

Senegal

Part 1: Situation update in the country

This year, Senegal completed the final year of the Priority Action Plan, under its national socioeconomic development programme, Plan Senegal Emergent, in place since 2014. The Government embarked on a comprehensive and participatory process to review progress since 2014 and design a new Priority Action Plan for 2019-2023. The new plan will address challenges and continue the development trajectory including: develop a competitive, inclusive and resilient economy; develop human capital and capture the demographic dividend; reduce poverty and inequalities and adapt to climate change; strengthen governance and promote a modern and efficient public administration to promote development; and mobilize domestic resources and improve the quality of expenditures to finance development. These goals are to be underpinned by a strong monitoring and evaluation capacity and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Child protection and birth registration were integrated in the new Priority Action Plan for the first time. At the Senegal consultative group meeting in Paris in December 2018, the President of Senegal launched the new Priority Action Plan and sought the support of the development community and the private sector for implementation. The international development community applauded the Government's vision and the country's achievements and expressed support to the Government with financial commitment.

The first Priority Action Plan had a stable macro-economic environment with rapid economic growth that increased from 4.3 per cent to 7 per cent between 2014 and 2018 (IMF 2017); low inflation; a reduction in the budget deficit; and a reduction in the rate of poverty (estimated at 35.6 per cent in 2017 from 38 per cent in 2011). However, human capital required attention and the Priority Action Plan 2 aims to strengthen the education sector with improvement of the quality of education and the learning environment; the quality of public expenditures in education and the information management system; and strengthening policies in favor of employment and entrepreneurship, especially for young people. The delegation for rapid entrepreneurship, established in 2018, boosts entrepreneurship especially for women and young people.

In 2017, the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index for Senegal was 0.505, ranking the country at 164 out of 189 countries: low on the spectrum of human

development, in large part due to poor education-related indicators.

In 2017, Senegal participated for the first time in the Programme for International Student Assessment for Development. In 2018, results showed that of pupils 15 years old in secondary school, only 9 per cent master minimum competency standards in reading, 8 per cent in mathematics and 4 per cent in science. For basic education, 39 per cent of children of primary and lower secondary school age are out of school, representing about 1.5 million children; completion rates at primary level stagnate at about 61.8 per cent and gender disparities increase to the detriment of adolescent girls as they progress through secondary education.

In 2018, the Government formulated the new Education Sector Plan, PAQUET. Development partners, including UNICEF Senegal, prioritize out-of-school children and adolescents and introduce catch-up and second-chance education interventions offering new learning prospects. The approach was endorsed and recommended for scale-up and several development partners expressed commitment to support the expansion of this strategy in 2019.

Senegal co-hosted with France the 2018 Global Partnership for Education financing conference attended by the UNICEF Executive Director. For the first time, Senegal pledged a US\$2 million financial contribution to the Global Partnership for Education as a donor country, for 2018-2020. The Minister of Education was appointed by the board of directors as the first vicechair. In 2018, the Global Partnership for Education earmarked US\$42.6 million to Senegal, to be secured in 2019 to support the implementation of the new Education Sector Plan 2018-2030.

The results of the continued Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2017 and released in 2018 revealed steady progress on child health indicators and a reduction in the maternal mortality ratio from 392 per 100,000 live births in 2011 (according to the Multiple Indication Cluster Survey) to 236 in 2017 (Demographic and Health Survey 2017), due to improvement in the coverage of peri-natal care and community-based strategies to combat malaria and other diseases. In immunization, Senegal progressed steadily with a coverage estimated at 92 per cent for three doses of pentavalent vaccine according to the 2017 Demographic and Health Survey. As part of the expanded programme on immunization, 13 antigens are now offered with the introduction in Senegal of the vaccine against human papilloma virus in 2018 for girls nine years old.

While significant progress was achieved in the reduction of stunting in children under five years old from 26.5 per cent in 2010 to 16.5 per cent in 2017, acute malnutrition hardly improved over the same period, standing at 8.9 per cent in 2017 according to the Demographic and Health Survey 2017.

