

Senegal programs



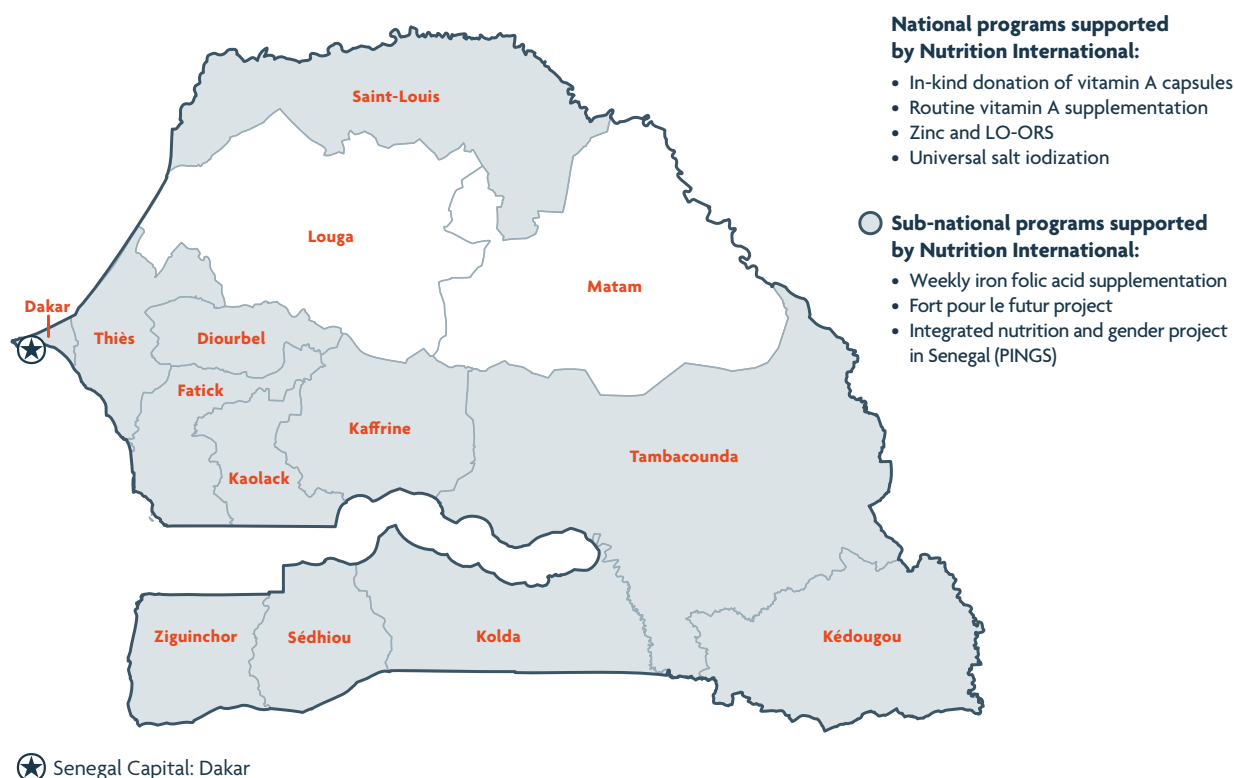




:: Nutrition International in Senegal

In Senegal, malnutrition is a significant health concern for mothers and children under 59 months. According to the 2023 Senegal Continuous Demographic Health Survey, stunting among children under five declined from 21% in 2015 to 18%, while the prevalence of wasting increased slightly from 8% to 10%.¹ Maternal mortality rates also remain high, with 273 deaths per 1,000 live births, while anaemia affects 54% of women aged 15–49 and 63% of pregnant women.² The country is also seeing an increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity, especially among young girls living in urban areas.

Since 2006, Nutrition International in Senegal has been working with the government and other development partners to improve nutrition for women, adolescents and children.



Priority programs and geographic coverage

Nutrition International aims to achieve the following three key and complementary strategic objectives aligned with Senegal's strategic, policy and programmatic priorities.

