



USAID/Senegal: partner in development

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the lead agency for the U.S. Government providing economic development and humanitarian assistance to people around the world. As an active partner of the Government and people of Senegal, USAID listens to local concerns and priorities, and then responds with joint activities to help reduce poverty, improve education and health services, promote democracy and economic growth, recover from disasters, and prevent conflicts.

Specifically, USAID has over the years helped reduce child and maternal mortality, increase exports of non-traditional agricultural products, improve the investment environment, raise girls' enrollment in middle schools, enhance transparency and accountability in local and national government management, and promote peace in the Casamance region after 20 years of conflict. USAID has invested over \$1 billion in a wide range of projects since 1961 – an average of nearly \$30 million each year – to tackle constraints to national development. Currently, USAID:

- Encourages economic growth by making it easier to start and operate a business and generate trade, particularly for non-traditional agricultural and natural products.
- Expands HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and improves the health of women and children, particularly through reduction in malaria and other infectious diseases.
- Seeks to increase the number of children, especially girls, who complete middle school.
- Supports community-led peace initiatives in the southern Casamance region to help resolve the long-running conflict.

How does USAID/Senegal work?

The USAID mission in Dakar consults extensively with the Government of Senegal, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and other stakeholders in Senegal and the United States to develop an assistance plan. The USAID staff, over 60 percent of which is Senegalese, works with counterparts in government, civil society and the private sector to develop projects. USAID calls for competitive offers from American, national and international organizations to carry out the projects.

Once the plan is approved, the USAID mission is fully empowered to make all decisions in Senegal – from project design through completion. This approach speeds the pace of development and reduces bureaucratic bottlenecks. As Dakar-based staff issue contracts and handle the funding, USAID has been successful in moving resources efficiently to the benefit of the Senegalese people.

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