



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Senegal Country Brief January 2021



Operational Context

Although stable and democratic, Senegal is one of the world's least developed countries, ranking 65th out of 107 countries in the 2020 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). Senegal is frequently subject to climate hazards, especially in the semi-arid North. Insufficient food production, droughts, land degradation, high food prices and low resilience have further compounded food insecurity. According to November 2020 *Cadre Harmonisé*, the number of food insecure people is expected to increase to 850,000 people during the 2021 lean season (up by 11 percent compared to the 2020 lean season).

The Government is committed to improve economic growth through its flagship Plan for an Emerging Senegal (2014–2035). All WFP programmes are in line with national priorities. 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 the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Despite mitigation measures 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**

2020 Human Development Index ranking:
168 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

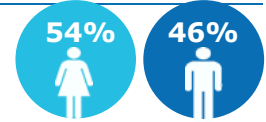
In Numbers

15 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 m cash-based transfers made (distributions have not started yet)

US\$ 1 m six months (February-July 2021) net funding requirements

235,000 people assisted
in January 2021



Operational Updates

- **COVID-19 response:** WFP continues 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.
- **Emergency response:** Following the findings of the latest *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis (November 2020), which identified some 850,000 people at risk of facing food insecurity during the upcoming lean season (June-August 2021), preparations are underway for a rapid emergency response. During the lean season (June-September) WFP will provide general food distributions to some 135,000 vulnerable people in Matam, Podor, Ranérou, Salémata, and Saraya.
- **School feeding:** In partnership with the Ministry of National Education, WFP assisted 1,264 schools and some 235,000 pupils during the current school year (2020-2021). This represents a 54 percent increase compared to 2019. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is partly funding the intervention, to support the fight against COVID-19's impact in the education system.

In addition, advocacy actions and preparations are in progress for the launch in 2021 of a national home-grown school feeding programme based on Senegalese agriculture. To this effect, WFP's Country Director met with the Ministry of Education.

- **Resilience:** In order to plan for 2021 rural development activities, several actions were taken. A workshop was held in Kolda with implementing partners to review 2020 activities, address challenges and plan the way forward. WFP also carried out seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning in targeted regions. Moreover, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, a mapping study of Village Cereal Banks was conducted in the 5 regions targeted by the project funded by the Global Climate Fund (2021-2024).

By providing rural development activities to shock-affected communities, WFP builds their resilience and ensures that they are better equipped to improve their livelihood means and face future shocks.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Senegal

Caption: WFP beneficiaries in Tambacounda

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)*

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
20.7 m	17.7 m	1 m

*Following the COVID-19 outbreak, a budget revision was carried out in 2020.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure populations in targeted areas have access to adequate food during lean season.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide seasonal food/cash assistance and complement Government's social transfers to food insecure populations.

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.

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 home-grown school meals to vulnerable Senegalese children in targeted departments during the school year.

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

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.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide supply chain services to partners

- **Nutrition:** On 28 January, WFP officially launched the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) through a virtual workshop chaired by the Government's Secretary-General. The SBN's goal is to boost the private sector's engagement in the nutrition field in order to expand the availability and affordability of nutritious foods to consumers, especially in low-income communities. The workshop gathered 88 stakeholders (businesses, donors and government services) committed to effectively contribute to the operationalization of the SBN roadmap.

Monitoring

- Preparations are underway to kick-off a large-scale impact assessment of the cash modality across WFP programmes.

Challenges

- To complement national efforts to address increasing needs due to deteriorating food insecurity and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, WFP continues to augment its response capacities. Funding gaps however remain so WFP could implement programmes at planned scale. Fundraising efforts are ongoing.

Miscellaneous

- Series of consultations and strategic meetings with key food security and nutrition stakeholders are ongoing, to further diversify and strengthen partnerships in 2021.
- The procurement process is underway to identify new financial partners to implement cash-based activities in 2021 (e-cash, e-voucher and cash payment).
- From 26 to 30 January, an all staff capitalization workshop was organised to review 2020 achievements, challenges and lessons learned. This process also enabled WFP to finalize its 2021 Annual Performance Plan (APP).

Donors

Top five donors to WFP Senegal Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 include Canada, France, Green Climate Fund, Luxembourg and Global Partnership for Education (via the Government of Senegal). Additional support has been provided by UNOPS.