



Nourish Life

# Senegal

## 2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS

### COUNTRY SITUATION

Senegal is entering a new phase of nutrition planning in the final year of its current Strategic Nutrition Development Plan. This transition is expected to emphasize gender mainstreaming, supported by the Integrated Nutrition and Gender Project in Senegal (PINGS) project.

Global shocks, including post-COVID resilience, inflation, rising food prices and the war in Ukraine have exacerbated nutrition and social issues in the country, leading to increased malnutrition and social tensions. The political tension around the next Presidential election in February 2024 and the health worker and teacher strike in 2022 slowed down the performance of Nutrition International's programs implemented in the health and education sectors.

### OVERVIEW OF WORK

Nutrition International's work in Senegal focuses on salt iodization, vitamin A and zinc supplementation for children under five, as well as iron and folic acid supplementation and nutrition education for adolescents. In 2022, we supported the implementation of the Healthy Cities for Adolescents (HCA II) project to improve the well-being of urban youth in target cities, and the PINGs project, targeting five regions in the country.

Our work in Senegal is supported by 29 staff, three program extenders and two drivers.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Six million weekly iron and folic acid supplements were procured for nine regions.
- 205 small-scale salt producers were trained on salt production and iodization techniques in the Kaolack region.
- 242 teachers received comprehensive training on the adolescent nutrition program's package of services, encompassing weekly iron and folic acid supplementation, nutrition education, physical activity, deworming, menstrual health and hygiene management, use of social media for behavior change interventions and use of a web-based platform for data collection and management.
- 95 health providers in Nutrition International's seven regions were trained on the vitamin A supplementation micro-planning tool to optimize platforms at the health post level.
- Technical and financial assistance was provided to the Ministry of Health for the development, implementation and progress review of 46 micro-plans and a regional salt quality control plan implemented by the Directorate of International Trade (DIT) services in 46 departments of the country for effective and efficient quality control of iodized salt.
- 600 peer educators trained on adolescent nutrition, leading to the formation of a peer educator cohort.
- 12 new agents from the DIT were trained on universal salt iodization program management to improve their proficiency in various areas, including sampling and testing iodized salt, utilizing field tools and effectively transferring field data to the national central platform.



## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



**11M**  
people reached with adequately fortified salt



**1.2M**  
cases of diarrhoea treated with the recommended course of zinc and low osmolarity oral rehydration salts



**740K**  
adolescents reached with a behavior change intervention digital campaign on adolescent nutrition



**689K**  
children reached with two doses of vitamin A supplementation



**375K**  
newborns protected



**208K**  
adolescent girls received the full scheme of weekly iron and folic acid supplements



**36K**  
cases of anaemia averted in adolescent girls



**10K**  
mental impairments averted

### KEY EVENTS

- In January 2023, Nutrition International convened a three-day regional technical meeting, attended by more than 100 delegates from 16 countries, aimed at accelerating vitamin A supplementation in Africa.
- In March 2023, a Senegalese delegation, including an adolescent girl involved in the adolescent health and nutrition program and the program's focal point at the Ministry of Education participated in the She'll Grow Into It campaign launch during a high-level nutrition financing meeting organized by the African Union and hosted by the Government of Lesotho.

### NEW FUNDING

Nutrition International received funding from the BOTNAR foundation for the implementation of the HCA Phase II project that aims to improve the well-being of urban youth in three target cities of Senegal from 2022 to 2025.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Nutrition International, in partnership with the Government of Senegal, is actively working to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders through the universal salt iodization program. However, persistent challenges in iodized salt quality control and shifting production and distribution dynamics in the country necessitate additional financial support. Nutrition International will provide financial support to bolster inspection, regional coordination and enhance the intervention framework for the quality of iodized salt in Senegal.