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$ 222,654 m cash-based transfers made

US$ 1 m six months (March-August 2021) net funding requirements

235,000 people assisted in February 2021

Operational Updates

• **COVID-19 response:** WFP continues to participate in the technical committees set up by the Government and the United Nations to support and facilitate the COVID-19 response, including the implementation of the second Adjusted and Accelerated Priority Action Plan (PAP 2A) of the national development plan (PSE).

• **Emergency response:** Following the findings of the 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 to provide a rapid emergency response through cash-based transfers (CBTs). WFP is finalizing a CBT feasibility study to include new vulnerable areas in its lean season intervention plan.

• **School feeding:** In partnership with the Ministry of Education, WFP assisted some 220,000 pupils enrolled in 1,264 primary rural schools. COVID-19 protection equipment, along with non-food items (plates, spoons...) were distributed to WFP-assisted schools.

As part of the “model canteens” pilot’s scale-up, WFP identified 15 additional schools to benefit from the assistance package (poultry, vegetable garden, biodigester, etc.), totalling 30 model canteens currently set up.

In addition, advocacy actions and preparations are in progress for the launch in 2021 of a national home-crown school feeding programme, with WFP as the implementing agency.

• **Resilience:** Consultations and planning of 2021 rural development activities continue. A livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning workshop (chaired by the Governor and gathering different implementing partners) was held in Fatick Region, to review 2020 activities, address challenges and plan the way forward. WFP also met with the Executive Secretary of the ‘Sahel Universities Union’ to define potential axes of collaboration.

• **Nutrition:** As part of the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme, WFP distributed specialized products to 2,654 children (age 6-59 months) in 7 regions (Matam, Tambacounda, St-Louis, Thiès, Diourbel, Louga, Sédhiou).
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.7 m</td>
<td>18.5 m</td>
<td>1 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 the 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 3: 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 4: 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 5: 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

### Monitoring

- Widespread poverty, climate change and COVID-19 impacts are fuelling food insecurity and malnutrition in Senegal. As a result, food insecurity, which was mainly seasonal, is now a year-round problem, especially in the semi-arid North. Furthermore, due to the pandemic's restrictions, many Senegalese workers have limited access to local markets. Livelihoods are heavily affected, and shock-affected people are resorting to negative mechanisms to cope with acute food insecurity, such as reducing the number of daily meals, pulling children out of schools, selling productive assets, etc.

- WFP provided financial and technical support to the Government to conduct the upcoming Cadre Harmonisé analysis, to assess food insecurity and malnutrition across Senegal. Findings will be endorsed by the Government and published in March.

### Challenges

- Due to the deteriorating food and nutrition security situation, WFP continues to augment its response capacities. A new area office in Matam is being established to facilitate coordination of activities in north-eastern areas.

- Fundraising efforts are ongoing, especially for the lean season’s response which is insufficiently funded (only 25 percent of identified needs are currently resourced).

### Partnerships

- Since 2018, WFP is mainstreaming digital CBTs (e-vouchers) across its operations. This assistance modality is more flexible, cost-efficient and empowering than in-kind food distributions. Preparations are underway to continue scaling up digital transfers, notably in central and southern Senegal. In March, WFP and UNCDF renewed their existing agreement, to strengthen the digitalization process and generate greater financial inclusion of beneficiaries.

- Preparations were carried out to establish the Governing Assembly of the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network launched in January. WFP facilitated representative election and recruited new members, allowing the Network to grow from 19 members in January to 27 members in February.

### 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).