Founded in 1992, Nutrition International is a leading global nutrition organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. In partnership with countries, donors and other agencies, Nutrition International supports nutrition research, policy formulation and integrates nutrition into development programs. Nutrition International opened its Senegal office in 2006 and works to improve women and children’s nutrition in Senegal and the high-burden countries of the Sahel.

While there have been gains, malnutrition is still a challenge in Senegal. From 2011 to 2015, the prevalence of stunting decreased from 26% to 20.3%. During the same period, acute malnutrition decreased from 9% to 6% for children under 5 before rising again to 8%. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding is also trending downward, from 39% in 2010 to 33% in 2015. At the national level, the prevalence of diarrhoea is 26.3% in children under 5, but 16 departments have rates of more than 30%.

Anaemia remains a major public health concern, with rates rising from 66% to 71% between 2014 and 2017 among children under 5. Iodine deficiency affects 28% of women and only 47% of the Senegalese population consumes adequately iodized salt.

Nutrition International supports the Cellule de Lutte Contre la Malnutrition, the convening body for nutrition in the country. Nutrition International also works closely with several ministries including Health, Trade and Education.

Nutrition International Senegal is working to reduce the high burden of malnutrition, guided by the following objectives:

• Reduce by 50% the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under 5 in Senegal
• Reduce by at least 20% the prevalence of stunting among children aged under 2 in Nutrition International-targeted areas in Senegal
• Reduce by at least 20% the number of cognitive impairments in newborns in Senegal
• Reduce under-5 mortality from 59 per 1,000 live births to 42 per 1,000 live births in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger
• Reduce maternal mortality from 392 per 100,000 live births to 285 per 100,000 live births in Senegal
FUTURE PLANS

Nutrition International Senegal will be expanding its adolescent nutrition program, including weekly iron and folic acid supplementation (WIFAS), to other regions and reach out-of-school girls. Nutrition International Senegal implements the following programs:

- Adolescent nutrition including WIFAS and the “Fort pour le Futur” project
- Wheat flour fortification (WFF) in Senegal
- Increasing access to iodized salt in West Africa
- Supporting the scaling up of diarrhoea management in children under 5 with zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS)
- Vitamin A supplementation in six regions of Senegal
- Integrated nutrition project in Kédougou and Kolda (PINKK)
- Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

NATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NI:

- Vitamin A supplementation (donation of capsules to the national government)
- Zinc and ORS
- Salt iodization
- Wheat flour fortification (focal areas are Dakar, Fatick and Kaolack)

SUB-NATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NI:

- Vitamin A supplementation (in Dakar, Thies, Saint-Louis, Kaffrine and Kolda regions)
- Adolescent nutrition (in Dakar, Thies, Saint-Louis, Kaolack, Kolda, Sedhiou and Ziguinchor regions)
- “Fort pour le Futur” project (in Thies)
- Integrated nutrition and reproductive health project (in Kolda, Louga and Matam)

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

- TAN (in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger and Democratic Republic of Congo)

National programs supported by NI:
Wheat flour fortification

Sub-national programs supported by NI:
Adolescent nutrition

Senegal Capital: Dakar
Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN) is a project funded with UK aid from the UK government, which seeks to improve the capacity of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) countries to design, deliver, and track the progress of nutrition programs and to generate, learn from and adopt knowledge of what works.

Impact of TAN:
- In Senegal, TAN supported the development and dissemination of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan and Communications plan for the Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition.
- In Burkina Faso, TAN supported the development of M&E plan linked to the Nutrition Strategic Plan and the improvement of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms.
- In Niger, all tools (M&E plan, capacity building plan, communication and advocacy plan, coordination mechanisms and accountability framework) for the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy were developed with support from the TAN project.