- Improve the nutrition, health and survival of pregnant women and newborns
- Improve the nutrition, survival, health and development of children under five
- Reduce anaemia prevalence among adolescents, pregnant women and women aged 15–49
- Improve gender equality across all interventions in Senegal

Programs supported by Nutrition International

Nutrition International in Ethiopia supports the following interventions and projects:

- Diarrhoea treatment for children under five with zinc and low-osmolality oral rehydration salts (LO-ORS)
- Routine vitamin A supplementation
- Universal salt iodization
- Weekly iron and folic acid supplementation for adolescent girls
- Integrated Nutrition and Gender Project in Senegal (PINGS)
- Healthy Cities for Adolescents Phase II (Fort pour le Futur)



:: Child survival

Vitamin A supplementation

Vitamin A deficiency is a significant public health concern in Senegal. About 15.3% of children under five are vitamin A deficient, which is associated with an increased risk of morbidity and mortality and impaired growth and development.³ Since 2012, Nutrition International has supported the Ministry of Health in transitioning vitamin A supplementation (VAS) from the National Immunization Days campaign into routine healthcare, enhancing both sustainability and local ownership of the program. Nutrition International supports vitamin A programming at the national level by:

- Working closely with the government and other partners to integrate VAS into the routine health system
- Supporting the development and implementation of a catch-up strategic plan for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, infant, adolescent health and nutrition (SRMNIA-N), including VAS in 24 districts
- Providing technical and financial support for a technical validation workshop for the SRMNIA-N plan
- Developing a harmonized micro-planning model to strengthen the use of existing platforms for routine VAS delivery

At the subnational level, Nutrition International provides technical assistance to support the vitamin A program implementation in the Fatick and Kaolack regions where the VAS coverage was very low.

In collaboration with the Global Alliance for Vitamin A, we are conducting implementation research aimed at identifying the key gaps and bottlenecks to strengthen the health system and optimize the ability of the primary healthcare platform to deliver and improve access, availability and coverage of essential child survival packages including VAS.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 447,066 children under five received two doses of VAS in Nutrition International-supported regions
- 738 staff from 29 districts across five regions received training on the new VAS micro-planning template and self-monitoring tool to optimize existing platforms at the local level to reach more children
- Conducted supportive supervision visits to all districts across the Fatick region to improve program implementation and ownership by the district management team and service providers



Childhood diarrhoea management with zinc and LO-ORS

Since 2011, Nutrition International has supported the Ministry of Health through the Department of Mother and Child Health to develop and implement a scaling up plan for diarrhoea management in children under five to sustain zinc and low-osmolarity oral rehydration (LO-ORS) coverage. Our efforts include strengthening the health system – specifically through procurement of zinc and LO-ORS – improving the supply chain to prevent stock-outs and reinforcing community platforms to boost demand and ensure continuity of care. We also actively seek opportunities to integrate zinc and LO-ORS treatment with routine vitamin A supplementation interventions, allowing for coordinated efforts that maximize impact. Nutrition International's support extends to all 14 regions of the country, with the aim of reducing diarrhoea-related mortality and morbidity among children aged 0–59 months.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 71,702 diarrhoea episodes in children aged 1–59 months were treated with zinc and LO-ORS at public health facilities
- Targeted technical assistance provided to the Fatick region to prevent prolonged supply stock-outs of zinc and LO-ORS co-pack supplies by building the capacity of healthcare providers to proactively monitor stock levels
- With Nutrition International's support, the Ministry of Health and various child survival partners held two coordination meetings to assess the implementation of the zinc and LO-ORS program and provide actionable recommendations for improvement





:: Universal salt iodization

Senegal is one of the largest producers and exporters of salt in the West Africa sub-region. Since 2006, Nutrition International has provided continuous technical and financial support to the government's implementation of salt iodization in Senegal and neighboring salt-importing countries to help prevent iodine deficiency disorders. Additionally, Nutrition International provides technical and financial assistance to small-scale salt producers to enable them to establish a sustainable framework to produce adequately iodized salt.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 119,418 metric tonnes, equivalent to 23.8% of salt produced in the country, were adequately iodized with Nutrition International's support
- 19,729,966 people reached with adequately fortified salt
- 701,832 newborns protected from iodine deficiency disorders
- 250 small-scale salt producers were trained on salt quality improvements and iodization techniques
- Supported consumer association groups in developing an advocacy and watchdog plan to lobby the government for prioritization of iodized salt quality control



:: Weekly iron and folic acid supplementation

Nutrition International provides support to the Government of Senegal, through the Ministry of Education with the support of the Conseil National de Développement de la Nutrition (CNDN), to implement a comprehensive package of interventions including weekly iron and folic acid supplementation (WIFAS) and behaviour change intervention messages on anaemia for in-school adolescent girls and gender-sensitive nutrition education for both adolescent boys and girls. The program aims to improve adolescent nutrition, reduce anaemia rates and empower adolescents to better understand their own growth, development and potential to benefit from improved nutrition and health practices.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 6M iron and folic acid tablets were procured and distributed to nine Nutrition International-supported academies
- 195,793 adolescent girls aged 10–19 years received the recommended scheme of WIFAS
- 200 adolescent girls were trained in leadership, decision making and personal development, enabling them to establish peer leadership groups in their schools to disseminate additional information
- 200 adolescent boys were trained in male engagement, positive masculinity, gender-based violence and its effects on adolescent health and nutrition



