108,000 beneficiaries (12,000 households).

Preparations started for field activities related to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project: depending on the COVID-19 evolution, various alternatives are being explored. According to ANACIM analysis, the rainy season is forecasted to be delayed and dry periods are to be expected. WFP will implement rural development activities accordingly.

- **Cash-based transfers (CBT):** WFP and UNCDF continued partnering for greater financial inclusion. Following the evaluation on CBT modality, a referential document facilitating the planification of CBT-related activities is being finalised. WFP will prioritise two types of money transfers (electronic cash and electronic vouchers), in partnership with two mobile operators.

Emergency preparedness

- A budget revision is underway to frame WFP's response to the COVID-19. A "Crisis Responses" focus area, along with two new activities (General Food Distributions and prevention of acute malnutrition) will be included into the current CSP 2019-2023.
- In response to the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) results, WFP is preparing an emergency response plan with the Government. The CH revealed that food insecurity will deteriorate during the upcoming lean season (June-Aug 2020). 436,650 persons are currently under phase 3 (crisis) and 766,725 persons (including 8,870 under Phase 4) will fall into food insecurity during the projected period (June-August). The situation may be worse as the CH analysis does not fully include the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19.
- Fundraising is ongoing to mobilise USD 2.6 million to tackle the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and fully implement the lean season response plan. WFP will prioritize emergency food assistance through cash-based transfers.
- Together with the National Food Security Council (CSA) WFP launched a remote market analysis to evaluate food price fluctuations caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. The analysis will allow WFP to define the most appropriate strategy and modality of intervention for the coming months.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Remote data collection (by phone) is ongoing
- The report following the qualitative analysis of the Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) has been finalised.
- A monitoring and evaluation learning plan has been established for the Green Climate Fund
- To enhance synergies, the M&E and Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) units are going to use a common planning and budgeting tool developed by HQ.

Donors

France, Green Climate Fund, Japan, Luxembourg, City Hall of Madrid, UN Funds