

SENEGAL PROGRAMS



NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN SENEGAL

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 2019, the prevalence of stunting decreased from 26% to 17.9%. During the same period, acute malnutrition decreased from 9% to 6% in children under five before rising again to 8.1%. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding is also trending upward, from 39% in 2010 to 40.8% in 2019. At the national level, the prevalence of diarrhoea in children under five was 32%, but with disparity between girls (29%) and boys (34%).

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

Nutrition International supports the National Council for Nutrition Development (CNDN), the convening body for nutrition in the country. Nutrition International also works closely with several ministries including Health, Trade and Education and civil society organizations, including the Scaling Up Nutrition networks.

PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

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 five in Senegal
- Reduce by at least 20% the prevalence of stunting among children under two in Nutrition International-targeted areas in Senegal
- Reduce by at least 20% the number of cognitive impairments in newborns in Senegal
- Reduce infant 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



PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

FUTURE PLANS

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

- Adolescent nutrition including WIFAS and the “Fort pour le Futur” project
- Increasing access to iodized salt in West Africa
- Supporting the scaling up of diarrhoea management in children under five with zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS)
- Vitamin A supplementation in six regions of Senegal
- Integrated nutrition and gender project in five regions (PINGS)
- \$13M COVID-19 Emergency response grant

NATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL:

- Vitamin A supplementation (in-kind donation of capsules to the national government)
- Zinc and ORS
- Salt iodization

SUB-NATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL:

- Vitamin A supplementation (in Dakar, Thiès, Saint-Louis, Kaffrine and Kolda regions)
- Adolescent nutrition (in Dakar, Thies, Saint-Louis, Kaolack, Kolda, Sedhiou, Ziguinchor, Fatick and Diourbel regions)
- “Fort pour le Futur” project (in Thiès)
- Integrated nutrition and gender project (in Kolda, Kedougou, Sedhiou, Tambacounda and Kaffrine regions)
- COVID-19 Emergency Grant project (Dakar, Thies and Diourbel regions)



National programs supported by Nutrition International:

- In-kind donation of vitamin A capsules
- Routine vitamin A supplementation
- Zinc and ORS
- Universal salt iodization

Sub-national programs supported by Nutrition International:

- Weekly iron folic acid supplementation
- Fort pour le futur project
- Integrated nutrition and gender project in Senegal
- COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant project

★ Senegal Capital: Dakar

CURRENT PROJECTS

WEEKLY IRON AND FOLIC ACID SUPPLEMENTATION

The CNDN, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and with the support of Nutrition International, is implementing a WIFAS project for adolescent girls in nine regions of Senegal, where 77% of the country's adolescent population lives, to reduce anaemia rates. The project is being implemented in: Dakar, Thiès, Saint-Louis, Ziguinchor, Kolda, Sedhiou, Kaolack, Fatick and Diourbel.

Impact:

- 11 million IFA supplements purchased to cover the needs of the nine selected regions
- 262,791 adolescent girls reached with WIFAS
- 164,312 adolescent girls received and consumed the recommended scheme of WIFAS in 2,894 schools

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





CURRENT PROJECTS “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 a partnership between the city government, local civil society groups and the private sector.

Impact:

Fort pour le Futur 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

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





CURRENT PROJECTS

INCREASING ROUTINE VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION COVERAGE TO STRENGTHEN CHILD SURVIVAL RATES IN 14 REGIONS OF SENEGAL

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 five, including expanded program of immunization, and community-based growth monitoring and screening of acute malnutrition services offered through fixed, outreach and mobile service delivery points. 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 all 14 regions of the country.

Impact:

- Nutrition International supported the government by donating a full national supply of vitamin A through the in-kind assistance program
- In 2020, almost 225,150 additional children aged six to 59 months received two doses of vitamin A in Nutrition International-supported areas. Overall, 907,494 children aged six to 59 months received two doses in these areas.
- The COVID-19 situation affected the VAS program in supported areas
- This situation improved in 2021: almost 1,452,589 children aged six to 59 months received vitamin A in supported areas and in semester 1, and 1,528,212 in semester 2

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, training workshops for mapping of relevant platforms and microplanning of key child survival services at the district level, support to MoH for the implementation of VAS catch up in the regions, and support for the continuous broadcasting of gender-sensitive messages to caregivers.

