

Plan Senegal

Country strategic plan summary for 2003 / 2018

This document describes how Plan Senegal will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2003 to 2018

About Senegal

Senegal, is a relatively flat Sahelian country covering about 200,000 square km. Dakar, the capital, is located on the Cape Vert peninsula, which protrudes into the Atlantic Ocean at the westernmost point of the African continent. The country has a nine-month dry season and a three-month rainy season. The population composed of various ethnic groups is estimated at about 11,000,000. The major source of livelihood is agriculture.

Plan Senegal's program



Plan has been operating in Senegal since 1982 with the opening of the office in St. Louis. Operations later expanded to other regions of the country with the opening of offices in Thies, Louga, Kaolack, and Pikine, a suburb of Dakar. Over 32,000 sponsored children are enrolled in more than 600 affiliated communities. In October 1996, a country agreement was signed with the Senegalese government granting non-governmental organization status to Plan Senegal.

In past years, success has been achieved in improving access to basic services. This has positively changed lives of children and their families.

Other achievements include:

- Provision of potable water and adequate hygiene facilities to over 70% of communities
- Construction and equipment of school buildings and provision of necessary school supplies
- Construction of health huts and setting up fully health stocked points necessary for completion of essential medical treatment and preventive activities.
- Development of micro finance systems that enable communities to access credit to carry out economic activities

Current issues affecting children in Senegal

The living conditions for an average Senegalese family are characterized by unemployment, poor hygiene, and limited access to quality housing, education, potable water and basic social services. These factors have contributed to the mass exodus from the rural areas to major urban areas and abroad. Women and children are particularly affected by these conditions that have been further aggravated by the increasing dislocation of the family unit, resulting in an increased number of deprived and desperate street children. These children are targets for disease and injury. They are deprived of basic care and access to education.



Access to basic education, one of Plan's main objectives

Plan Senegal, in collaboration with partner organizations and communities, has identified three major issues that affect and continue to hinder children's well-being and development in Senegal:

- Low children's school enrolment and completion rates;
- High rate of maternal and infant mortality;
- High household poverty rate;

How Plan will address these issues?

To address the above-mentioned issues, Plan Senegal will focus on the following:

Basic education for all children:

- Promotion of integrated early childhood development through community pre school centers.
- Improvement in the supply of educational facilities through the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of classrooms
- Increasing demand for education through sensitization, awareness, and social mobilization.
- Support of alternative educational systems (Koranic and Arabic school) that are more appreciated by families, especially in rural areas.



Happy school children in a holiday camp



A young woman gave birth to twins in a maternity built by Plan

Better health care and nutrition:

- Increase vaccination rate among infants and pregnant women;
- Monitor children's growth through nutrition sessions held in community health centers;
- Encourage pregnant women to go for pre-natal and post-natal consultations;
- Encourage health education and family planning.
- Reinforcement of Plan's health programs for the fight against malaria, (the most dangerous disease affecting children)
- Increased access to potable water supplies;
- Promotion of community and personal hygiene;
- Improve the quality of housing and community environment.

Access to employment opportunity

- Help women in rural and urban suburb's have easier access to credit through the promotion of simple systems of financial services
- Improve productivity and efficiency of agricultural activities;
- Promote of diversification of economic activities and employment opportunities in communities
- Lighten the domestic workload of women and children through the promotion of appropriate technology for household chores.

Program approach

Plan Senegal's program strength lies on its commitment to directly involve communities in order to reinforce their skills and aptitudes in project implementation and management. A number of communities have distinguished themselves over the past few years, in their project management proficiency. Their experience and successes will be reinforced and used as models in other communities through learning exchanges. Child participation will be the leading guideline to make sure not only that their needs are taken into account, but also their voices are heard in every decision affecting their lives.