



WFP Senegal Country Brief September 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 countries in the 2019 Global Hunger Index and with 47 percent of its population living in poverty. 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 were 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.

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 priorities and plans. 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.

Rising COVID-19 cases despite mitigation measures put in place by the Government are deteriorating food and security of the population, and the economy (GDP growth projections have decreased from 6 to 1 percent in 2020). WFP's activities have been severely affected due to movement restrictions.



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**

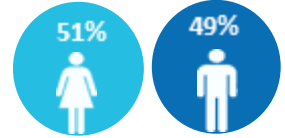
In Numbers

28 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 488,000 cash-based transfers

USD 21,7 m six months (October 2020 - March 2021) net funding requirements.

45,957 people assisted in September 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 coordinated implementation of the national emergency plan for food security (PUSA). As the number of new and active COVID-19 cases continued to decrease over the last month and several COVID-19 related restriction measures were lifted by the Government, the UNCT approved the de-escalation from phase 3 (emergency response) to phase 2 (active reduction of contamination risks within the United Nations) of UN contingency plan.
- **Implementation of the lean season and COVID-19 emergency response:** WFP and the Government started implementing the lean season's PUSA in July 2020. By the end of September, WFP had reached almost 75 percent (55,000 persons) of targeted beneficiaries in the departments of Podor, Matam and Salémata through digital cash-based transfers (CBTs) (e-cash). As such, WFP is promoting an integrated assistance (food assistance, nutrition prevention and resilience approach), while stimulating the local economy and agriculture.
- **School feeding:** Preparations for the launch of the school canteen project funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in support of the fight against COVID-19 for the next school year (2020-2021) continued. WFP carried out, in conjunction with the Ministry of National Education, a field mission to inform administrative and academic authorities and all stakeholders of the implementation of this project in targeted regions. About 128,000 children enrolled in 633 schools will be included in the programme by November, bringing the total targeted children to 235,000 (an increase of 54 percent compared to 2019).
- WFP continued to provide CBTs to families of pupils to encourage children affected by school closures (from 16 March to 25 June) to attend a government-organized remote learning programme and minimize school drop-out.

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Main photo credit: WFP/Senegal

Caption: Distribution of Plumpy Doz to children in Matam as part of PUSA

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
29.3 m	9.6 m		21.7 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

Activities

- Provide seasonal food or CBT assistance to complement the Government's social transfers to food-insecure populations.
- 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 which will be deactivated from December 31, 2020)

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

Activities

- Provide general food distributions, nutritious food and/or cash transfers to crisis-affected beneficiaries.
- Provide specialized nutritious food to crisis-affected households to prevent acute malnutrition.

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

Activities

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

Activities

- 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

Activities

- 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:** As part of the preparations for the extension phase of the R4 Rural Resilience initiative, a preliminary study mission for potential sites and partners was conducted. The first meeting of the steering committee under the chairmanship of SECNSA was held.
- Climate warning information continued to be sent through SMS to vulnerable smallholders, this month in Kolda and Tambacounda, reaching 3,136 and 3,859 producers respectively. Moreover, related to Weather Index Insurance activities, 639 farmers (including 369 women) have been trained and sensitized on Weather Index Insurance activities
- **Nutrition:** As part of the Government's emergency programme for nutritional food security, 4,739 children aged 6 to 23 months from vulnerable households were assisted by WFP during the lean season. The children benefited from a daily ration of 50g of Plumpy Doz for 60 days (14.27 MT distributed in total).
- As part of WFP's support to the national roadmap for rice fortification, the study on the acceptability of fortified rice by Senegalese consumers, commissioned by WFP, has been finalized. WFP shared the results with the monitoring committee for rice fortification activities and plans to also disseminate to a wider audience of rice fortification stakeholders. WFP provided technical support for the development of Sun Business Network Senegal, called "*Réseau du Secteur Privé pour la Nutrition au Sénégal*".
- WFP also supports the National Unit Against Malnutrition's interventions in response to COVID-19 for the benefit of children aged 6-23 months and daraa (koranic schools) residents in Senegal; the annual United Nations Network / Donor monitoring exercise; the development of the Action Plan for the mapping of nutrition interventions in Senegal; support in the establishment and operationalization of the ad hoc committee for research on anaemia in Senegal; preparing for the Stronger With Breast Milk Only initiative; and support to the Ministry of Health and United Nations agencies for the strategic and operational activities of the nutrition response to COVID-19.

Assessment and Monitoring

- In collaboration with the Government, WFP is planning an assessment in order to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and recent floods on livelihoods and food security of the population. This assessment will also help the Government and its partners to conduct a food security analysis (Cadre Harmonisé exercise), especially along the Senegal river valley.

Donors

Support to WFP Senegal in 2020 has been provided by FranceMonaco, and the City Hall of Madrid. Additional support has been provided by UNOPS.