



## DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE



Photo by Richard Nyberg



Photo by Sue Teisingator

### Overview

Senegal remains one of the few stable democracies in West Africa. However, the country's recent drop in rankings from Freedom House and Transparency International has increased the focus on governance and transparency issues. U.S. assistance focuses on supporting decentralization and development at the local level, promoting government-wide transparency and accountability and decreased influence on the legislature, supporting electoral and political processes and supporting a peace process in the Casamance.

### USAID/PGP (Program on Governance and Peace)

This four and a half year project (2010-2014) focuses on enhancing democracy, good governance and national reconciliation. In terms of democracy, the project's objectives are to 1) increase greater transparency and accountability in select public institutions and state organizations, 2) provide institutional and capacity building for greater transparency and accountability, and 3) support civil society's ability to fight against corruption. The good governance element of this program will support efforts for increased fiscal decentralization in USAID/Senegal's existing programs in health, education, environment and water. In addition, the program will work to ensure free and credible 2012 elections by supporting the Government of Senegal's autonomous electoral body, building capacity so that civil society can better advocate for a fair and credible electoral process and strengthening political parties. National reconciliation will be addressed through efforts to help resolve the 27-year-old conflict in the Casamance region. *(Prime implementing partner: Academy for Educational Development)*

### USAID/Peace in the Casamance

USAID is currently funding a peace process support activity encouraging individuals and groups seeking peace to maintain dialogue. This activity works with prominent actors at the local and national levels in the peace process by giving training workshops and technical assistance as needed in conflict resolution, negotiation, and by helping to create opportunities for dialogue.

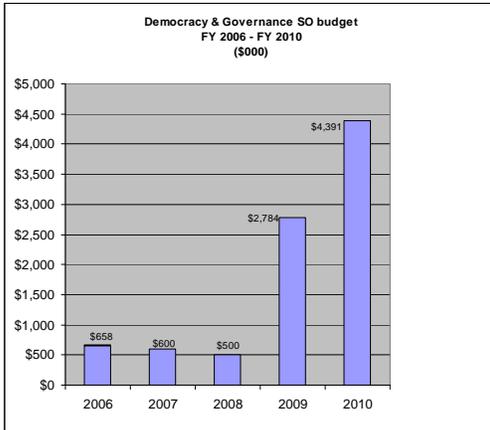
In addition to the efforts for creating dialogue around peace in the Casamance, USAID/Senegal is also working on local level conflict resolution and reconciliation. These activities work with whole communities to resolve conflicts and facilitate a process of pardon so that the community can resume a peaceful and prosperous path to development. *(Implementing partner: World Education)*

### Decentralization, Governance and Transparency Project

This three-year program was designed to promote a better integrated and more effective governance of public and local



## USAID BUDGET SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE IN SENEGAL (\$ millions)



affairs through greater citizen control. Among its objectives are 1) to develop national integrity systems so that the Government, civil society and the private sector can work to eradicate corruption, 2) gather information to facilitate actions on behalf of underrepresented populations, including the poor and women and youth and 3) support decentralization by promoting good local governance to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity within local communities. The project is carried out in two phases, the first as a pilot phase and the second phase which will replicate the model throughout the country. *(Implementing partner: Forum Civile)*

### Capacity building of Civil Society for participation in the local democratic process

This two-year program aims to strengthen democracy and local governance through the capacity building of civil society organization and local council. The main components of the program are: 1) Information-Education-Sensitization (IEC), 2) capacity building, 3) elaboration and dissemination of tools and support, 4) coordination, management and monitoring, and 5) national and local advocacy. The program is implemented in four rural communities: Diossong, Keur Samba Gueye (Fatick region), Keur Baka, and Thiare (Kaolack region). *(Implementing partner: RADI, Reseau africain pour le developpement integer)*

### Building on Other USAID/Senegal Activities

USAID's economic growth, natural resources management, health, and education programs also finance activities implemented in the Casamance that include improved forest management and income generation, middle school expansion and girls' scholarships, improved mother and child health, and efforts to prevent and treat diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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