Some progress was achieved in reducing open defecation, with 13 per cent of the population practicing open defecation in 2017, down from 17.7 per cent in 2010, as well as progress in access to improved sanitation in rural areas from 25.9 per cent to 39.8 per cent for the same period. However, significant disparities exist between rural and urban areas.

A new health sector strategy, the Plan National de Developpement Sanitaire et Social (National Health and Social Development Plan) was under development for finalization in early 2019 and encompasses a major step towards inclusion of the social welfare dimension.

In 2018, the health system was faced with strikes by health care personnel with retention of data and refusal to provide services, including vaccination and malaria chemoprophylaxis, severely jeopardizing the gains in the sector's performance. The situation affected routine reporting and availability of data and posed grave risks to the health of children in particular. Discussions between authorities and the health syndicates had not reached an agreeable outcome as of end-2018.

In line with public finance reforms and the adoption of results-based programme budgeting, in 2018 the Ministry of Justice adopted for the first time a justice sector policy paper outlining priorities in the sector and dedicating one of the three pillars of the policy to justice for children.

Despite the country's unprecedented economic growth and a continuing increase in the state budget (at least in nominal terms), from 3,000 billion CFA francs in 2017 to over 3,700 billion in 2018, some social sectors were under-funded, particularly the health sector, which in the 2018 budget was allocated close to 9 per cent of the state budget, far from the 15 per cent threshold set by the West African Economic and Monetary Union Heads of State in 2001.

In contrast, the education sector accounted for more than 25 per cent of total government expenditure and 7.2 per cent of gross domestic product. A study by the Ministry of the Economy of Finance and Planning and UNICEF showed a downward trend of social sector expenditures to less than 30 per cent of the total budget over the period of 2013-2015, below the 35 per cent threshold set by the International Monetary Fund.

Early 2018 was marked by concern by the international community, including UNICEF Senegal, about the consequences of the drought affecting the Sahel region. The results of the harmonized framework conducted in November 2018 in identifying risk areas and vulnerable populations in the Sahel and West Africa showed a less grim picture. Out of a total population of 13 million in Senegal, over 11 million people were estimated to be in phase one (minimal), 1.9 million in phase two (under pressure) and 91,269 in phases three to five (crisis). Although there were no routine data on malnutrition due to the recurrent strikes of government health workers, the estimated burden of severe acute malnutrition was estimated at 56,798 cases, with an estimated caseload of 54,438 for 2019.

Within the framework of the National Child Protection Strategy adopted in 2013, the Government continued to prioritize strengthening coordination, monitoring, access to quality services and promoting social change. A major institutional change from 2017 to 2018 was the creation of a new ministry in charge of child protection. Although considered by child protection actors as an opportunity to better position issues such as leadership, coordination and public resource allocations to child protection, the new institutional architecture was not supported by

strengthened organization and mobilization of resources, particularly human resources. The change also created a disconnect between designated responsibilities at national level and social welfare services on the ground linked to other ministries. The transition resulted in a slowing of initiatives and processes under way on reinforcement of child protection systems and the revision of the child code.

During 2018, the ministry in charge of child protection prioritized actions on the situation of street 'talibé', and withdrawal operations in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The operations rescued 334 children (77.5 per cent of them Senegalese), with 51 per cent of them reunified with their families in Senegal, 21 per cent reunified with their families abroad, 10 per cent replaced in appropriate daara (Qur'anic schools) and 17 per cent still in a transit centre for family tracing. In its approach, the ministry established an alliance with religious leaders to support operations and promote fostering children in appropriate daara. It emphasized the role of the police with regard to abusers, and supported referral of the families and children to the national cash transfer programme. Areas still requiring attention are access to justice and long-term solutions in terms of quality education and families' capacities to protect their children.

On the political side, 2018 was a year of preparation for the presidential elections in February 2019. The Parliament adopted a new electoral code with the introduction of a sponsorship rule in the country's electoral system aimed at reducing high numbers of presidential candidates.

