

Presentation of Senegal CO Concept Note
WFP Executive Board Informal Consultations
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By Lena Savelli, Country Director WFP Senegal

Thank the Board Members for the opportunity to present this Concept Note on WFP Senegal.

I have recently taken up position as CD here, and in one of my first meetings, a government partner aptly described the context as a “country moving in two speeds”. On one hand, Senegal is experiencing strong GDP growth and is fast approaching lower middle-income economic status. On the other, half of its 15 million population is poor particularly in rural areas. Unemployment is high among youth and women, which is a key driver of migration.

Like other Sahelian countries, food and nutrition insecurity is persistent and linked to poverty, environmental degradation and cyclical climatic shocks. However, unlike elsewhere in this turbulent region, Senegal has had a steady democratic progress, with stable government leadership, strong institutions and no serious security incidents.

WFP benefited from a strong engagement by government partners during the national Zero Hunger Strategic Review in 2017. The review was praised by President Macky Sall and its recommendations will be used for the second planning phase of the Government’s flagship socioeconomic programme- Plan Senegal Emergent (2019-2023). The Government has even recommended that the same methodology used for the Zero Hunger Review be replicated for other SDGs reviews.

During our consultations, it became clear that WFP’s activities such as school meals, R4 rural resilience initiative, Purchase from Africans for Africa were highly appreciated. Hence no dramatic overhaul was proposed but rather a refocus of emphasis. This Concept Note therefore proposes the following key shifts:

→**Integrated activities for transformative effect:** WFP will better integrate its activities and with those of its partners to maximize synergies at community level, to contribute more effectively to transformative change in the lives disadvantaged people. School meals will be the central entry point of an ecosystem of interventions in the area of nutrition, resilience, rural development, local procurement, within the same localities to maximize impact.

→**Capacity Strengthening for eventual handover:** WFP will place greater emphasis on supporting the development of national capacities at all levels. The number of beneficiaries supported directly by WFP will decline during the CSP timeframe as the Government assumes responsibility. The goal would be to **transition towards a sustainable home-grown school feeding and national social protection programme** that prioritize local purchases from smallholder farmers for inclusive economic growth.

→**Increased gender focus by ensuring women play central roles,** not just as beneficiaries but as actors with key roles in decision-making, with economic opportunities and strengthened capacities. I am happy to inform that the CO has recently enrolled in WFP’s gender transformation programme and is strengthening relationships with UN Women and national women’s organizations.

→**New partnerships.** While continuing with our traditional partners, new alliances will be formed with other national/international partners, including the private sector to strengthen WFP’s contribution to addressing hunger related challenges such as migration, the effect of climate change, the special needs of disabled people, women and youth.

Let me end with a point on funding, as during the past years, the CO has faced challenges in securing sufficient resources. However, efforts are underway to diversify the donor portfolio through south-South cooperation, thematic funds and private sector. For example, in October 2017, the CO became the first WFP office to get resources from the Green Climate Fund.

Through the ZHR, the CO has enhanced engagement with the Government and discussions are underway on the possibility of assigning WFP with the implementation of a national school feeding program funded by the government, as done in Benin. **McGovern Dole** - Senegal has recently been included in McGovern Dole and WFP has submitted an over 30 million USD for the CSP period.

With that I want to thank the chair and the members of the Board for the chance to present this Concept Note and confirm my willingness to answer any questions you may have.