



OVERVIEW OF

# Senegal

## Overview of Senegal



YEAR OF  
**1960**  
INDEPENDENCE



### Languages

French (official), Wolof, Pulaar, Jola, Mandinka, Serer, Soninke

### Demographic, Economic & Education Indicators

Indicator	Value	Rank
Infant Mortality Rate	47/1000	
Under 5 Mortality Rate	65/1000	45
Maternal Mortality Rate	370/100,000 live births	
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.470—Low Human Development	154/187
Life expectancy at birth	59 years	
Adult literacy rate	50%	
Primary gross enrollment rate—female/male	89%/84%	
Primary school completion rate	61%	
Unemployment rate	48%	193/202
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24	14.8%	

### Location & Geography

*Located on the far western coast of the African continent, on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, Senegal is mainly a flat Sahelian country. It is bordered in the North by Mauritania, in the East by Mali, in the South by Guinea and Guinea-Bissau and crossed in the middle by the Gambia. Its West point is the westernmost point of continental Africa. The country stretches over 196,192 km<sup>2</sup>. Compared with its neighbors, Mali and Mauritania, Senegal is a small country.*

### Economy

The economy of Senegal is driven by agriculture while tourism remains a source of foreign exchange. In April 2012, Macky Sall won the presidential election, becoming the fourth President of Senegal since 1960.

# Brief History of ChildFund in Senegal

ChildFund came to Senegal: 1985

Number of states/provinces: 14

Number of enrolled children (FY13): 25,715

Participant Reach (FY13): 8,657,444



ChildFund started operations in Senegal in 1985 and has supported multi-sectoral sustainable community development projects that help deprived, excluded and vulnerable children grow into responsible adults and community leaders. ChildFund Senegal works countrywide to improve the lives of impoverished children and families through sponsorship and grant funded programs that cover all 14 administrative regions in Senegal. ChildFund Senegal programming focuses on holistic methods to promote child and youth survival and development and places emphasis

on health and nutrition, education and protection, economic development and leadership. During FY13, 25,715 children were enrolled while ChildFund Senegal reached 8,657,444 participants.

## Brief Program Overview

### Infants

- Improved hygiene, nutrition and support including home visits by health workers and oral consultations for infants.
- Implementation of the Learning Through Play (LTP) model in an increased number of ECD Centers.
- Provided skills-based capacity building in ECD Centers, placing an emphasis on teachers' professional development and creating a dynamic learning environment, leading to aware and engaged toddlers.

### Children

- Introduced new strategies to improve on learning and teaching methods, particularly in mathematics and reading.
- Engaged in school construction and providing equipment, with three schools transforming outdoor areas into multi-functional spaces and improving sports facilities.
- Distributed TOMs shoes to children enrolled in both formal and informal education structures which enabled ChildFund to identify the most deprived, excluded and vulnerable children.

### Youth

- Established economic interest groups to tackle youth unemployment.
- Introduced outreach programs to strengthen communication and provide support to young people.
- Offered vocational programs, providing youth with professional training and assisting them in finding employment.

### Community and Civil Society

- Success of VS&L programs, particularly for women, throughout FY13. Membership reached 9,000 and women raised more than \$40,000 USD.
- Response to emergencies strengthened by crop diversification and the implementation of cereal banks, ensuring that people do not go hungry during a crisis.
- The SHINE project—an initiative which reaches families in sponsorship areas—increased income while cultivating a spirit of solidarity and community support.

# 2013 Program Achievements



## Life Stage 1: 0-5 years

### Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers

During FY13, particular emphasis was placed on building teacher capacity in Senegal's ECD Centers. In contrast to more theoretical methods, capacity building has focused on a skills-based approach. Teaching techniques have taken the form of practical step-by-step demonstrations, engaging the imagination of toddlers and building on the professional development of 50 teachers in partner schools. Implementation of these methods has directly affected the learning outcomes of 2,620 children between the ages of 0 and 5. As a result, parents and teachers have reported tangible progress in terms of children's speech and their awareness of hygiene and sanitation. Primary school teachers note that children who have previously attended ChildFund-supported ECD Centers perform better than their peers in school.

As a result of the new curriculum for ECD Centers introduced by President Macky Sall's administration in 2012, teachers have received training from instructors in new teaching methodologies, supervised by government inspectors. Continued teacher training with the support of local partner organizations has encouraged the implementation of the Learning Through Play (LTP) model in an increased number of Centers. We have also seen the strengthening and increased cohesion of ECD management committees in their role as community governors responsible for the smooth running of the centers.