Senegal went through the universal periodic review led by the Human Rights Council. The working group reviewed Senegal's human rights' record in November 2018, and formulated 256 recommendations, including: gender equality; children's rights and social norms, in particular child marriage; female genital mutilation and cutting; violence and exploitation. The Government accepted 228 of the recommendations and noted 28, representing a solid commitment for action, although some of the required reforms of the family code remain a challenge.

The year was also marked by United Nations agencies effort to reformulate the United National Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2019-2023 in line with the Priority Action Plan and related initiatives including evaluation of the previous UNDAF, and development of the communication, and partnership and resource mobilization strategies. For UNICEF, this was coupled with the development of the new country programme of cooperation to cover the same period, aligned with the Priority Action Plan and the UNDAF, endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board in September 2018.

For the implementation of its programmatic activities in 2018, in addition to regular resources and global thematic funds, UNICEF received generous contributions from the following donors: Governments of Canada, France and Italy, the United Nations Population Fund/UNICEF Joint Programme on female genital cutting and mutilation, ECHO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, USAID, Nutrition International, the German and Spanish National Committees for UNICEF and the United States Fund for UNICEF.

Additional pledges from the Governments of Spain and Republic of Korea, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Unitaid and the French Committee for UNICEF will support results by UNICEF in Senegal.

Part 2: Major Results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

Achievements recorded during the reporting year contributed towards producing the results and meeting performance targets jointly agreed with the Government of Senegal in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the Country Programme Document (2012-2018).

Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF continued efforts to strengthen the health system and foster progress in immunization; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health; nutrition and HIV/AIDS, in particular with World Health Organization and United Nations Population Fund. The country office prioritized support for the regional Key Results for Children (KRC), specifically immunization plus (KRC1), reduction of stunting (KRC2) and ending open defecation (KRC8), as well as intersectoral links between the health and protection sectors on birth registration (KRC7).

UNICEF, together with partners, supported the Ministry of Health and Social Action to develop the new National Health and Social Development Plan 2019-2028, the Immunization Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (2019-2023) and a budgeted Early New-born Action Plan for interventions to reduce preventable newborn deaths. The Global Financing Facility's investment case for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, to which UNICEF contributed, was finalized in 2018; technical support was provided to coordination and review platforms. The establishment of health development committees, a flagship 2018 Ministry of Health reform to strengthen governance of local health services with greater involvement of local authorities and communities, was supported with key partners through training of 243 committee members in Kolda region.

To improve the quality of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health services, emergency obstetric and newborn care was reinforced in collaboration with the Chair of Paediatrics through the provision of two neo-natal units in areas with population concentration, benefiting an estimated 54,236 new-borns annually. The units contain spaces to facilitate and promote implementation of the 'kangaroo mother care' method. The national Mother and Child Health Booklet was updated to cover not only antenatal care, childbirth and immunization, but also nutrition, early childhood development, adolescence and birth registration. UNICEF provided 1,036,747 copies of the booklet and supported the training of nearly 400 community and religious leaders in its use.

The programme supported the Ministry of Health and Social Action in the deployment of the RapidPro platform for the “1,000 days” project. Relying on the high penetration rate of social networks in Senegal, particularly in the Dakar region, and the use of smartphones, a Facebook page named "1000 jours.sn" offered messages with rich content (image, web links or short videos) covering pregnancy through the child's first two years. This increased the coverage and quality of messaging to improve knowledge about pregnancy, child immunization, early childhood development and essential family practices in order to increase demand for services, particularly among young mothers.

For immunization, consistent support to districts contributed to high levels of coverage. For example, for three doses of pentavalent vaccine, coverage was estimated at 92 per cent in the Demographic and Health Survey 2017. However, disparities remain between urban and rural areas and between low- and high-income households. Through an equity analysis, 15 districts were identified for priority attention and UNICEF Senegal supported training of national and 15 regional and district health management teams in the development of immunization plans. Due to recurrent strikes, however, only four districts finalized their equity plans. Communication plans and outreach activities were developed in six cities, although these also had to be readjusted due to the strikes. Communication activities were supported by UNICEF, largely for routine immunization, including introduction of new vaccines (Hepatitis B at birth, and human papillomavirus vaccine for nine-year-old girls) in collaboration with the education sector, and for the measles-rubella campaign.

