

A YEAR IN SENEGAL

SUMMARY REPORT 2011

Plan is helping women access credit through savings and loans schemes



About Senegal

Senegal's capital, Dakar, protrudes into the Atlantic Ocean at the westernmost point of the African continent.

Their biggest source of livelihood is agriculture.

Plan has been working in Senegal since 1982, and over 32,000 children are sponsored in more than 600 communities.

Problems affecting the children of Senegal

- Poor hygiene and limited access to decent housing
- Basic social services, such as healthcare, are inadequate
- Safe drinking water is scarce
- School enrolment and completion rates vary greatly, as does the standard of education offered in schools
- Migration from rural areas in search of higher incomes has led to the dislocation of families, increasing the number of vulnerable children and street children



Children playing.

PLAN'S PRIORITIES IN SENEGAL

1 Healthcare, environment and nutrition

- Increasing vaccination rates among infants and pregnant women
- Encouraging pregnant women to have pre-natal and post-natal check-ups
- Fighting malaria
- Increasing access to safe drinking water
- Promoting community and personal hygiene

2 Basic education for all children

- Establishing nursery centres to promote early childhood learning
- Improving school facilities
- Supporting and improving alternative schools – Koranic schools, for example

3 Jobs and livelihoods

- Helping women access credit through savings and loans schemes
- Improving the productivity and efficiency of farming families
- Helping communities find more diverse ways of making a living, to avoid migration

By being a child sponsor, you have directly supported projects like the ones below. Your ongoing support sustains our long-term development work which impacts the lives of children, their families and communities for generations to come.

Together we are making an invaluable difference to the lives of people in Senegal.

To learn more about Plan's work in Senegal visit:

www.plan.org.au/ourwork/westafrika/senegal



Children learning in a newly built and equipped school supported by Plan.

CASE STUDY: A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Migration to urban areas to find employment is becoming a grave problem for the children of Senegal.

The move from rural areas to cities is not always a successful one. Rising population numbers in cities are putting pressure on existing services, which are unable to cope. Added to this, country people do not always find employment easily in an urban context. The effect on children is dislocation from their family and community structures. Some children are even abandoned and left to fend for themselves on the streets.

The Rehabilitation Centre

Plan is active in the suburbs of Dakar, particularly in Pikine and Guediawaye, where there is a rehabilitation centre which is offering hope to vulnerable children.

The centre is host to children in the poorest slum communities, to boys and girls brought in by the Correctional Education and Social Protection Division of the police, and to other children in difficult situations. They come here to eat, to meet friends and to get a basic education. Some street children are taken in as resident 'boarders'.

Recognising its worth, Plan is trying to build the centre's capacity to feed, house and educate children.

Improving the educational environment

Plan believes an education is key for children to grow up and break the cycle of poverty. So at the centre we reconstructed and refurbished 20 classrooms, and built and equipped a library with more than 1,000 books.

The improvements made it possible to deliver a quality education to 1,000 pupils in the school complex, 300 youths under the patronage of the Ministry of Justice, 160 youths in apprenticeships and 200 young women in vocational training circles.

A full stomach and a healthy body

The centre was stocked with medicines, and a kitchen and canteen were built. Food was made available to ensure the nutritional needs of children were met. Mbaye, a 15 year old boy told us: "The possibility of having lunch at school was a great help to us, especially those who live far away."

Plan believes an education is key for children to grow up and break the cycle of poverty.

Broadcasting to the country

A multimedia room was fitted out, and radio programmes aired with the participation of children and adults.

"The radio programmes were golden opportunities for children to exchange views with adults," says Mbaye. "Indeed, we wish and pray that Plan keeps supporting the Centre, especially for our young brothers and sisters."

As well as the radio programmes, the project worked in other ways to strengthen children, families and communities to demand that children's rights – especially the rights to education and protection – are fulfilled. A special network for the protection of children's rights was established, and 30 members of pupil-teacher associations were trained. Children's participation was paramount. "This project has made it possible for us to freely express our views on what is going on in houses and schools," says one participant.

Some names have been changed for child protection and privacy reasons.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2010

- Looked after almost 700 severely malnourished children at nutritional rehabilitation sites and monitored the growth of over 2,000 under-twos
- Gave anti-malarial treatment to 9,900 pregnant women
- Trained 343 teachers
- Equipped 151 schools with first aid kits
- Provided 1,000 girls with school supplies



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