

## SENEGAL



**Senegal** The United States wants to see Senegal become a country with sound democratic institutions and a private sector environment that can attract the investment needed to create jobs and economic growth. For many years, Senegal was cited as a model within Africa for its traditions of democracy, peace, and tolerance. However, over the last year, several events have compromised Senegal's good standing, including a drop in rank on Transparency International's corruption index from 71st to 85th and burgeoning off-budget expenditures. U.S. assistance will be strategically targeted to enable Senegal to achieve its Millennium Development Goals by supporting work with civil society and key government entities to improve governance, reduce corruption, promote peace, stimulate economic growth and agricultural productivity, and provide critical capacity-building support in health and education.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS:** President Senghor advocated close relations with France and negotiation and compromise as the best means of resolving international differences. To a large extent, the two succeeding Presidents have carried on Senghor's policies and philosophies. Senegal has long supported functional integration among French-speaking West African states through the West African Economic and Monetary Union. Senegal has a high profile in many international organizations and was a member of the UN Security Council in 1988-89. It was elected to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1997. Friendly to the West, especially to France and to the U.S., Senegal also is a vigorous proponent of more assistance from developed countries to the Third World.

Senegal enjoys mostly cordial relations with its neighbors. Clear progress has been made on many fronts with Mauritania to include border security, resource management, economic integration, and the return of an estimated 30,000 Afro-Mauritanian refugees living in Senegal.

**U.S.-SENEGALESE RELATIONS:** Senegal enjoys an excellent relationship with the United States. The Government of Senegal is known and respected for its able diplomats and has often supported the U.S. in the United Nations, including with troop contributions for peacekeeping activities. The United States maintains friendly relations with Senegal and provides considerable economic and technical assistance. About 300 Senegalese students come to the United States each year for study. President Diouf paid his first official visit to Washington, DC, in August 1983 and traveled several times to the U.S. thereafter. Senegal was President George W. Bush's first stop in his July 2003 visit to Africa. In June 2001, President Wade met President Bush at the White House. Senegal hosted the Second African-African American Summit in 1995. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton began her trip to Africa in March 1997 with a visit to Senegal, and President Bill Clinton visited Senegal in 1998. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Walter Kansteiner visited Senegal in August 2001. Foreign Minister Gadio met Secretary of State Colin Powell in September and November 2001. Senegal took a strong position against terrorism in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the U.S., and in October 2001 hosted a conference establishing the African Pact Against Terrorism. On July 20, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice attended the fourth annual African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum held in Dakar, Senegal. That year's Forum focused on increasing investment initiatives and facilitating economic and political development in Africa. In June 2007, First Lady Laura Bush made Senegal her first stop during a four country Africa tour in support of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) implements the U.S. Government's development assistance program. USAID's strategy focuses on promoting economic growth/private sector development by expanding microfinance and business development services and commercializing natural and non-traditional products; improving local delivery of services and sustainable use of resources; increasing use of decentralized health services; and improving middle school education, especially for girls. In addition, there is a conflict resolution and rehabilitation program to improve conditions for peace in Senegal's two southern regions known as the "Casamance".

The Peace Corps program in Senegal has approximately 150 volunteers serving in agriculture, forestry, health, and small business development. The U.S. Embassy's Cultural Affairs Section administers the Fulbright, Humphrey, and International Visitor exchange programs. The Fulbright teacher, researcher, and lecturer programs are two-way exchanges; hence the section also supports American grantees in Senegal during their stay. In addition to exchanges, the section organizes numerous programs for the Senegalese public including U.S. speaker programs, fine arts programs, film festivals, and a book club. Finally, the section organizes an annual regional colloquium for American Studies professionals, journalists, and civic leaders from over 15 countries in Africa.

On September 16, 2009, Senegal signed a \$540 million compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for road rehabilitation and food security initiatives in some of the poorest regions of Senegal.

