



@UNICEF_Senegal/2020/Lila_Pudlowksi

A girl participates in UNICEF-supported distance learning in Kolda while her school remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Humanitarian Action for Children

Senegal

HIGHLIGHTS

- Senegal's humanitarian needs are driven by recurring floods during the rainy season and food insecurity, both of which are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. In 2020, the humanitarian situation was compounded by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which is expected to continue to impact the country in 2021. More than 4 million children will need basic social services in 2021.¹
- UNICEF humanitarian action in Senegal will focus on expanding disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness interventions, strengthening systems and identifying sustainable solutions to address critical needs.
- In an already constrained funding landscape, UNICEF requires US\$16.2 million to realize the rights of vulnerable people and help save the lives of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies in Senegal.

IN NEED

7.7 million
people²

4.3 million
children³

TO BE REACHED

1.9 million
people⁴

1.7 million
children⁵

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



714,458

children receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months



165,000

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



100,000

women and children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation/prevention/response



858,000

children accessing educational services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 16.2
million

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Senegal faces seasonal floods and droughts that impact children and their communities. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating this situation and threatening the gains made across child survival indicators related to health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and protection.

An estimated 600,000 people affected by flooding lack access to adequate WASH services;⁶ at least 45,000 children have missed out on measles immunization;⁷ and some 4.2 million vulnerable people are food insecure.⁸ The cumulative impacts of COVID-19 and food insecurity could increase the number of children under 5 years suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) from 91,000 to over 108,000.⁹

The pandemic is wreaking havoc on people's lives – both socially and economically. Economic growth slowed to 1.3 per cent in 2020, down from 5.3 per cent in 2019.¹⁰ Thirty-eight per cent of the population lives in poverty, and nearly 3 million children lack access to their basic needs.¹¹ The real wages of the poorest 40 per cent of the population decreased by 8.1 per cent in 2020, and an additional 800,000 persons may fall into poverty.¹² The children in these households will struggle to access basic services supporting their nutrition, health and education.

Senegal is one of the 12 countries most at risk of experiencing significant school dropouts and seeing its progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning for all) stall or even reverse due to the impact of the pandemic.¹³ Some 5 million children have been affected by school closures, which have disproportionately affected girls and exacerbated gender inequities.¹⁴ Only 11 per cent of children have access to distance learning.¹⁵ These children are facing additional challenges to staying enrolled in school and completing their studies.

Violence against children remains a major challenge in Senegal especially for girls and children living in the street or placed in informal daaras – traditional Quranic schools. According to the latest data, 3 per cent of girls aged 15 to 17 are victims of sexual violence.¹⁶ This burden is only expected to grow, due to COVID-19-related socio-economic impacts, lockdowns and school closures.

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

760,000 people need nutrition assistance¹⁷



Water, sanitation and hygiene

600,000 people lack access to safe water¹⁸



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

303,000 children need protection services^{19,20}



Education

3.5 million children need education support²¹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Adama sits next to his father in their living room in the village of Sare Wali one week after his return from a sub-standard daara that was closed by authorities.

Adama's father says that he sent his son to a daara four years ago to give him an education. He says that "to acquire knowledge, you sometimes need to go through a long journey" despite the real risks of child exploitation.

UNICEF is working with the Government of Senegal to implement legislation that will regulate Quranic schools and teachers. UNICEF is also working with communities and religious leaders to ensure that children's rights are protected and realized.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

To address the combined crises of COVID-19 and natural disasters such as floods and droughts, UNICEF will implement an integrated, multi-sectoral and life-saving response for children, adolescents, women and other vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. The response will be designed to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes by integrating resilience and emergency preparedness interventions.

To respond to natural disasters, UNICEF will support uninterrupted access to health, WASH and nutrition services. This will include early detection of acute malnutrition at the health facility and community levels, SAM treatment, procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic food, infant and young child feeding counselling, vitamin A supplementation and access to adequate WASH facilities.

UNICEF will support the implementation of the Education Sector Strategy and the COVID-19 Response Plan and serve as the co-chair of the Technical Working Group on Basic Education, focusing on the impacts of COVID-19. The education response will prioritize establishing COVID-19 safety measures in schools, facilitating learning continuity, and supporting children and adolescents to avoid dropping out of school. These interventions will focus on girls, children with disabilities, children from the poorest households, and children from remote and rural areas.

To respond to critical protection challenges, UNICEF will lead the National Child Protection Partners Group and support efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children and women, focusing on: (1) psychosocial support and stigma prevention for children and families affected by COVID-19; (2) prevention, detection and special support to children deprived of parental care; (3) prevention of violence and abuse and access to services for children who are victims of violence and abuse. This third component will focus on strengthening the capacities of front-line workers and strengthening services across sectors, raising awareness, engaging communities, and facilitating coordination and monitoring mechanisms at both the national and decentralized levels, prioritizing the vulnerabilities of girls.

