



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Senegal Country Brief October 2020



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 37 percent of its population living in poverty (ANSD 2018). Food insecurity and malnutrition stand at 7.2 percent and 8.2 percent respectively, with major regional disparities (ENSANR 2019). During the 2020 lean season, about 770,000 people were estimated 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 further compounded food insecurity.

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 strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities. WFP operates in Senegal since 1963.

Despite mitigation measures and movement restrictions put in place by the Government, rising COVID-19 cases are deteriorating food insecurity levels and the economy (GDP growth projections have dropped from 6 to 1 percent in 2020). WFP is complementing national efforts by providing emergency cash assistance to vulnerable populations and technical support to the Government.



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**

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Main photo credit: WFP/Senegal
Caption: Nutrition beneficiaries in Senegal

In Numbers

USD 363,743 cash-based transfers

USD 23.5 m six months (November 2020 - April 2021) net funding requirements.

59,400 people assisted
in October 2020

Operational Updates

- **COVID-19 response:** WFP continued to participate in the technical and logistics committees set up by the Government and the United Nations to facilitate the COVID-19 response, including the 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 United Nations Country Team (UNCT) approved the de-escalation from phase 3 (emergency response) to phase 2 (active reduction of contamination risks) of the UN contingency plan. The UNCT is finalizing the socio-economic impact analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic. The document will inform WFP's interventions for 2021.
- **Lean season emergency response:** As part of the 2020 PUSA, 54,748 vulnerable people received cash assistance (through mobile money), representing an achievement rate of 79 percent. Digital transfers are adapted to the COVID-19 context, enhance financial inclusion, boost local economies and agriculture, while empowering women and youth. Unsurprisingly, outcome monitoring findings revealed that the PUSA intervention was highly appreciated by beneficiaries and other stakeholders.
- **School feeding:** The 2020-2021 school year will resume in November 2020, but in compliance with COVID-19 sanitary measures. Preparations are in progress for the launch of the school feeding programme funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), in support of the ongoing COVID-19 response. About 107,000 children enrolled in 633 schools will be included in the initiative by November, bringing targeted pupils to 235,000 (increase of 54 percent compared to 2019).
- **Nutrition:** As part of the PUSA, some 4,739 children (including 2,358 girls) aged 6 to 23 months from vulnerable households received WFP assistance, through 14 MT of specialized nutritious foods.
- WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health and Social Action, the National Agency Against Malnutrition (CLM), and Plan International to enhance the PUSA's nutritional component. Per the joint agreement, WFP will distribute 61,230 MT of nutritious products to 5,103 children aged 6-59 months. The intervention will be carried out in 39 health districts and 7 regions.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
29.3 m	7.2 m	23.5 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 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 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.

- As part of the implementation of the Senegalese Sun Business Network (SUN) for the private sector's involvement in the nutrition sector, consultations were carried out to develop a roadmap. Moreover, 6 companies from the SUN benefitted from an online training organized by WFP on "protocols to manage food-related incidents".
- As part of the national plan for rice fortification, WFP commissioned a study on the acceptability of fortified rice by Senegalese consumers and organized a workshop to disseminate key findings. In addition, preparations are underway to launch a nutrition label in Senegal.
- **Resilience-building:** The Government approved the joint three-year (2021-2023) WFP, IFAD and FAO resilience-building initiative targeting the Matam (Podor and Kanel) and Tambacounda (Goudiry) regions.
- As part of integrated approach of WFP's emergency response, food assistance for assets (FFA) activities have been initiated for selected households assisted through the PUSA. About, 59,400 persons received cash in October.
- Through additional financing, WFP's R4 Rural Resilience initiative is being expanded to other regions. Several productive community assets were established in Matam and Podor regions, including 40 vegetable gardens and 2 fish farms set up in WFP-assisted villages and schools. In addition, mobile money transfers reached 4,366 households in these 2 regions.
- In partnership with the National Agency for Civil Aviation and Meteorology (ANACIM), in Tambacounda and Kolda, WFP conducted 5 training sessions on climate services to the benefit of 182 smallholder farmers, as well as Government decentralized services, NGOs and local medias. These sessions are expected to help smallholder farmers improve seasonal forecasting and make quicker decisions in the event of adverse climate shocks.

Assessments and Monitoring

- In collaboration with the Government, WFP conducted an assessment to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 and recent floods on livelihoods and food security levels. This assessment will inform the next nation-wide food security analysis (*Cadre Harmonisé*) expected to begin in November.
- WFP Senegal is closely monitoring Guinea's post-electoral crisis and will consider providing support in the event of an influx of refugees.

Funding gaps

WFP is facing serious funding shortfalls. In the next six months (November 2020 to April 2021), WFP requires USD 23.5 million to implement programmes at planned scale. If funds are not received soon, WFP will have to seriously reduce the number of planned beneficiaries, prioritizing school feeding and resilience.

Donors

France, Green Climate Fund, Monaco, Spain, UNOPS.