**Peace and Security:** Ensuring that the peace process in the Casamance region moves forward is critical to long-term stability in Senegal. The United States will continue to encourage the Government of Senegal (GOS) to work toward a negotiated settlement, while supporting intensified efforts to bring conflicting parties together for dialogue. The State Department-funded program will also help civil society place increased pressure on all groups to pursue discussions on a political level. In order to achieve its regional security goals, U.S. assistance will further the capacity of the Senegalese Armed Forces to effectively participate in peacekeeping operations on the African continent. Senegal is a leading troop contributor to peacekeeping operations and its military will continue to participate in the African Contingency Operations Training Assistance (ACOTA) train and equip program under the Global Peace Operations Initiative. The U.S. will provide continued support for the development of Senegal's professional, apolitical military. U.S. security assistance provides the Senegalese military with the equipment and training needed to effectively serve in African peacekeeping operations and to protect its land and maritime borders, while adhering to international norms of professional military behavior, including respect for human rights.

**Governing Justly and Democratically:** Corruption and inefficiency at all levels of government, particularly at the national level, are increasing. Addressing these issues is the top priority for U.S. assistance. While Senegal remains one of the few stable democracies in West Africa, it is increasingly becoming a highly-centralized government where weak checks and balances undermine good governance. The legislature, including the Senate, which the President recently reestablished and filled overwhelmingly with political allies, no longer acts as a check on the executive. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will expand efforts to promote government-wide transparency and generate greater civil society demand for transparency in government operations. Other areas for support include: judicial and legislative reform, capacity building to support the democratization of political parties, and support for a more decentralized government.

**Investing in People:** While Senegal has improved on its social indicators over the past five years, the country still falls short of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in both health and education. To decrease child and maternal mortality, USAID programs will support improvements in the quality and use of health services, products, and information in the areas of maternal, newborn, and child health; family planning and reproductive health; and the prevention and control of malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. U.S. assistance under the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) will continue to expand efforts to scale up proven preventive and treatment interventions to achieve 85 percent coverage among vulnerable groups in order to reach the PMI goal of reducing malaria-related morbidity by 50 percent. The FY 2010 request level for Senegal does not include the total projected funding for the President's Malaria Initiative. Decisions on allocations of centrally managed funds will be made at the time that the FY 2010 operating year budget is set. Senegal will receive funding to support the national HIV/AIDS strategy and the goals of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). In Senegal, less than 65 percent of persons living in rural areas have access to potable water. To address this important constraint, U.S. assistance will support the construction of wells, boreholes, and appropriate sanitation facilities in rural areas. The program will also support training for management committees to ensure they have the capacity to maintain and manage this infrastructure. USAID promotes an integrated, holistic approach that addresses the social, economic, ecological, capacity, and governance challenges in the water sector. To increase access to quality education, U.S. assistance will support several new USAID programs aimed at: improving children's reading and math skills; developing a national monitoring and evaluation system to monitor learning achievement; promoting an integrated approach to teacher training and development; making internet service available to all middle and secondary schools in Senegal; supporting educational opportunities for more than 10,000 vulnerable children currently excluded from the formal school system; revising the middle school curriculum and providing textbooks to accompany the new curriculum; and encouraging greater involvement and investment in education on the part of the Senegalese private sector. The program will also support the analysis of national education accounts as one approach for increasing accountability and transparency in the education sector. The United States will take advantage of ongoing social sector interventions to push the GOS to meet its commitments in budget allocations for the education and health sectors.

