



USAID | SENEGAL

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Water for the World Country Plan

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A combination of ongoing needs and an assessment of existing opportunities led to the FY 2020 designation of Senegal as a High Priority Country for USAID under the 2014 Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act. This country plan represents a high-level overview of how USAID/Senegal will continue to support the Government of Senegal (GOS) to achieve its water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service delivery objectives in line with the 2017 Global Water Strategy, the USAID Agency Plan, and the Mission's broader development goals.

Under this Plan, USAID will work with the GOS to increase access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene services, in order to improve livelihoods, health, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and resilience, especially of women and children. The Plan leverages USAID's comparative advantage in rural areas and emphasizes expanding access to and use of sanitation and hygiene, primarily through a market-based approach linking urban areas with peri-urban and rural areas, while working strategically with the GOS to improve its capacity to increase the quality, reliability, and sustainability of rural and small-town water services and management.

II. INTRODUCTION

Senegal is a low-income country with a rapidly growing population estimated at 16.7 million (2020), of which just over half live in rural areas. Senegal is one of Africa's most stable democracies and has experienced a surge in economic growth over the last few years, with GDP growth

of 6-7 percent over the last five years due to substantial investments in infrastructure (e.g. roads, social infrastructure) under the GOS's 2014 strategic Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE). Despite this growth, close to half of the population still lives in poverty and Senegal ranks a lowly 166 out of 189 on the United Nations Development Program's 2019 Human Development Index. Improving water and sanitation services plays a key role in advancing social and economic outcomes in Senegal, and also represents a joint priority of the GOS and USAID.

III. WATER AND SANITATION CONTEXT IN SENEGAL

Senegal has made rapid progress over the last 10 years in expanding access to water and sanitation for its citizens. However, further increasing access while addressing equity will require tackling significant sector challenges, including increasing financing and domestic resource mobilization, especially for sanitation; improving institutional capacities to implement sector reforms and regulate services; supporting the private sector so it is better able to generate and meet the demand for services; and better managing underlying risks to water resources, including water quality and quantity.

The Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) estimates Senegal's overall access to basic drinking water rose from 60 percent of the population in 2000 to close to 80 percent in 2017, and from 39 percent to slightly over half for basic sanitation during the same period (although 15 percent of people still defecate in the open). Senegal has excelled in expanding access to piped water in urban settings (over 80 percent of the population in urban areas has access to piped water on premises), and has one of the most robust urban water sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. Progress has also been steadily improving in rural water supply, with access to at least a basic water service now covering more than 70 percent of the population.

Despite this, there are marked regional and income disparities in access both to drinking water and sanitation, with rural areas facing the largest gaps in access. Most poor people live in rural areas, where poverty is deeper and more difficult to overcome, and sustainable, high-quality services have been difficult to extend.¹ Large pockets with stubbornly low access to services remain, hindering economic development and Senegal's Journey to Self-Reliance. Rural services in the country's south and east lag most significantly behind, and poverty is highly correlated with lack of access. Among rural people in the lower two wealth quintiles, access ranges from only 10-31 percent for sanitation and from 48-61 percent for drinking water.

Government of Senegal Water and Sanitation Priorities

Senegal is a committed supporter of universal access to water, defined by UN-Water as a right to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use. The GOS has set ambitious targets to boost the overall rate of basic water and sanitation services and to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2025, including a commitment to eliminate the practice of open defecation. In 2016, the GOS released a new Program of Priority Actions for the implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for 2018-2030, setting out key objectives for strengthening governance and management of water resources. Additionally, since December 2018, Senegal chairs the United Nations Human Rights Council, and became a member of the UN's High-Level Panel on Water in 2016.

¹ Household Data - Senegal Service Levels. JMP, 2017 washdata.org

Government of Senegal's Current and Planned Strategies and Approaches to Water and Sanitation

Senegal's approach to reach the SDGs has centered on sector reforms to lay the groundwork for improved governance and financial resource allocation, and on leveraging the private sector to expand and improve quality and sustainability of service delivery. The reforms include the consolidation of responsibility for water and sanitation policy, as well as water resource management within the *Ministère de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement* (MEA). In order to address challenges in the sector, a Sectoral Policy Letter for Water also established specific offices with responsibility for asset management and advancing rural water services, and for management of urban and rural sanitation with a mandate to bolster private sector participation in the operation and maintenance of public sanitation facilities through service contracts. Ongoing sanitation reforms such as the Sanitation Code and the National Rural Sanitation Strategy and its associated implementation plan further improve the foundation for effective non-sewered sanitation and fecal sludge management.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Sector

Improved access to basic drinking water in urban areas has steadily increased, although the baseline was already high at 90 percent in 2000. Rural water supply has made much more progress (from 40 percent to 70 percent over the same time period), but a number of challenges remain in accelerating increases to basic access and to improving the quality of service, including: obsolete or dilapidated infrastructure; limited capacity to meet growing demand; physical, chemical and microbiological issues with water quality; low efficiency in operations; and difficulty in setting and applying cost-realistic tariffs to cover costs. The capacity and performance of the GOS also needs to be reinforced to better manage infrastructure assets and to monitor and hold private operators accountable for the delivery of services. There are opportunities to bolster private operator competitiveness, credit-worthiness, and innovation to further advance the ability of the private sector and government to collectively meet the growing demand for reliable, accessible, and contaminant-free drinking water, while contributing to overall economic growth.