:: Integrated Nutrition and Gender Project in Senegal (PINGS)

In Senegal, socio-cultural dynamics are shaped by patriarchal norms and practices that favour men and boys, restricting women and adolescent girls' access to basic social services, leadership positions, and personal and professional development. PINGS is a seven-year initiative designed to promote a multisectoral and gender-responsive approach for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions in nutrition, reproductive health and women's economic empowerment in the Kédougou, Kolda, Kaffrine, Sédhiou and Tambacounda regions of Senegal.

Building on the successes and lessons learned from the Integrated Nutrition Project in Kolda and Kédougou (PINKK), implemented by Nutrition International from 2015 to 2020, PINGS aims to reinforce efforts in these two regions while addressing the needs of three additional regions with the lowest nutrition and gender indicators in Senegal.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 12,546 men reached with 148 awareness-raising sessions on positive masculinity in the five covered regions
- 8,344 women reached with awareness-raising sessions on topics including family planning, compliance with pre- and post-natal care by pregnant women and positive nutrition practices
- 221 members from 43 economic interest groups were trained in financial education and entrepreneurship to strengthen income-generating activities
- Three additional modules on gender, sexual and reproductive health and nutrition were incorporated into the national functional literacy program with the support from the Ministry of Education



:: Healthy Cities for Adolescents Phase II – Fort pour le Futur

Building upon the successes and lessons learned from the Healthy Cities for Adolescents (HCA) Phase I project, Nutrition International Senegal received funding from the BOTNAR Foundation to implement the HCA Phase II project. This three-year initiative focuses on improving the wellbeing of urban youth in the target cities of Thiès, Tivaouane and Pikine, through a systems-thinking approach that drives sustainable and transformative change.

The project interventions include training and capacity building for adolescents, enhancing services and facilities to be more youth friendly and accountable, and raising awareness among adolescents about adopting healthy lifestyles. These activities are delivered by a consortium of partners carefully selected for their complementary skills and experience, working together with a shared vision to achieve impactful, lasting results.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 90 youth were trained and supported to engage in citizen control with service providers and decision-makers, fostering greater youth participation in decision-making processes
- 19 schools, youth and health facilities improved to provide quality services
- Three city officials from Pikine, Thiès and Tivaouane actively participated, demonstrating project ownership and commitment to local leadership



:: Multiple micronutrient supplementation implementation research

Nutrition International is collaborating with the Government of Senegal and partners to explore the introduction of multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS) for pregnant women as part of comprehensive antenatal care (ANC). Antenatal MMS, a daily dose of 15 vitamins and minerals is as effective as iron and folic acid supplementation (IFAS) in preventing maternal anaemia and more effective at improving birth outcomes.

Building upon similar implementation research projects in Pakistan and Nigeria, Nutrition International conducted a landscape analysis in Senegal to better understand the opportunities and challenges related to the introduction and scale-up of MMS, including identifying the most important issues to be addressed through implementation research. The Directorate for Maternal and Child Health (DSME) has also established an MMS taskforce to develop the roadmap to scale. This implementation research will inform the government how to best design and implement effective and sustainable MMS programs.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The DSME convened a stakeholder engagement workshop to share background information, evidence, global guidance and the proposed process for conducting the landscape analysis
- A literature review was conducted on maternal nutrition policies, standards, programs and partnerships, with a specific focus on IFAS
- Development of questionnaires to collect comprehensive data on policies, service delivery, product supply and financing, focusing on the existing ANC platform and IFAS program, under the assumption that the introduction of MMS would encounter similar bottlenecks
- Interviews conducted with key stakeholders at the national, regional, district and facility levels to identify perceptions, bottlenecks and opportunities for potential MMS introduction and scale-up



:: Technical assistance for nutrition

Nutrition International has consistently provided technical and financial support to the Government of Senegal for the review and updating of critical strategic documents and policies. This includes Le Plan Stratégique Multisectoriel de la Nutrition 2024–2028, the Food Fortification Strategic Plan 2024–2028, the Integrated Strategic Plan for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health, and Nutrition (SRMNIA 2024–2028), the communication and advocacy strategic plan for nutrition and more. Nutrition International also played a key role in developing Senegal's National Anaemia Action Plan, and offered both technical and financial support to the roundtable of donors to address funding the gaps in the National Nutrition Development Strategic Plan.

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