**Focus on Performance:** The new anti-corruption program in Senegal will involve a wide variety of stakeholders. It will increase knowledge of the costs of corruption and build broad support for anti-corruption activities. Senegalese citizens will be better educated about corruption and the role they can play in stopping it, while the program will empower civil society to productively channel citizen discontent currently growing from the widening perception of illicit gain by government officials and their interest groups. The program will also work with civil servants and decision makers in the Senegalese government to improve internal controls concerning laws and regulations against corruption. The funds requested for FY 2010 will allow the anti-corruption program to comprehensively address both an increase in the demand for more transparency and accountability/less corruption and a decrease in the opportunities for corruption by enforcing existing laws and implementing new measures. In 2012, there will be presidential elections. By preparing citizens, civil society, and civil servants now, in 2012 there could be a strong anti-corruption platform among the campaign promises of the competing candidates. With the additional malaria funding, PMI/Senegal will carry out Indoor Residual Spraying in a fifth district of Senegal to further decrease transmission, protecting more than 820,000 people from malaria and meeting the need for Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net (LLIN) of newborns and pregnant women. The work will also support the Government of Senegal's National Malaria Control Program goal to meet 100 percent of rapid diagnostic testing need. A review of data collection procedures found that in FY 2007 "households" were counted, not "houses". The FY 2008 target was set based on FY 2007 results and thus refers to the number of "households", not "houses". After the target setting exercise in FY 2008, the National Malaria Control Program and partners decided that "houses" would be counted by spray teams. With the additional \$2.5 million for the Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH) program element, USAID will provide capacity building support to the Ministry of Health's Reproductive Health

Division, significantly scale-up current family planning programs, carry out national and regional FP communication programs, while expanding strategic advocacy programs to foster high-level political commitment. With recent changes in leadership in the Ministry and a Presidential focus on maternal mortality, an enabling environment exists for Senegal to make real progress in FP to reap the economic benefits that result. The Mission's contribution to this objective will include increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate from the current 10.3 percent to 18 percent over the next five years. USAID/Senegal tries to increase private investments through improving the business environment and establishing loan guarantee programs through the Development Credit Authority (DCA). A DCA with three banks was established at the end of FY 2007 to increase investment in sectors targeted by Senegal's Accelerated Growth Strategy (AGS). In FY 2008, the first year of the DCA, two of the three partner banks under USAID's DCA activity were unable to extend loans to enterprises; however, the third bank extended loans to nine businesses, which were able to access approximately \$520,000 through the USAID-supported bank loans. The key constraint is the stipulation in the DCA agreement to only extend loans to sectors identified by the AGS – agriculture, agribusiness, textiles, garments, fishing, tourism and Information and Communications Technology – whereas most solvent applicants are within the telecommunications, transport and construction sectors. To address this issue, USAID will provide technical assistance to the banks to help them better evaluate loans in the targeted sectors. The banks are responsive to this training, so a wider use of the DCA is expected in later years.

**Economic Growth:** The U.S. Global Food Security Response, launched in FY 2009, will support efforts to increase food productivity in Senegal and reduce barriers to the movement and procurement of food throughout Senegal and to neighboring countries. Success in increasing agriculture productivity and improved resource management will ensure pro-poor economic growth and food security in rural areas. As part of the U.S. Global Food Security Response, USAID will work with Senegalese and international private companies, local and international non-governmental organizations, farmer organizations, and national and regional agricultural research and trade organizations to increase agricultural productivity and production through deployment of improved technologies, management practices and human resource capacity building. Regional trade in food staples will be increased through improvements to food staple market structures and in the operation of key trade and transport corridors. Sound market-based principles will be promoted to ensure that staple food systems are working effectively. The lack of a labor code favorable to investment, poor infrastructure, difficult access to land, environmental degradation, inconsistent application of commercial law, and burdensome and frequent tax audits are key challenges for Senegal's economic development. U.S. assistance, including support from the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, will be used to assist Senegal in reversing these trends by developing a competitive business environment, increasing trade and investments, increasing agriculture productivity, promoting public-private partnerships, conserving biodiversity and enhancing the sustainable and profitable use of natural resources. More specifically, technical assistance will be provided to analyze the constraints in the production and marketing of specific products in order to increase the number of products exported and expand support to sectors targeted by Senegal's Accelerated Growth Strategy. Success in expanding trade for several targeted markets and in transferring responsibility for the management of natural resources to local communities is expected to encourage sustainable private sector investment on a broader scale. Assistance will be provided to expand activities in biodiversity conservation and coastal water resources into new geographic areas.