



WFP Senegal Country Brief

June 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Although stable and democratic, Senegal is one of the world's least developed countries, ranking 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 be in food insecurity (124 percent increase 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 has 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). All WFP programmes are in line with national policies. WFP uses 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 vulnerable rural populations.

The first COVID-19 case appeared in March 2020 in Senegal. The pandemic continues to increase despite mitigating measures by the Government, including state of emergency, curfew and closure of borders. The COVID-19 has affected the population (deteriorating food security and nutrition) and the economy (GDP growth projections have been lowered from 6 to 1 percent in 2020). WFP's activities have been severely affected due to movement restrictions in the field.



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

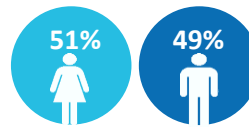
In Numbers

8.24 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 73,000 cash-based transfers

USD 6.4 m six months (July – December 2020) net funding requirements.

18,355 people assisted in June 2020



Operational Updates

- COVID 19 response:** WFP continued to actively participate in the technical and logistics committees set up by the Government and the United Nations to facilitate the COVID-19 national response, including food distribution to one million households. These emergency distributions are expected to be finalized on 15 July. In addition, the Government authorized WFP to operate humanitarian flights for the benefit of the humanitarian community in Senegal. Since the pandemic's start in March 2020, United Nations and NGOs work was hindered by transport restrictions and other mitigation measures.

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, offers safe and cost-efficient transport. It is the only humanitarian air service that gives equal access to all humanitarian entities. UNHAS flights started on 15 June 2020 and helped in getting humanitarian staff and cargo into Senegal (for those being blocked outside the country) and across regions.

- School feeding:** Since 1 April, schools were closed due to the COVID-19. Therefore, WFP adapted its school feeding programme by providing alternative school meals. Through its cash-based transfer modality, WFP transferred funds to 5,035 pupils' households to enable them to eat at least one nutritious daily meal with their families. This solution ensured the programme's continuity during the pandemic.

However, on 17 June, the Government decided that exam classes would resume on 25 June and mobilized all actors (unions, teachers, partners) for a successful reopening: WFP [reopened canteens in operating schools](#). Other classes are expected to be back in school in the coming months.

WFP and the advocacy network, [Group of Friends of School Feeding \(GAASS\)](#), also distributed 300 hand-washing devices to ensure cleanliness in WFP beneficiary schools.

- Resilience:** Resilience-building activities (food assistance for assets - FFA) were carried out in Kolda, Tambacounda, Matam and Podor: 1,480 households participated in community work and received cash-based transfers for their contribution to the FFA project. Overall, FFA activities benefitted 13,320 people. In addition, WFP proceeded with the preparatory requirements (field level agreement, consultation meetings with key partners, etc.) to launch the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project as soon as the situation permits. The GCF operational plan has been reviewed.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.9 m*	3.4 m	6.4 m

*Given the COVID 19 negative effects, a budget revision is underway.

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:** WFP activities for the treatment of acute malnutrition were suspended to prevent COVID-19 contaminations at the community level. However, as part of the COVID-19 response, WFP collaborated closely with various government entities to strengthen nutrition programmes across Senegal. WFP and the Ministry of Health validated the Breastfeeding Action Plan and the Management Guide for acute malnutrition. They also collaborated on the initiative “Stronger with Breast Milk Only”. Other activities included: monitoring of the implementation of the Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition; technical support to the *Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition (CLM)* and the Ministry; discussions with the Ministry of Education to introduce fortified rice in school feeding from the next school year; development of a pilot to launch fortified biscuits on the Senegalese market.

In addition, awareness-raising on nutrition continued, leading to the expansion of the *Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)* network: five new companies joined the *SUN Business Network (SBN)* in Senegal, bringing the members to 15.

- **Planning the lean season response:** WFP and the Government prepared for the lean season’s national Emergency Plan for Food Security (PUSA). The 2020 PUSA targets 529,625 people at risk of falling into food crisis, according to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis. The situation may be worse as the CH analysis does not fully include the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19. WFP will support the implementation of the PUSA by distributing cash transfers (e-cash) to vulnerable households located in the Departments of Podor, Matam and Salémata. Subject to available resources, WFP targets about 75,000 beneficiaries for three months (July -September 2020).

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- In collaboration with the *Secrétariat Exécutif du Conseil National de Sécurité Alimentaire (SECNSA)*, WFP investigated 9,000 households in three Departments (Podor, Matam and Salémata) from 15 to 25 June, to ensure that households most in need of assistance are not excluded by the PUSA. The survey results will confirm the number of households that will benefit from WFP food and nutrition assistance during the lean season.
- A budget revision is underway to better capture the increasing food needs generated by the COVID 19 in Senegal. Enhanced donors’ engagement will be carried out to mobilize funding needs.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- In 2019 WFP established 15 model canteens to strengthen the home-grown school feeding approach through complementary services such as poultry rearing, school gardens, bio digesters, and capacity-strengthening. In June 2020, the project baseline providing basic information on the 15 schools targeted by the model canteens project was disseminated. It can be used to measure the changes induced by the project. In addition, a survey was organized to determine how to provide food assistance to disabled children in WFP-assisted schools. From 2021, WFP intends to introduce this component in model canteens.
- A remote survey carried out (by phone) to monitor school canteens was validated and shared.
- The UNINFO platform was updated to share the main achievements obtained in 2019 by WFP and United Nations agencies.

Donors

France, Green Climate Fund, Luxembourg, Monaco, Spain, UN Funds and Agencies