UNICEF will also continue to coordinate closely with sister United Nations agencies, including through United Nations COVID-19 response platforms. UNICEF leads on the risk communication and community engagement commission, co-leads the coordination commission with the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-leads the logistics commission with the World Food Programme (WFP). UNICEF is also the main partner supporting infection prevention and control activities.

Working through the Government's existing social protection system, UNICEF will implement cash-based solutions to strengthen the system's capacity to respond to pressing needs caused by sudden shocks.

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **714,458** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months
- **45,847** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



Health

- **130,000** children under 1 year vaccinated against measles
- **157,000** mothers and newborns who received early routine postnatal care within two days



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **165,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene²²
- **156,150** children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **1,000** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **100,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions²³
- **2,500** children without parental care provided with alternative care arrangements
- **25,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



Education

- **858,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning²⁴
- **80,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **1,707** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)
- **100,000** school-aged children and learners from the poorest households (majority girls) receiving financial incentives to enrol in and pursue education



Social protection and cash transfers

- **3,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors

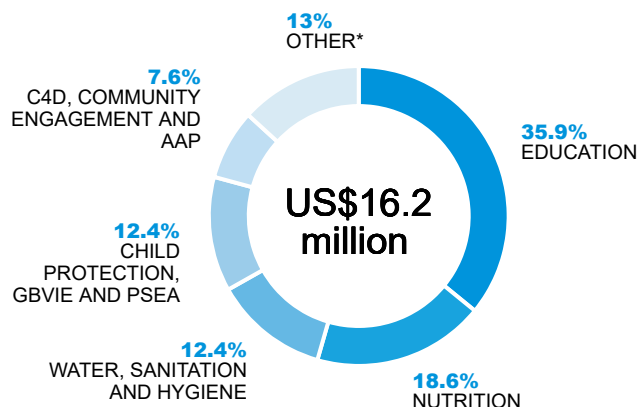


C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **1,200,000** people reached with messages on access to services
- **50,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

The humanitarian situation in Senegal is threatening to undo the major development gains made in recent years and undermine the realization of children's rights. UNICEF is appealing for US\$16.2 million to maintain life-saving and basic social services for children and their families in Senegal, and mitigate both the direct and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters. This funding will allow UNICEF to provide critical nutrition, health, WASH, education and child and social protection services using adapted modalities designed to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. This appeal will also cover the additional resources required to ensure that those children most affected by the humanitarian situation, including COVID-19, are able to realize their rights during this challenging time. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country's continuing crises.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	3,000,000
Health	1,175,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,000,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	2,000,000 ²⁵
Education	5,800,000
Social protection and cash transfers	960,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	1,225,000
Total	16,160,000

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health (7.3%), Social protection and cash transfers (5.9%).

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ENDNOTES

1. This is a projection based on Ministry of Education, '2019/2020 Rapport National de la Situation de l'Education', 2020; and Cadre Harmonisé, March 2020.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. This includes children to be reached (858,000 children aged 4 to 17 years to be reached with education interventions 714,458 children under 5 years to be reached with nutrition interventions and 130,000 children under one year old targeted for measles vaccination) plus 157,000 mothers and newborns targeted with health interventions and 75,900 people beyond 15 years old to be reached with WASH interventions. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. To avoid double counting, this includes the highest coverage programme target of 858,000 children aged 4 to 17 years to be reached with education interventions (including 525,900 girls and 2,600 children with disabilities), 714,458 children under 5 years to be reached with nutrition interventions (including 378,662 girls and 1,879 children with disabilities) and 130,000 children under 1 year to be reached with measles vaccination.
6. WASH Sector Working Group, 2019.
7. District Health Information System-2, 2019.
8. Cadre Harmonisé, March 2020.
9. Joint regional analysis by UNICEF and WFP, 2020.
10. The World Bank, 2020.
11. Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, 'Socio-Economic Impact Study of COVID-19 in Senegal', 2020.
12. Ibid.
13. Save the Children, 'Save our Education: Protect every child's right to learn in the COVID-19 response and recovery', Save the Children, London, 2020.
14. Ministry of Education, 2019.
15. Center for Global Development and Centre de Recherche pour le Développement Économique et Social, April 2020.
16. Demographic and Health Survey, 2018.
17. Joint analysis by UNICEF and WFP, 2020.
18. WASH Sector Working Group, 2019.
19. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
20. Demographic and Health Survey, National Plans for COVID19 response, Ministère de la Femme, de la Famille, du Genre et de la Protection des Enfants and Ministère de la Santé et de l'Action Sociale, 2020.
21. Ministry of Education, '2019/2020 Rapport National de la Situation de l'Education', 2020
22. For all WASH targets, the Government and/or other partners will reach the remaining people in need, as applicable.
23. For all child protection targets, the Government and/or other partners will reach the remaining people in need, as applicable.
24. For all education targets, the Government and/or other partners will reach the remaining people in need, as applicable.
25. The cost of access to mental health and psychological support is US\$122 per person. The cost of providing children without parental or family support with appropriate alternative care arrangements is US\$150 per person. The cost of gender-based violence in emergencies/violence against children prevention and response is US\$9 per person.