Vaccine storage was improved with training three maintenance technicians in solar cold chain and providing generators in five regional stores and 2,000 continuous temperature recorders for all immunization units in the country. The innovative remote temperature monitoring system, “Beyond Wireless”, that uses SMS and email alerts, was established centrally and in all 14 regional cold rooms through UNICEF support. The renewal of the cold-chain equipment, part of the Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform funded by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and supported by UNICEF, included the acquisition of equipment through UNICEF procurement services and the development of the operational deployment plan, with equipment expected in country in January 2019.

Important contributions were made in the nutrition sector. UNICEF Senegal supported the orientation of regional stakeholders on the Multisectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan. Building on regional workshops on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and on maternal nutrition, the country office worked with stakeholders to develop a national roadmap for infant and maternal nutrition, including a budgeted plan for the elimination of water in breastfeeding practice. The Scaling Up Nutrition platform, co-led by UNICEF and Canada, helped to bring together stakeholders around a common agenda.

As a result of regular periodic community-based preventive interventions for malnutrition, 42 per cent of children 0-23 months were monitored; 1,034,767 children six to 59 months were screened; 25,201 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 1,539 cases of severe acute malnutrition were identified and referred to health structures for treatment; and the provision of

micronutrient packets and infant and young child feeding counselling benefited nearly 47,000 children. While the expected total burden and targeted caseload of severe acute malnutrition in 2018 was estimated at 76,897 and 61,517 cases respectively, only 12,140 new severe acute malnutrition admissions were registered, given the health worker strikes and non-reporting of data resulting in incomplete coverage data.

UNICEF Senegal supported the training of 100 health workers on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and on timely availability of essential nutrition supplies and medicine, curative services, supervision and reporting. Advocacy is underway to allocate domestic funding for nutrition supplies and for sustaining technical assistance in nutrition, which remained major challenges. Catch-up of vitamin A supplementation was conducted through community health workers in the two largest regions (Dakar and Thiès) to improve coverage rates through home visits. (The post-intervention coverage data was not available due to the strikes). Support was provided to three other regions (Louga, Fatick and Tambacounda) to change their strategy for the annual two doses of vitamin A from campaigns, to routine distribution in line with the national strategy.

In response to the Sahel crisis, the integrated management of acute malnutrition programme was supported through technical assistance, training of health workers in severe acute malnutrition management, timely availability of nutrition supplies, supportive supervision and reporting. The Sahel response plan included the five most vulnerable regions of Louga, Saint Louis, Matam, Tambacounda and Diourbel. In total, 7,625 cartons of Plumpy Nut ready-to-use therapeutic food, 275 cartons of therapeutic milk and 23,745 bottles of amoxicillin were distributed to the five regions in 2018.

In line with the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in nutrition strategy, about 15,000 WASH kits were pre-positioned as part of the minimum package delivered to 1,300 nutritional recovery centres, where 11,717 hygiene kits were distributed to households with children affected by severe acute malnutrition, complemented by sensitization on good hygiene practices of about 204,526 people, including 126,806 women, through 26,000 home visits and 300 educational talks.

UNICEF and partners initiated support to national authorities for an integrated food security, nutrition and resilience survey aiming to optimize resources and enable links between the nutritional status of individuals and the level of household food security and resilience. An orientation guide on nutrition was prepared for parliamentarians. A UNICEF Senegal-financed study on home food fortification showed that micronutrient powders had a positive impact on blood iron levels in children six to 23 months, which will inform strategies for anaemia reduction.

UNICEF Senegal supported catch-up campaigns in five regions (Ziguinchor, Kolda, Sedhiou, Kedougou and Tambacounda) aimed at reinforcing the capacities of health-care workers on the use of the dual (syphilis and HIV) rapid test, HIV testing of pregnant women and children and family testing. Through these campaigns, 150 women who were HIV-positive and pregnant

who had not followed up, were traced and provided HIV care and treatment. Jointly with partners, UNICEF Senegal supported the Government to introduce point-of-care HIV testing for women who are pregnant and children born to HIV-positive women and to support paediatric care and treatment.