### Learning Materials & Development

Centers affiliated with local partner organizations (LPs) were supplied throughout the year with teaching and learning materials such as picture books, exercise books, pens and pencils in order to support teachers with helpful teaching aids and make learning more engaging and enjoyable for children. Using these materials has led to the development of children's social skills, and improvements in communication and interaction with their contemporaries. During FY13, 98 staff and 4,900 children benefitted, with hopes to expand on this number in the future.

## 2013 Program Achievements (continued)



### Construction & Rehabilitation

4 new ECD Centers were inaugurated during FY13 and repairs and maintenance carried out on existing centers. Two new centers were built and serve as multi-purpose, fenced areas used mainly by children for sports activities. This work benefitted 270 children living in the district of Baol.

### Nutrition & Health

Technical training in improved hygiene and nutrition, carried out in partnership with local Federations and the USAID-funded community health program PSSC, benefitted 2,649 pregnant women and new mothers during the year. Training focused on cooking and the supplementation of micro-nutrients such as vitamin A to promote a healthy and balanced diet. Health workers' home visits have helped to identify those at risk of malnutrition. Health workers have supervised the routine deworming of all children, also assisting them in washing their hands and brushing their teeth. Dentists conducted oral consultations and impregnated mosquito nets were distributed to families. A total of 10,866 children ages 0 to 5 were reached throughout the year.

Further demonstrating the program's effectiveness, two children who were severely affected by malnutrition due to the 2011 food crisis and subsequent food shortages in Baol, went from a critical red on the malnutrition measurement scale to a safe and healthy green. We have also experienced success from parent participation through the introduction of a program which provides snacks to pre-school children as a preventative measure, to ensure children do not suffer from the effects of malnutrition.



## 2013 Program Achievements (continued)



### Life Stage 2: 6 - 14 years

#### Education

Major technical innovations have been introduced in both the teaching and learning experience in 17 elementary schools in five districts throughout Senegal. These innovations have included the initiation of strategies to improve both learning and teaching methods in reading (SARENA) and mathematics (PREMST). Preliminary evaluation of these initiatives have indicated that significant strides have been made by students in terms of mastering the alphabet, increasing their vocabulary, following instructions and reading aloud. Teachers demonstrated enthusiasm for the new methodologies and reported that new teaching strategies and tools enhanced the teaching experience and built upon conventional approaches.

With the aim of improving education and placing an emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills, ChildFund has partnered with startup SenMobile and introduced the use of mobile phones in Senegalese primary schools. This initiative has improved communication between parents and schools by using text messages to inform parents immediately if their children are not in class and also to notify parents on their child's performance and participation. This has encouraged a synthesized relationship and increased dialogue between parents and teachers. Teachers reported that pupil's analytical skills were developed through the project and the rate of exercise completion in class went up. The results of the pilot have been outstanding – in participating schools, reading and writing skills improved by 40% and 45%, respectively.

With the support of our partner organizations and the association Global Citizen, a library in the Dakar area was built and equipped with books.

Schools throughout Senegal were supplied with books, pens and teaching apparatus during FY13, reaching 15,314 students in sponsorship areas.

# 2013 Program Achievements (continued)

## Health in Schools

The Federation of Dakar, in partnership with Colgate Palmolive and the Association of Dental Surgeons of Senegal, has implemented a program designed to reach 9,843 children in 17 partner schools and eradicate common causes of tooth decay. This has led to an increased emphasis on oral hygiene and nutrition. In addition, children are signed up to local health insurance which attends to their medical care.

## School Construction

Local Partners supported communities throughout the year in the construction and/or renovation of school classrooms. A total of eight new classrooms were made available for use by 5,111 children ages 6 – 14. Four classrooms were furnished with tables and benches, benefitting 949 children and in the same school in Mbour, the library was equipped with books and computers, impacting the reading skills of 3,929 children. Three schools transformed outdoor areas into multifunctional spaces in order to improve sports activities. These facilities have benefitted 2,395 children ages 6 – 14.

## Distribution of TOM's Shoes

One of ChildFund's key objectives is to build children's confidence and encourage them to achieve academic success. Shoes prevent foot infections and enhance self-esteem. To this end, Local Partners have distributed 117,900 pairs of TOM's shoes this year to children enrolled in formal and informal education structures. Additionally, distribution succeeded in identifying a large number of children without birth certificates which will add value to our other programs and enable us to reach the poorest, most excluded and vulnerable children who can be hard to identify.

