



## COUNTRY PROFILE



*A small loan from USAID has helped Elisabeth Nassalan, a mother of six, start a small shop in her village in the southern Casamance region. After she lost her legs in a landmine accident, and her husband abandoned her, she didn't think she would be able to support her family. "Now, even though I am alone," she says, "I am able to earn money and care for my children. The assistance I have received has helped me greatly in making a fresh start."*

### SENEGAL SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960  
Population: 10.5 million (2004)  
Income per person: \$670 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

### USAID IN SENEGAL

[senegal.usaid.gov](http://senegal.usaid.gov)

### OVERVIEW

Senegal has progressed significantly in the past decade both politically and economically. This progress has led to the country achieving eligibility status for the Millennium Challenge Account, due primarily to its strong commitment to ruling justly, investing in people, and promoting economic freedom. A democratic, predominantly Muslim but secular country, Senegal is a moderating voice in the Islamic and African worlds. USAID assists Senegal to enhance the productivity of its people and, in so doing, create jobs for unemployed youth, improve access to education and health care, and further institutionalize democracy.



### PROGRAMS

#### IMPROVING ECONOMIC LIVELIHOODS

Nationwide, 50 percent of young people have no jobs. Senegal urgently needs growth, jobs, and the capacity to produce and manufacture goods rather than just trade them. USAID helps citizens generate income from local resources, connect to markets, and manage the country's natural resources. USAID/Senegal's five-year investment in improving the operations of 52 microfinance institutions has proven to be highly sustainable. Twelve months after direct USAID support to these institutions ended, the institutions have continued to grow and expand their loan portfolio. The largest USAID-supported microfinance institutions, which provide approximately 80 percent of loans in Senegal, increased their number of clients by 31 percent in 2005, from 486,000 to 639,000. The value of the loans increased by 44 percent from, \$98.6 million to \$142.4 million. The focus of the new five-year economic growth program will be on improving the investment environment and providing business development services to increase exports.

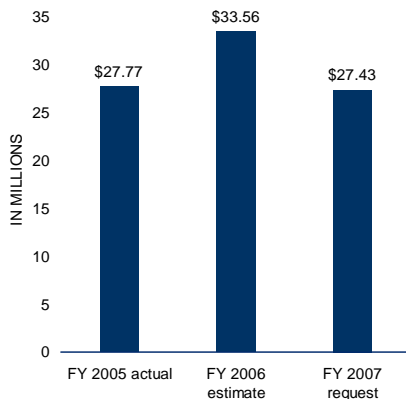
#### IMPROVING MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION

Over 50 percent of men and 70 percent of women over 15 years old are illiterate. USAID is determined to ensure that future generations are much more literate, and better prepared for the global marketplace. USAID seeks to improve the quality of middle school education (the seventh to ninth grades of Senegal's basic education cycle) and make it more accessible, especially for girls. This is done by constructing and expanding

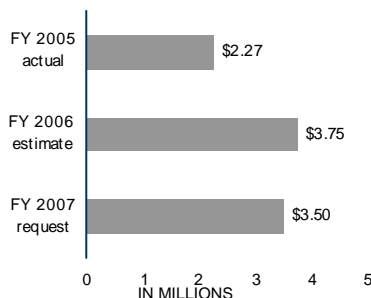


## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL



### USAID FOOD AID TO SENEGAL



For more information, see the  
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification  
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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schools; improving training for teachers and principals; involving local communities in the management and financing of middle schools; and improving transparency and accountability in the education system. So far, USAID has built or renovated 26 middle schools, allowing more than 3,000 new students to attend middle schools within walking distance of their homes. USAID also provided in-service training for 745 teachers, school principals, and trainers of teachers, and trained 604 new teachers in basic teaching techniques.

### IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

Substantial improvements have been made in the health sector over the previous decades, including decreased infant mortality (86 out of 1,000 in 1986 compared to 61 out of 1,000 in 2005) and reduced maternal mortality (510 out of 100,000 in 1992 compared to 450 out of 100,000 in 2005). USAID seeks to further decrease child and maternal mortality and limit the spread of HIV through increased access to and use of quality health services. USAID's HIV/AIDS programs encourage abstinence, fidelity, and condom use as appropriate, while supporting a full range of services to treat sexually transmitted infections, prevent mother-to-child transmission, and care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. A total of 10,360 persons used voluntary counseling and testing services between January and August 2005. Children's health is improved through vaccinations, prevention, and treatment of childhood illnesses. Providing the means for families to better space pregnancies and improving the care women receive during their pregnancy reduces the number of women who die from pregnancy.

### FOSTERING PEACE IN THE CASAMANCE

After more than two decades of conflict, a peace process is gaining momentum in Senegal's southern Casamance region. USAID's Casamance program supports peace-building activities such as grassroots conflict resolution, peace process advocacy, and training to build local negotiation and conflict resolution skills. Through workshops and other activities, the program is helping the Senegalese government, civil society, and rebel group civilian representatives to engage in productive negotiations and conflict resolution activities. After the workshops, selected civil society participants are given small grants for peace advocacy projects such as resolving small conflicts between several villages.