The TAN project will continue to:
- Coordinate the provision of technical assistance in the Francophone African countries to help SUN focal points overcome capacity gaps in design and delivery of multi-sectoral national nutrition plans
- Improve learning and accountability across the SUN movement
- Sustain national leadership that drives prioritization of and investment in nutrition in the First 1,000 days
- Mainstream gender equality through the project
ADOLESCENT NUTRITION

Weekly iron and folic acid supplementation

The CLM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and with the support of Nutrition International, is implementing a WIFAS project for adolescent girls in seven regions of Senegal, where 70% of the country’s adolescent population lives, to reduce anaemia rates. The project is being implemented in: Dakar, Thiès, Saint-Louis, Ziguinchor, Kolda, Sedhiou and Kaolack.

Impact:
- 395,000 adolescent girls reached with WIFAS
- 203,000 adolescent girls received and consumed the recommended scheme of WIFAS in 3,133 schools
- 4,313 teachers, health staff, parents, community health workers, municipality staff, adolescent leaders, school supervisors and district health managers trained in WIFAS and data collection.

Next steps:
- Continue to strengthen the adolescent nutrition program in 4,200 schools
- Support high quality data collection systems through the use of the Ministry of Education’s web-based platform
“FORT POUR LE FUTUR”: IMPROVING ADOLESCENT NUTRITION, HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN THIÈS, SENEGAL

Building on Nutrition International’s current work with adolescents in Senegal, and in partnership with the International Society for Urban Health, Fort pour le Futur delivers integrated nutrition and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education and services in a relevant, exciting and empowering way for adolescents. The program is funded by the Botnar Foundation and was designed through partnership between city government, local civil society groups and the private sector.

Impact:
Fort pour le future aims to reach 38,000 adolescents and avert 5,700 cases of anaemia.

Next steps:
- Develop an integrated package of nutrition and SRHR services attuned to the needs of adolescents in Thiès, combined with nutrition and SRHR education, and promotion of regular physical activity in combination with a nutritious and balanced diet
- Expand and improve the range, availability and the quality of nutrition and SRHR services in Thiès for in- and out-of-school adolescents
- Develop and implement a comprehensive gender-responsive behaviour change intervention strategy to improve knowledge, awareness, self-efficacy and behaviour of adolescents on issues related to their health and nutrition
- Engage and support youth groups and associations in Thiès to advocate for and actively participate in the design and delivery of interventions and policies for improved adolescent health, SRHR and nutrition and to hold decision makers and service providers accountable
CURRENT PROJECTS

WHEAT FLOUR FORTIFICATION

This project focuses on building support for the implementation of regulations on quality control, data collection system and data monitoring of production and quality control. Nutrition International assigned a watchdog role to the consumer association promoting the consumption of fortified wheat flour.

The aim is to reduce anaemia rates among adolescent girls and women. The project is being implemented in all regions of Senegal.

Impact:
- Over 5 million people have access to and consume adequately fortified wheat flour, including 1.3 million women and 578,000 adolescent girls
- 195,702 MT of additional supply of adequately fortified wheat flour

Next steps:
- Support regular review meetings using the web-based monitoring platform
- Reinforce the capacity of the Ministry of Trade through lab equipment and logistics capacities for enforcement at all levels
- Introduce rice fortification
INCREASING ACCESS TO IODIZED SALT IN WEST AFRICA

Senegal is one of the largest producers and exporters of salt in the West Africa sub-region. Since 2006, Nutrition International has supported the government’s implementation of salt iodization in Senegal and neighbouring salt-importing countries Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Gambia. Adequately iodized salt helps to prevent Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD).

Impact:
- 124,800 MT of adequately iodized salt were produced in Senegal, an increase of 67%
- 12.7 million additional people, including almost 3.2 million women, were reached with adequately iodized salt in Senegal and the salt-importing countries
- 485,000 newborns were protected from IDD by ensuring adequate iodine intake

Next steps:
- Support the Ministry of Trade’s enforcement mechanism and support consumer associations to ensure effective inspections of iodized salt
- Conduct a prospective sectoral study of the salt industry to evaluate its capacities and production potential and assess opportunities for national and international investors
- Move towards industrialization of salt production where small-scale salt producers will provide raw salt to industrial producers
Since 2012, Nutrition International has supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in transitioning vitamin A supplementation (VAS) from the National Immunization Days campaign into routine health care, enhancing sustainability and local ownership of the program. VAS has been integrated into existing primary health care targeting children under 5, including acute malnutrition screenings and Expanded Programme on Immunization and Grandmother Project sessions. VAS begins at six months with two doses, and every six months until the child reaches five years of age. Nutrition International is supporting VAS in Dakar, Kaffrine, Saint-Louis, Thiès, Kolda and Kédougou.