Local Partners continue to educate parents and children on the importance of birth registration which plays a significant role in the protection of children. Awareness sessions are carried out at a community level to emphasise how vital it is to register children at birth.



# 2013 Program Achievements (continued)



## Life Stage 3: 14 – 24 years

### Youth Mobilization

Local Partners supported the establishment of Economic Interest Groupings (GIE), also called Youth Savings and Loan Associations (YSL), in generating community-based loans and micro-financial activities to tackle youth unemployment. This has enabled young people to mobilize and raise financial resources worth 2,900,925 CFA (or \$5,905 USD). More than 150 young people are enrolled within the GIE. The implementation of IEC activities in 'youth friendly corners' encouraged talks discussing attitudes towards HIV/AIDS, use of condoms, family planning, reproductive health, and drugs. Eight hundred and thirty-one (831) young people participated in these activities which helped to raise awareness of risk factors and develop knowledge of family planning methods.

Innovative strategies such as outreach programs and methods focusing on individual talent were developed, involving 1,143 young people. The scope of these youth communication techniques have been strengthened through capacity building and dialogue.

### Innovation and Training

Through the Child Verification Process, Local Partners discovered many young people who could benefit from enrolling in training centers, to learn skills and trades. Since this discovery, 205 young people have enrolled in formal structures while 25 are studying to gain their driving licences and find employment in the labor market. Throughout FY13, Local Partners encouraged young people to enter coalitions and consultation frameworks for national youth to discuss human rights issues, protection and violence against children. This has resulted in the integration of the National Advisory Council for Children and Young People in Thies. Certain associations have been identified for stronger partnerships in addressing the issues of protection and other challenges facing young people at this key life stage. One of these is Village Pilote, a French organization, which works with Dakar Local Partners to alleviate the suffering of street children.

## 2013 Program Achievements (continued)



### Civil Society

Local partners have built child-centered coalitions in the program areas, and these coalitions have taken the lead in child protection in key districts such as Ziguinchor. Advocacy in support of children's interests has been effective and this has been reflected in the budgets of rural and regional municipalities and communities over the year. Projects have also developed between civil society actors and the state. Among them are:

#### VS&L (Village Savings and Loan Association)

These groups function on the basis of members contributing savings which then allow members to take loans with interest and in turn, 'share out' the accumulated savings and interest over a yearly period. This program benefits the families of enrolled children through the provision of community microfinance and is aimed at women particularly, who are often the main breadwinners in the family. Obtaining credit requires neither bonds nor advance guarantees but relies on mutual support, therefore enabling women to manage their income-generating activities and significantly improve the lives of the most vulnerable children in the community.

After two years of operation, the program results were recorded as being extremely successful: 9,000 women were involved, raising a total of 200,000,000 CFA (or \$414,906 USD). Income-generating activities have been developed and some women have shared resources to support child education and health, for example in strengthening the ECD programs. Women support culinary demonstrations by contributing much needed supplies, covering school fees and materials and providing snacks for toddlers attending the centers.

Beyond economic benefits, the VS&L associations have become the glue that binds communities together. Due to the inherent principle of democratic governance, the associations serve to enhance self-management and accountability. Instead of taking a loan from the bank, women themselves are the bankers and it is up to them to loan and in turn, recoup the money. In promoting cohesion and social responsibility, the VS&L associations additionally act as forums in which women can discuss issues pertinent to them, such as child marriage and pregnancy. They also serve to raise awareness of the consequences of these harmful practices and the role that women can play in ending them.

Discussions are underway with VS&L associations to consolidate support in the process of implementing activities to raise awareness of reproductive health and family planning within communities. As one testimonial read from a woman in Thies:

*" VS&L unites us. I am 33 years old and was born in the neighborhood. Before, I did not know or greet my neighbor. Now that VS&L has enabled us to know each other better we trust each other, and have learned leadership skills through working as a group."*



## 2013 Program Achievements (continued)



### Emergencies

#### Floods and Fires

Floods struck areas of intervention including Bambey and the district of Dalifort in Dakar. The floods have affected a total of 990 families, including 774 children. Local community leaders, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and UNICEF, among other actors, were mobilized to provide support. Affected communities were advised on protection against diseases prevalent in contaminated water and mosquitoes. Stagnant water and flooded houses were pumped out in some areas and families were allocated mosquito nets, mattresses, disinfectants and food. A fire affecting two families of children enrolled in the Baol area prompted a similar response, with donations of household goods and food.

