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## SENEGAL

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### **FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS**

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Senegal is a key strategic partner for the United States Government (USG) in west Africa. A relatively stable and democratic country with a Muslim majority population, Senegal's interests and values are closely aligned with the United States'. Though it is a strong partner of the USG, particularly in the fight against global terrorism, Senegal increasingly faces internal threats to its stability. These threats include a growing youth demographic with limited employment prospects, increasing urbanization, limited access to public and social services, and limited private sector investment, which is so critical to job creation. These internal pressures, coupled with increasing erosion of good governance and transparency, move concerns over maintaining stability to the forefront and require active attention.

USG foreign assistance goals in Senegal include encouraging democracy, the rule of law, good governance, and national reconciliation; promoting economic growth and free-market development; combating transnational crime and promoting regional stability; promoting agriculture and rural development that employs good natural resource management principles; and investing in people by improving health care and education. Among these goals, the USG's highest priority in Senegal is to strengthen democratic systems and governance practices, as Senegal has seen erosion in recent years of its democratic institutions and a weaker performance in transparency and accountability. Supporting national reconciliation and a resolution to the Casamance conflict is also a key component in promoting long-term stability for Senegal and the region.

Increasing economic growth and improving Senegal's health and education sectors are also priorities for the USG in that country, since a healthy and well-educated population can act as the driving force behind a robust economy, leading to greater social and political stability and lower poverty levels. Through the Global Health Initiative, USG investments in health greatly contribute to improvements in key indicators, such as declining infant and child mortality and reduced malaria prevalence. In the education sector, the USG is working to increase educational access for vulnerable children and to improve the quality of education being delivered by Senegal's public schools, especially at the middle school level. As a result, by 2010, more than 4,000 previously out-of-school children will be enrolled in educational programs and a more effective and relevant middle

school curriculum will be in place. As part of its commitment to economic growth, the USG has also increased its support to the agricultural sector by launching the Feed the Future initiative in FY 2009. This initiative, which represents a multi-million dollar investment in agriculture, is helping Senegal grow its economy and decrease its dependence on food imports. In FY 2009, the Government of Senegal (GOS) also signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact worth \$540 million. This compact will further support economic development in Senegal by greatly improving the country's road infrastructure in the underserved north and south, and by improving agricultural productivity through a large-scale irrigation program in the arid north.

## **HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

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### **Peace and Security**

Encouraging a stable peace in the Casamance region is a high priority for the United States. The conflict, which has continued as a low-intensity but seemingly intractable struggle for over 26 years, has a destabilizing impact on southern Senegal and on its neighbor countries to the south. The conflict also increases Senegal's susceptibility to the growing narcotics trade and other criminality in the sub-region. USG support, however, is bringing together conflicting parties and assisting civil society actors to place increased pressure on leaders to pursue discussions on a political level. In FY 2009, the USG:

- Trained 40,824 middle school students in conflict resolution and peace building skills. These students, as part of a peace education program, then conducted peace and reconciliation projects in their communities, thereby spreading the message of peace to hundreds of villages.
- Reached approximately 41,000 people directly involved in, or affected by, the conflict with messages and opportunities for dialogue on how to resolve the conflict.

The USG also supports the Senegalese police force, security service, and military, so that they can maintain their combined reputation as one of the most professional, apolitical, and effective security sectors in west Africa. In FY 2009, the USG trained 25 Senegalese military officers, which increased multinational staff expertise and interoperability, and produced a higher percentage of English-speaking officers than all other West African Francophone countries. As a result, Senegalese officers are in high demand by the United Nations (UN) for peacekeeping missions all over the world, and have been appointed to positions of authority in a number of UN peacekeeping operations on the African continent. Most importantly, the professionalism of the Senegalese security services, strongly supported by the USG, has resulted in a public respect for the security apparatus and a level of trust in the rule of law that is notably higher than that which exists in neighboring countries. The USG also provides assistance to improve the GOS's institutional and technical capacities to counter drug-trafficking organizations, through enhanced interdiction, investigation, and prosecution, and encourages its increased coordination with international and regional law enforcement agencies.

### **Governing Justly and Democratically**

While Senegal still has a vigorous free press, a strong associational life, and a high respect for human rights among its citizenry, disturbing trends have been noted recently in the governance sector. The state is highly centralized and patrimonial norms and values still influence the behavior of the

country's political actors. Through non-transparent means, the GOS has consolidated a disproportionate amount of political and economic power in the presidency. The legislature is filled overwhelmingly with political allies of the party in power, and no longer acts as a check on the executive. The judiciary is largely subordinate to the President, who chairs and appoints most of the members of the body responsible for selecting and promoting judges and prosecutors, with little legislative oversight. As a result, strengthening democratic systems and governance practices is among the USG's highest priorities in Senegal and is incorporated into USG foreign assistance in all sectors.

In FY 2009, the USG supported decentralization, anticorruption, and good governance efforts in the health, education, and natural resources sectors.