Impact:
- Nutrition International supported the government by donating a full national supply of vitamin A through the in-kind assistance program.
- 253,000 additional children under 5 received two doses of vitamin A in Nutrition International-supported areas. Overall 609,800 (51%) of children under 5 received two doses in these areas.
- Coverage was significantly higher in Nutrition International-supported areas.

Next steps:
- VAS and zinc will be combined for one integrated nutrition intervention.
- Activities will focus on regular child survival program coordination, reviews and supervisions, technical and financial support to the MoH to develop and operationalize a harmonized micro-planning template, mop-up activities, increasing the quality of data (mainly on child survival), and supporting the continuous broadcasting of gender-sensitive messages to caregivers.
INTEGRATED NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY AND HYGIENE PROJECT IN KÉDOUGOU AND KOLDA (PINKK)

In partnership with the Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition, the MoH, the Ministry of Agriculture, World Vision and Développement International Desjardins, the PINKK project links health care, agriculture and business with the aim of improving nutrition health and food security for people in Kolda and Kédougou, particularly women and young children.

Impact:
- The number of women with at least 3 good food hygiene practices increased from 39% to 87% in Kédougou and from 51% to 85% in Kolda (LQAS 2018).
- The coverage rate in growth monitoring promotion rose from 40.3% to 55.3% in Kolda and from 22% to 68% in Kédougou (LQAS 2018).
- The average production volume of micronutrient-rich varieties from households benefiting from food security initiatives is 86 kg produced per household in Kolda and 74 kg produced per household in Kédougou.
- 5,155 households (2,420 in Kolda and 1,565 in Kédougou) benefit from the food security package, including 9,582 children under 5, 1,040 pregnant women and 3,316 lactating women.
- Ten local communities in Kédougou and seven communities in Kolda now have nutrition-sensitive budgets.
- 639 Village Savings and Loans Associations (380 in Kolda, 260 in Kédougou) were set up with a savings amount of 137,944,100 CFA francs and a credit volume of 76,392,035 FCFA granted to 1,413 pregnant women, 4,676 lactating women.
- 30 girls’ clubs (15 in each region) were set up and 1,633 girls trained on nutrition, WASH, leadership, gender and gender-based violence, mental stimulation of the child, protection and rights of children, reproductive health of adolescents and young people, and behaviour change communication techniques.

Next Steps:
- Complete the implementation of PINKK, evaluate results and disseminate the lessons learned and best practices
INTEGRATING NUTRITION INTO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN THREE REGIONS OF SENEGAL

Nutrition International and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have partnered on a joint pilot project to increase the impact of nutrition and reproductive health services for women and adolescent girls. The pilot project is being implemented in the regions of Kolda, Louga and Matam and will address anaemia and its perinatal morbidity through increased demand of and access to nutrition interventions integrated into family planning platforms targeting out-of-school adolescent girls, pregnant women and women of reproductive age.

Impact:
• The project will target 9,553 pregnant women with iron and folic acid (IFA) and 30,609 adolescent girls with WIFAS.
• 28,660 pregnant women, 189,576 women of reproductive age and 130,568 adolescent girls will receive nutrition education and information on healthy eating.

Next Steps
• Use community-based interventions to reach marginalized and hard-to-reach populations and leverage UNFPA’s various platforms to introduce education on healthy eating and micronutrient interventions
• Conduct a supply chain assessment at the national level to explore integration of WIFAS into UNFPA packages and strengthen supply of IFA
• Address missed opportunities in building capacity, creating demand and increasing access to WIFAS