#### Response to the Food Crisis

Following the crop failure during the 2011 rainy season, many families in rural areas surrounding Baol and Ziguinchor have been affected by food shortages. Working in partnership with local organizations, ChildFund has responded to this crisis by creating cereal banks to distribute rice and other staples to families in need. The Ministry of Agriculture and administrative and local authorities have also assisted in the distribution of food. A total of 215.7 tons of cereal were distributed to 9,961 families. The project has been subject to an after-action review, concluding that this program has achieved the best results out of all the countries in which ChildFund operates. This is due to excellent management and the support of local authorities in areas such as Djourbel and Ziguinchor. We are thrilled with the outcomes of this program and hope to expand on the project and replicate these results in other areas.

The district of Mbour has also established cereal banks to combat food shortages during lean periods. Seven hundred and twelve (712) families in this area were repaid for their contributions of a total of 27,995 kilograms (61,589 lbs.), ensuring that the cereal banks remain well stocked for future emergencies.

During the year, consultations with Local Partners (as part of the Local Partner initiative) were held in Dakar and Thies, bringing together many local partners from across the country. Consultations and meetings enabled ChildFund Senegal to discuss current issues and future changes and implement the new draft of the Partnership Agreement to link with FY14.

## 2013 Program Achievements (continued)



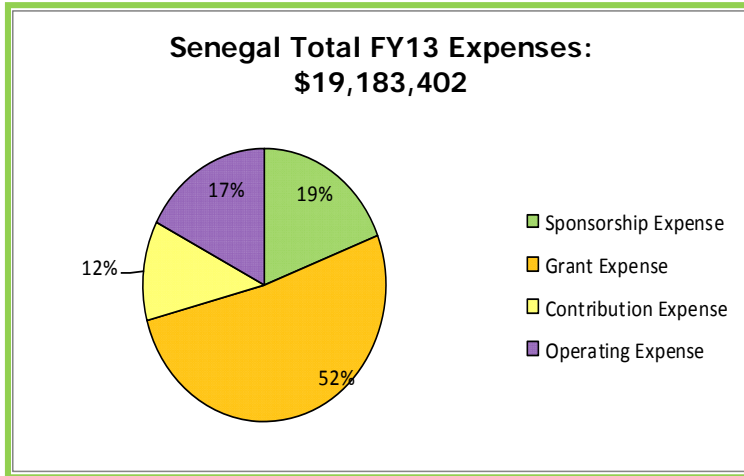
### Partnership with Un Enfant Par La Main – UEPLM

During FY13, the French government and UEPLM resumed their partnership, implementing micro-projects and engaging new sponsors in Senegal. Local Partners in Ziguinchor were selected to host new French sponsors and explore new methods of financing micro projects. One outcome of this alliance has been to secure funding for a third classroom to be built in the ECD Center of Baghagha.

### The SHINE Project

As part of partnership activities aimed at improving children's welfare, ChildFund Senegal and its local partners are working with the NGO Heifer International to conduct a breeding project benefitting children enrolled in sponsorship areas. The project's aim is to improve family income and overall nutrition and encourage a spirit of solidarity and mutual support among peers. This breeding activity uses the 'passing on the gift' methodology and works through the original endowment of quality animals or poultry to families who then give their neighbor the initial proceeds from sale of the animal or its products. In Mbour, 389 registered families have benefitted from the project. Those given sheep and goats also received forage seed to grow crops for animal fodder. The project aims to increase the income of enrolled families and also to cultivate a spirit of solidarity and mutual support among peers while preparing children for adult life.

# Financial Report



## Senegal FY12

Sponsorship Expense	3,663,306	19%
Grant Expense	9,922,690	52%
Contribution Expense	2,261,945	12%
Operating Expense	3,335,460	17%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>19,183,401</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Challenges

Young people under the age of 20 account for 58% of Senegal's total population, making advocacy on issues affecting this age group vital for the country's future (UNICEF, 2013). Preventable diseases such as malaria, malnutrition and acute respiratory infections play a significant role in infant and child mortality rates and food insecurity affects the health of growing children. Youth and young adults face challenges in access to quality education and adequate professional training, affecting both their personal and professional development. Gender remains an important factor with the school completion rate for girls substantially lower than that for boys (World Bank 2013). Lack of information and support on family planning coupled with other factors such as low literacy rates mean there is a high level of unplanned pregnancies and girls, particularly in rural areas, often marry young.