- In the health sector, the USG worked to improve efficiency and transparency in the management of the health sector budget by establishing national health accounts. As a result, the GOS realigned its health budget after discovering that few resources were going to reproductive health and that local health districts were severely under-funded, given their responsibilities.
- In the education sector, over 6,000 parents' association leaders, regional and local council officials, and Ministry of Education representatives were trained on improved systems for planning, budgeting, and delivering educational inputs and resources to middle schools. In addition, numerous parents' associations were strengthened to empower parents to play a greater role in monitoring the quality of their children's education, and to provide oversight on school management.
- In the natural resources sector, the USG worked at the policy level to improve governance of certain sectors (forest products, fisheries, etc.), while also working at the local level to improve decentralized operations and to increase participation of the local population in the oversight of their natural resources. As part of this work, 287 Senegalese citizens were trained to further the decentralization process through the strengthening of local governments, and an additional 627,759 hectares of land was brought under local, community-developed natural resource management conventions.
- To improve the transparency of Senegal's business environment, the USG is currently assisting the Ministry of Justice to create a new commercial court, which will handle all new commercial law cases and will greatly improve the processing speed of business-related litigation

The USG also worked with officials from the GOS to improve internal controls on corruption, to standardize governmental operating processes and procedures, and to support decentralization to strengthen local government and improve accountability through citizen participation in local governments. Finally, the USG strengthened civil society organizations to play their oversight role more effectively, to advocate for a return to openness and transparency, and to counterbalance the decline of Senegal's democratic institutions.

### **Investing in People**

Senegal has made great strides in improving the health and education of its citizens over the past decades. Infant mortality has declined from 173 per 1,000 live births in 1960 to 58.9 per 1,000 in 2009; life expectancy at birth has increased from 37.5 in 1960 to 57.1 in 2009; and primary school enrollment has gone from 47.1 percent in 1990 to 92.5 percent in 2009. Nevertheless, Senegal

ranked 166 out of 182 countries on the 2009 United Nations Development Program Human Development Index, indicating that much work still needs to be done.

The USG works closely with Senegal's Ministries of Health and Education to continue improving educational and health outcomes in Senegal. In FY 2009, the USG:

- Protected 661,814 people from malaria through the indoor residual spraying program.
- Distributed over two million insecticide-treated nets during a nationwide free mass-distribution campaign and through a targeted voucher program, thereby increasing the proportion of households with at least one net from 36 percent in 2006 to 63 percent in 2009.
- Continued to support Senegal's efforts to maintain one of the lowest HIV prevalence rates (0.7 percent) in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Trained 711 maternal and child health care providers in essential life-saving skills, such as the Active Management of Third Stage of Labor (AMSTL) and basic Essential Newborn Care (ENC). USG-supported health care providers conducted 877,262 antenatal care visits, provided AMSTL to 68,225 women during childbirth, and conducted 150,706 visits to newborns within three days after birth. Of those newborns, 101,141 received ENC.
- Started an initiative to improve sustainable access to water supply and sanitation facilities, and promote better hygiene in targeted small towns and rural and peri-urban areas of Senegal, thus contributing to a decrease in the overall prevalence of diarrheal diseases, a leading cause of infant and child mortality in the country. Through this program, 4,500 people were provided with access to improved drinking water supply, and 11,700 students were provided with access to improved sanitation facilities at their schools. In addition, community health educators reached 219,969 people with messages on personal hygiene, including the importance of hand washing and proper waste disposal.
- Provided technical expertise to support the Ministry of Education's efforts to improve access to education at the middle school level. As a result, middle school enrollment rates in the regions supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) were 52 percent, compared to 42 percent nationally.
- Supported the construction of nine new middle schools through an innovative fixed amount reimbursement agreement with the GOS. An important element of Senegal's poverty reduction strategy is to provide 10 years of basic education to all children. By supporting the construction of middle schools in remote rural areas and in low-income urban areas where no schools formerly existed, the USG is significantly contributing to the eventual achievement of this goal.

### **Economic Growth**

In FY 2009, the USG also officially launched Feed the Future, indicating a strong re-engagement in the agriculture sector. Feed the Future's long-term goals include doubling food production, increasing regional trade, and reducing poverty—all critical for Senegal, since the country currently relies on imports for 70 percent of its food supply, and 70 percent of the Senegalese population is involved in the agricultural sector. Feed the Future will promote economic growth, diversification, and free-market development, all of which are essential to reducing Senegal's aid dependency,

increasing stability, and generating employment. USG assistance also focuses on increasing Senegal's competitiveness and productivity by promoting policy reforms to the labor code, improving the rural poor's access to resources, and regularizing land tenure laws and procedures.

The USG works with exporters, the GOS, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners to improve production and sales from targeted value chains and to identify promising export opportunities to help Senegal take advantage of African Growth and Opportunity Act trade preferences, thereby contributing to Senegal's economic growth and self-sufficiency. In FY 2009, key achievements supported by USG assistance included:

- The creation of more than 8,000 new, mostly agricultural, jobs.
- The generation of \$3.5 million in export value from targeted agricultural commodities.
- The generation of \$3.5 million in new sales (\$22.8 million in total sales) for each dollar USAID invested in all economic growth activities.
- The active support of women entrepreneurs working in the natural products sector, thereby increasing the profits of 3,265 women, and supporting the sustainable management or conservation of natural resources, such as fisheries and forests.
- The drafting and public review of four pieces of legislation by the Ministry of Labor to improve the competitiveness and fairness of Senegal's Labor Code. These codes define the rights of workers and employers to establish systems for negotiation, the obligations of companies with more than 50 employees to provide regular updates on their labor force, the rights of employees hired by "temporary" employment agencies and the obligations of those agencies, and the procedures and rights associated with part-time work.