Ongoing sanitation sector reforms provide opportunities to make sustainable progress toward sanitation and hygiene goals, but increased focus and technical assistance, as well as large public and private investment are required to sustainably improve rural sanitation and fecal sludge management in small towns and newly urbanizing areas. In particular, building the capacity of the GOS to manage sanitation service contracts (outside of Dakar), and working to build the capacity of private enterprises that can take advantage of new opportunities for the private sector in managing fecal waste, represent significant opportunities to advance the sector. In rural areas, where ongoing reforms also lay the groundwork for private sector participation, success will hinge in large part on strengthening and facilitating the sanitation market to better link supply and demand. This will require increasing the capacities of private actors to meet the demand for latrine products that are both desirable and affordable, as well as carrying out behavior change, promotion, and marketing campaigns that help grow household demand. Financing is a critical element for the nascent sanitation market, and subsidies of some form are likely to continue to be necessary to build the market for sanitation products and businesses, and to reach the poorest households for whom even the most affordable products remain out of reach. However, it is important that both donor and GOS subsidies to individual households and businesses are properly managed to align positive incentives and prevent the emerging sani-

tation market from being distorted and undermined.

Senegal has relatively abundant water resources when averaged across the country, with annual renewable water resources per capita estimated at 2,459 cubic meters annually.² However, the combined effects of climate variability and increased demand due to industry, agriculture, and population growth, along with the growing challenge of water pollution, threaten the sustainability of future water supply. This is a growing challenge when combined with the lack of technical capacity to plan for and address variability in water availability and quality across Senegal's multiple geological zones. There is a continued need and opportunity to support the GOS to improve water resources monitoring, planning, and active management, ensuring adequate quantity and quality of water for continued economic growth and healthy populations.

Empowering women, youth, and people of different abilities to engage and lead on WASH issues represent cross-cutting challenges, as well as important opportunities for institutionalizing and accelerating progress within the sector. In Senegal, women are largely responsible for water for their families for drinking, washing, cooking, and cleaning. Women and girls are more vulnerable to abuse and attack while walking to and using a toilet or openly defecating, and women have specific hygiene needs during menstruation, pregnancy and child rearing. Despite this, women are underrepresented in water and sanitation decision-making, compromising less than eight percent of the total technical workforce in WASH according to the most recent estimate.³ Improving the inclusion of women, youth and differently-abled people as decision makers in WASH is a persistent challenge, but one that must be addressed in order to ensure that solutions in the sector are relevant and durable.

IV. RESULTS FRAMERWORK

Theory of Change

Despite substantial progress, lack of access to water and sanitation continues to undermine health and economic development in Senegal. In response, USAID/Senegal has set out a comprehensive theory of change for its next generation of WASH investments:

IF effective policy and financing mechanisms are shaped to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable people have access to water, sanitation and hygiene products and services without distorting the market; and,

Increased financing for businesses operating in the WASH sector are established; and,

A well-functioning supply chain is developed for a range of affordable and aspirational sanitation and hygiene products and services; and,

Consumers are willing and able to invest in their household sanitation and hygiene; and

Technologies, governance, public engagement and willingness to pay are harnessed to improve public-private partnerships (PPPs) in rural water service delivery; and,

Water resources are managed to address long-term challenges related to water quality and quantity;

2 [Senegal Renewable water resources per capita, 1958-2017](#)

3 <http://www.bibalex.org/Search4Dev/files/423465/449096.pdf>

THEN Senegalese will have increased access to safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene services, which will contribute to improved livelihoods, health, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and resilience, especially of women and children.

Relationship to the Journey to Self-Reliance

USAID's work under this plan will increase Senegal's commitment and capacity in the WASH sector in order to accelerate progress toward self-reliance. For WASH, self-reliance is the ability of countries' systems at different scales to plan, finance, and implement sustainable solutions to deliver water and sanitation services that improve health, livelihoods, educational opportunities, and dignity among citizens. USAID will work with the GOS to improve governance and the underlying enabling environment for sustainable services and resource management, including working to better enable private sector participation, strengthening the capacity and performance of public and private sector actors, and developing and applying new models for finance and service delivery.

