



WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL: SENEGAL WORKS TO MEET WASH GOALS

Improving evidence-based decision-making is key to reaching the Sustainable Development Goal on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

Senegal has one of the most developed water supply and sanitation sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. The country has made substantial improvements in this area, thanks in part to institutional and legislative reforms that began in 1996. With 81 percent of the population having at least basic access to water services, Senegal is regarded as a model of public-private partnership in Sub-Saharan Africa, and its experience has been replicated in other African countries.

However, the country still faces important challenges, including unequal access to potable water and sanitation services in urban and rural areas. Only 21 percent of Senegal's population has access to safely managed sanitation, and those in Senegal's poorest regions have significantly lower access rates to safe drinking water and sanitation, the highest malnutrition rates, and are vulnerable to low and variable rainfall that negatively impacts agricultural yields.

WALIS HELPS MEET THE MONITORING CHALLENGE

Senegal is actively working to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), despite the low technical capacity of WASH institutions in the country. Senegal is particularly focused on monitoring and evaluation and has been working with USAID to monitor SDG

PHOTO: RICHARD RAPIER / WALIS

WASH indicators through the USAID Water for Africa through Leadership and Institutional Support (WALIS) program.

With the help of the WALIS Improving WASH Evidence-based Decision-Making project (IWED), Senegal's Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MEA) has consolidated and strengthened its WASH monitoring and evaluation system and its decision-making mechanisms in the sector. The IWED program focused on two components: (i) improving the monitoring of Integrated Water Resources Management indicators, and (ii) implementing a web-accessible database to identify, count, and monitor the functionality and hygiene of public sanitation infrastructure like toilets, latrines, and hand-washing stations. Here we focus on the integrated water resources management indicator monitoring.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MONITORING

Under the IWED program, the MEA's Water Resources Management and Planning Directorate (DGPRES) set up a system for collecting water quality and quantity data across the country. The program supported monitoring of ambient water quality, water-related ecosystems, and water-use efficiency and productivity. This led to the development of high-level polluter-pay and water-use efficiency strategies. Over two years, the DGPRES quality-tested 138 water points, including the *Lac de Guiers* in northwest Senegal. The only freshwater reservoir in the region, the *Lac de Guiers* supplies Senegal's capital, Dakar, and its suburbs, providing 70% of the water consumed in the country's biggest population center. WALIS also trained DGPRES staff on calculating Integrated Water Resource Management indicators, in order to better track Senegal's progress on specific SDG WASH goals.

The WALIS IWED program supported the Ministry to modernize its online information management system so that its staff can better capture and monitor SDG indicators. This platform, named IS Water, gives the MEA the ability to manage the country's water resources data. Effective and efficient monitoring and use of Senegal's water resources will give the country the ability to better protect its ecosystems, provide clean water to its population, and improve its economic security. Through its participation in the WALIS IWED project, Senegal continues to improve the monitoring of its water and sanitation sector and address key bottlenecks that have limited performance in the sector.

“The IS Water platform is a very powerful tool. We hope to extend its usage to other projects so we can track other SDG Water and Sanitation sub-indicators as well.”

Bocar Sall, DGPRES Head of the Hydrology Division