CURRENT PROJECTS INCREASING AND SUSTAINING COVERAGE OF ZINC SUPPLEMENTATION IN 14 REGIONS OF SENEGAL

Nutrition International has supported MoH since 2011, first to develop and implement the scaling up plan for diarrhoea management in children under five to sustain zinc and ORS coverage, strengthening the health system (including procurement of zinc and ORS), strengthening the community platform, increasing the demand, and promoting the continuity of services and the use of products in the context of COVID-19. The aim is always to reduce the number of deaths from diarrhoea among children aged 0-59 months. Nutrition International is supporting zinc and ORS treatment in all 14 regions of the country.

Impact:

Despite COVID-19, in 2020:

- 257,624 of diarrhoea cases were treated with zinc and ORS (Source: DHIS2) out of a total of 271,834 diarrhoea cases seen in health facilities.
- 714 protective kits (gel and masks) were distributed
- 127,111 zinc/ORS co-packs were distributed in health districts at the community level
- 51 community radio stations broadcasted behaviour change communications messages, covering 197 municipalities with a total population of 6,178,432

Next steps:

- Zinc and VAS will be integrated in implementation
- Activities will focus on regular child survival program coordination reviews and supervisions, zinc and ORS quantification and supply chain management, and supporting the continuous broadcasting of radio messages on the continuity of services and the use of zinc/ORS and VAS





CURRENT PROJECTS **\$13M COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROJECT**

Since March 2nd, 2020, when the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Senegal, the country has experienced four waves of the pandemic and has implemented restrictions to control the spread of the virus. These measures, compounded with other factors such as fear of contamination and overburdened health services and delivery platforms had a significant impact on the health and nutrition of children in the three hotspot regions of Dakar, Thiès and Diourbel. They also had impacts on gender equality.

The overall purpose of the grant is to adapt our existing country programming to the COVID-19 context and expand our work to meet the needs of pregnant and lactating women and children under five, who were made even more vulnerable to malnutrition by the pandemic.

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant project aims to address the following issues:

- Decrease in the attendance and use of child nutrition and health services, and of service delivery points at the community level, leading to low level of routine VAS coverage in children 12-59 months, as well as zinc coverage in children under five
- Low availability and access to products, mainly zinc and ORS at community level, and low demand for VAS, and diarrhoea treatment with zinc and ORS
- Adolescent pregnancies

Impact:

The project aims to reach:

- 800,000 children aged 6-59 months with two doses of vitamin A, representing 80% of the target population
- 127,926 children aged 1-59 months old with diarrhoea with zinc and ORS as part of their treatment

Next steps:

- Contracting partners to implement the project
- Procurement of project commodities and equipping community health workers
- Building the capacity of community actors by training them on several topics related to child survival activities, and protecting them against COVID-19
- Developing communication tools and implementing communication plans related to gender equality

CURRENT PROJECTS **INTEGRATED NUTRITION AND GENDER PROJECT IN SENEGAL**

In Senegal, socio-cultural relations are conditioned by patriarchal norms favouring men and boys and result in the subordination of women and girls to household activities and family care. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of Senegalese women and adolescent girls. The project is seeking to transform gender relations to better achieve the nutrition and health rights of women and girls in Senegal, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens to bring down the health indicators of mothers, adolescent girls, newborns and children.

The project builds on the results and lessons learned from the Integrated Nutrition Project in Kolda and Kédougou (PINKK), implemented by Nutrition International from 2015 to 2020, by strengthening action in these two regions while adding three additional regions with the lowest nutrition and gender indicators in Senegal.

Impact:

The project will be implemented in five regions: Kédougou, Kolda, Tambacounda, Sedhiou and Kaffrine.

- In these regions, 600,000 adolescent girls and 200,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women will be directly targeted by project interventions
- An additional 1,540,000 people will benefit from the nutrition and SRHR services and/or counseling received by the direct beneficiary

Next steps:

- Nutrition International will be responsible for empowering women and girls in training, advocacy and collective action, as well as entrepreneurship
- The CNDN, which is mandated to implement the National Nutrition Development Policy, will ensure coordination among the 12 sectoral ministries that play a role in the nutritional status of populations. It will be responsible for implementing the institutionalization of gender quality in a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition to improve the quality of integrated service delivery for women and girls
- World Vision Senegal will focus its efforts on improving the practices of key players, particularly communities, for better gender equality and equitable access to nutrition and SRHR services for women and girls





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