Program Components

USAID/Senegal's current WASH portfolio is focused on building a more sustainable, demand-driven model for water and especially sanitation service provision, encouraging private investment in the sector, improving the management capacity of government actors at the national and local levels, and improving the financial-, institutional-, and government-enabling environment to support these efforts. This plan builds on the current portfolio to further increase the GOS's commitment and capacity to close sector access gaps, and complements USAID/Senegal's competitive advantages in rural service delivery through four Intermediate Results (IRs) that mirror USAID's Water and Development Plan:

IR 1 - Overarching: Strengthened enabling environment for sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services:

Central to achieving sustainable results in the WASH sector is addressing governance and the underlying enabling environment, in particular systems for improving coordination and clarifying roles of key stakeholders. Activities will strengthen sector policies, making them more transparent and effective in balancing sustainability and equity across the sector. These activities will support an architecture that is mutually accountable, and that uses improved data and information management systems for decision making, while increasing civil and private sector participation and accountability. Additionally, USAID will seek to enable private sector investment by supporting innovative financing mechanisms along supply chains for WASH products and services. Increased domestic resource mobilization, from both the private and public sector, will support sustained sector transformation.

IR 2 - Increased and improved access to sanitation and hygiene products and services:

Activities under this IR will seek to improve the availability and range of affordable and aspirational products and services while improving consumer demand and correct use of these products and services. This will be reinforced through improving the range of financing and en-

entrepreneurship opportunities. By working on both supply and demand through a market-based approach linking urban markets with outlying areas, broad-scale change in behaviors within targeted communities will improve sanitation and hygiene outcomes.

IR 3 - Increased and improved access to water:

Activities under this IR will work to increase access to basic and multiple-use water services (MUS), while improving efficiency in management of piped systems in rural areas, small towns, and market centers. USAID will do this by supporting the sector's continued decentralization, improving the ability of the GOS to manage and plan upgrades to capital assets, and building the capacity of small enterprises to respond to the need to enhance the reliability and quality of water services.

IR 4 - Effective governance and management of water resources:

By enhancing coordination and clarifying sector roles and responsibilities, activities under this IR will support improved management of watersheds and water abstraction, including addressing climate variability and water quality concerns. Results will be focused on specific basins and integrated to support broader economic growth activities, notably those within the Feed the Future and Power Africa initiatives.

Current Activities

As of July 2020, USAID/Senegal addresses the four IRs by implementing eight activities, including two that are integrated within Feed the Future and governance activities. The three flagship WASH activities are:

- 1. *Projet Assainissement, Changement de Comportement et Eau pour le Sénégal (ACCES)*:** a contract implemented by Natural Resources Consulting Engineers from March 2016 - March 2021 for \$22 million. Activities seek to increase sustainable access to improved water and sanitation services and the adoption of key hygiene practices through market-based approaches.
- 2. *Government-to-Government Amélioration de l'Accès Durable à l'Eau Potable et à l'Assainissement (AADEPA)*:** implemented by the GOS from September 2019 - December 2023 for \$9.9 million. Activities seek to improve the GOS' capacity and governance of integrated water resource management, sustainable access to potable water, and rural sanitation.
- 3. *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Finance (WASH-FIN)*:** a contract implemented by Tetra-Tech from August 2017 - September 2021 for \$4.6 million. Activities provide technical assistance to cohorts of local WASH enterprises in order to help them to obtain financing and improve operations in a way that ensures their sustainability and improves the quality of the WASH services provided.

Expected Results

This Plan is costed based on prior year resources still available for programming and the FY 2020 estimated allocation of \$10.5 million. Geographic areas of interventions will be chosen in line with the USAID Water and Development Plan's emphasis on targeting the poor and most vulnerable and will take advantage of opportunities to co-locate and layer with other USAID

investments.

While some existing activities will end in year two or three of the plan, others will continue throughout the span of the five-year plan, and new activities currently in design will scale up initial results. Current activities aim to: secure basic sanitation access for over 140,000 people; reach over 40,000 households with community-led total sanitation and behavior change; leverage over \$20 million from the private sector to co-invest in WASH outcomes; secure basic water access for over 200,000 people; improve water resources management in at least four water basins; and support 50 local governments deliver sustainable MUS water services. In addition to these results, USAID anticipates that current and future activities will continue to improve sector financing and governance.

V. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The GOS closely coordinates the contributions of donors through a Donor Working Group and periodic Joint Sector Reviews to ensure that donor activities are in line with reforms, not duplicative, and aligned to make progress towards the SDGs. USAID plays a key role in the sector at the national level, and currently is the third largest bilateral contributor in the sector after France and Japan. Other donors in the sector include: the African Development Bank, the European Union, the West African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Belgian Technical Cooperation, United Nations Children's Fund, and the Korea International Cooperation Agency. This coordination is further reinforced through the consultative group of donors, which merged its urban and rural work into one platform in 2018, that facilitates internal dialogue to ensure better coordination of interventions in the field.