### Health & Nutrition

Malaria is still the leading cause of child mortality in Senegal and death rates remain high, despite improved immunization against this and other childhood illnesses. Difficulty in accessing health care due to distance, the cost of consultation and the price of medication make treatment for common, treatable illnesses impossible for many children. Safe drinking water and sanitation also play a significant role in children's health. Although overall access to safe drinking water has improved with increased investment in infrastructure, sanitation is still a cause for concern with only 34% of the rural population benefitting from adequate levels of human waste disposal (IMF, 2013).

# Challenges (continued)

## **Gender**

Traditional attitudes towards gender still exist in Senegal and many families do not consider it important to educate girls. According to a 2012 UNESCO report, one in six women (or 61% of all women) in Senegal lack basic literacy skills, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and vulnerability, particularly in female-led households. Despite gender parity being achieved in primary education enrollment, many girls and young women drop out during the transition between primary and secondary school due to economic pressures and the practice of early marriage. Some improvements have been made in regards to ending harmful traditional practices affecting young women and girls, such as female genital cutting. More than 100 villages throughout the country have publicly abandoned this practice (UNICEF, 2013). However, much remains to be done to ensure that girls have access to and stay in education until the end of secondary school and that both boys and girls receive adequate education in reproductive health and family planning.

## **Education & Training**

There is no single cause of low school completion rates but poverty is a major challenge facing primary school pupils in Senegal. Overall, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that one third of primary age children are not enrolled in any formal or informal educative structure and children in rural areas are much more likely to drop out of school than their urban contemporaries (PRSP, 2013). This is due to a number of reasons including the high cost of fees, demand for seasonal labor, long distances to schools and fewer opportunities for secondary schooling in rural areas (UNESCO, 2011). Classroom shortages, lack of sanitation facilities and poor quality of education also play a significant role in low primary school completion rates. ChildFund is working to address these issues, however more needs to be done to improve on external factors such as meeting the costs of education, the high pupil/teacher ratio and disparities between rural and urbanized areas in Senegal.

## **Employment & Under-Employment**

Agriculture is the largest supplier of jobs and resources, however Senegal still relies heavily on the import of basic foodstuffs such as rice, from other countries. Youth unemployment is high and job shortages plus a lack of training and transparency in the regulated sector make finding employment in the formal labor market extremely difficult. Migration from rural areas to urban centers in the search for work increases pressure on already limited municipal resources and reduces the rural labor force. To this end, the National Strategy for Economic and Social Development (SNDES) for 2013 - 2017 was approved in November 2012 and outlines strategies in which an emphasis will be placed on vocational training for youth with increased investment in rural infrastructure (ADB, 2013).

# Challenges (continued)

## Disaster Management

Following the crop failure during the 2011 rainy season, food insecurity has become a major cause for concern in Senegal. By promoting self-sufficiency in crop growing, diversifying food products and introducing community cereal banks it is hoped that the effects of natural disasters may be somewhat mitigated in the short term. However in the long term, lack of rainwater drainage, urban sprawl and coastal erosion leading to salinization of arable land are pressing issues that must be addressed if Senegal is to tackle causes and limit the effects of natural disasters, particularly flooding. Equally, drought affects the semi-Saharan northern regions of the country and has caused a considerable decline in crop yields. Locust invasions are also common. The 2010 World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for Senegal highlights recommended strategies in attaining goals focused particularly on sustainable environmental development to prevent future natural disasters, but many of these strategies are yet to be implemented.

## Why Sponsorship is Important

My name is Serigne Kane and I'm a sponsored child in year 3 of secondary school. I've just completed my middle school diploma. I have two older brothers, two older sisters and two younger ones. I am so thankful to ChildFund for everything the organization has done for mine and my family's welfare. I am from a poor family but thanks to the constant support of my sponsor and the assistance and supervision of field staff, I have been encouraged to develop my entrepreneurial skills and make a success of my small business.



I began by buying a sheep that I bought with help from my sponsor. The animal produced rams, some of which I sold on the occasion of Tabaski and I then bought an ox. I kept the ox for six months and fattened it up before I sold it and made a small profit. During this time the sheep I kept were also growing and I sold some of them to buy a cow to provide milk for my family. In this way I have been able to meet the costs of my education and buy a bicycle so I am able to travel to school quickly. I have been able to help my mother and buy clothing for my little sisters. My father has been repairing our house to prepare for the rainy season and with money from my business we were able to buy cement for the floor and roofing materials so we will be protected from the rain.

Thanks to my sponsor and ChildFund mine and my family's living conditions have improved and I have been able to afford my school fees. I am doing well in school and I am encouraging my sisters and helping them to read and write. I am so proud to have been able to help my family in this way.

