



WFP Senegal Country Brief August 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 food insecure (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 insecurity 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 pandemic 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**

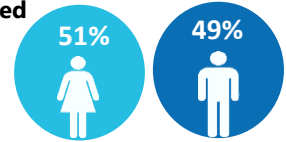
Chronic malnutrition: **19% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 650,000 cash-based transfers

USD 21 m six months (September 2020 - February 2021) net funding requirements.

106,997 peoples assisted in August 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 System to facilitate the COVID-19 national response, including the coordination of meetings set to follow up on the implementation of the Emergency food assistance (PUSA).

Since 15 June 2020, WFP manages humanitarian flights for the benefit of the humanitarian community in Senegal connecting Dakar with Mauritania and Ghana. Since the pandemic started in March 2020, United Nations and NGO 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. A total of 280 passengers from humanitarian agencies were transported during the mentioned period. With the gradual return to normalcy and the resumption of some commercial flights, UNHAS was closed on August 12, 2020 and only the itinerary between Senegal and Mauritania remains opened.

- School feeding:** A new memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with the Ministry of National Education for the continuity of WFP support to the Government for the implementation of the school feeding activity. WFP continued to closely work with the Government to establish a national school feeding programme. With the closure of schools from 16 March to 25 June, WFP implemented alternative distribution mechanisms to provide assistance to assisted pupils through cash transfers to their respective families. A total of USD 650,000 was distributed to 106,997 children. This enabled children to attend a government-organized remote learning programme and prevent from a drop out.

As for the project Model Canteens, activities restarted in the field after a break due to the pandemic. Two field missions took place to undertake an environmental screening analysis for the construction of the biodigester technology in beneficiary schools in the Departments of Sedhiou and Tambacounda. Constructions will be followed by other components of the project such as the garden school, henhouse and training on nutrition and hygiene practices. Due to the constraints resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the project implementation period has been extended up to March 2021 (instead of December 2020) to allow full completion of planned activities.

- Resilience:** R4 initiative activities on the ground are being implemented and will reach 12,000 participants in Tambacounda and Kolda. In order to better document the R4 initiative and measure the changes made to the livelihoods of participants and communities, WFP organized a baseline survey of participants and non-participants from the three Departments from 10 to 24 August. As part of the Green Climate Fund project, WFP country office received technical support from the WFP regional SCOPE team over the past two-three months to prepare for the beneficiary registration exercise. This recording started on 17 August for a period of 20 days and is underway in the field.

Contact info: Aminata Seck, aminata.seck@wfp.org
Country Director a.i.: Gianluca FERRERA gianluca.ferrera@wfp.org
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Senegal
Main photo credit: WFP/Souleymane Diamanka
Caption: Registration of a beneficiary in WFP SCOPE

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
29.2 m*	6.4 m	21 m

*Given the COVID 19 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.
- **Activity 9:** Provide nutritious school meals to vulnerable Senegalese children in targeted departments during the school year, in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding)

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.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 5: Crisis-affected households and communities in targeted areas can meet their basic food and nutrition needs both during and in the aftermath of crises

Focus area: Crisis Response

- **Activity 7:** Provide general food distributions, nutritious food and/or cash transfers to crisis-affected beneficiaries
- **Activity 8:** Provide specialized nutritious food to crisis affected households to prevent acute malnutrition

In line with the government emergency food and nutritional security programme, food assistance for assets (FFA) activities started and will reach 3,500 participants in Matam, 2,100 in Podor and 1,000 in Salemata. The creation of assets and the subsequent money transfer to participants is scheduled for September 2020.

- **Nutrition:**

WFP's activities for screening for acute malnutrition were resumed with technical support to the national entity *Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition* (CLM) in the Departments of Matam, Podor and Ranérrou.

WFP and the Ministry of Health and Social Action are finalizing a four-month partnership agreement (September to December 2020) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in five regions of Senegal (Matam, Louga, Tambacounda, Diourbel and Sédhiou) through the health service points.

For activities to prevent malnutrition during the lean season, WFP country office set up a Nutrition / CBT working group with the support of the WFP regional bureau to achieve modeling that allows the use of the cash transfer modality.

As part of WFP's support to the national roadmap for rice fortification in Senegal, a study on the most widely practiced rice preparation methods in Senegal was initiated and surveyors were trained, including on how to adapt their work to the current health context, and then deployed in the field to collect data.

The country office initiated discussions with Olam and DSM on a potential partnership in the form of an in-kind donation in response to the food crisis caused by COVID-19.

The Senegal SUN Business Network supported the participation of Senegalese companies in a call for applications for funding of nutritious food by the GAIN Foundation and one of its financial partners. Reflections have also begun with the members of the Network and the University Gaston Berger to create a space for exchange and partnership between the two entities.

- **Planning the lean season response:**

WFP and the Government started implementing 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 PUSA objective is to enable the recovery and resilience of the most vulnerable and food insecure populations. WFP will support the PUSA implementation for two months (July - August) by distributing cash transfers (e-cash) to vulnerable households located in the semi-arid departments of Podor, Matam and Salémata. In August, WFP finalized PUSA preparatory activities (targeting, training of partners, community discussions, meetings with local authorities, etc.): about 72,000 beneficiaries started receiving seasonal assistance via money transfers (overall WFP plans to distribute 723,130,000 CFA (USD 1.3 million; 5,000 CFA - 9 USD per person). Contracts were signed with cooperating partners Africare and World Vision, to support the operations. Meetings were held with the financial operator Orange to ensure smooth cash transfers.

Research Assessment and Monitoring

In collaboration with the Government and UN agencies, WFP is monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 and the flood risk, especially along the Senegal river valley.

As part of the PUSA, WFP is monitoring the gaps and is trying to find additional funds to assist vulnerable populations.

In August, WFP carried out a baseline study for the resilience activities under the Green Climate funds (GCF). This survey gives the reference food security situation for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in the five departments (Kolda, Medina Yoro Foulah, Tambacounda, Koumpentoum and Goudiry).

As per WFP fight against COVID-19, a follow-up on cash transfers intended for households and school meals for primary school students is planned.

Donors

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