The country office task force's emphasis on early childhood development on intersectoral work is reflected in UNICEF Senegal's advocacy with national stakeholders. Senegal added two essential family practices to the existing 16 in health and nutrition: one on protection and one on stimulation and early cognitive growth. The integrated approach promoted with different ministries reinforced the positioning of early childhood development at the national level and the coherence and coordination of these interventions across sectors.

The health information system and quality of data remained key priorities. UNICEF Senegal supported the development of a data quality audit manual and the integration of financial data in the District Health Information System (DHIS) 2 platform, and assisted in updating harmonized data collection tools, including community registers, which now include civil registration. With UNICEF support, the community health unit of the Ministry of Health conducted a review of the community information system. Assistance was provided for the revitalization of the reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health score card through the DHIS2 platform, with key indicators that are shared during coordination meetings. Progress with DHIS2, which had achieved a completion and timeliness rate of over 80 per cent in the first quarter of 2018, was compromised due to recurrent health worker strikes.

UNICEF supported the development of the national communication plan for preparedness and response to health crises, under the leadership of the Center for Health Emergency Operations, the national body responsible for prevention and control of health emergencies. Support provided to the Centre in collaboration with World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organisation included strengthening community-based disease surveillance through digital technology, 'MinfoSante, in eight of Senegal's 14 regions.

UNICEF Senegal provided support to the national service for education for health, and the national service of hygiene, to strengthen the national system of prevention against epidemics through the development of a communication plan for major religious events to prevent health risks.

Goal Area 2: Every child learns

UNICEF strengthened its contribution to the national Education Sector Plan, and collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other development partners including civil society, to ensure that every child learns. This included a renewed commitment on out-of-school children and adolescents as a contribution to the regional Key Results for Children and to education-related priorities and targets agreed within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Accelerated responses are required to improve the participation of boys and girls and to reduce gender disparities throughout the basic education cycle. Within the framework of

the education programme, UNICEF provided support at national level and in seven target regions, benefiting about 971 learning institutions, 2,828 educators and 107,363 children and adolescents. This included a majority of girls, indicating a national gender ratio in favour of girls but with significant disparity across regions, and persisting deficits in girls' participation concentrated in southern regions.

There was progress with respect to the development of catch-up and second-chance education interventions targeting out-of-school children. In its second year, this pilot initiative was implemented in two regions. The Ministry of Education, for the first time, covered the running costs (mainly teachers' or facilitators' salaries) of 30 out of a total of 100 classes, demonstrating national ownership and commitment. Enrolment in these classes increased in 2018, with 2,744 children and adolescents participating, including 1,222 girls mainly nine to 15 years old. The initiative achieved a success rate of about 80 per cent, with most beneficiaries transferred to primary schools, and an increasing number (213) of over-aged children referred to technical and vocational education programmes.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the pilot was recommended for scale-up and identified as a national flagship programme to respond to the learning needs of out-of-school children as part of the new Education Sector Plan. Other development partners, including the World Bank, USAID and Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, committed to support the expansion of this initiative, scaled up to eight additional regions in 2019.

Regional authorities were mobilized to conduct social-mobilization campaigns in target municipalities and communities, to promote children's enrolment, identify out-of-school children and implement activities for children's participation and retention throughout the basic education cycle, such as registering learners who do not have birth certificate, facilitating enrolment of learners in national health benefit schemes, or extending social protection services to vulnerable children. In this context, nutritional support was extended to about 200 vulnerable children through the piloting of a voucher initiative in collaboration with World Food Program. This intervention will inform new policy orientations on school canteens and school-feeding interventions in 2019.

In Kedougou region, collaboration with a local non-government organization, Whepesa, identified children with disabilities, facilitated medical examinations and teacher training, and sensitized communities on their inclusion at school. This resulted in the identification of 79 children who are being accommodated in mainstream public schools. In Ziguinchor region, 100 teachers were trained on inclusive education and children from 30 schools were sensitized on the risks of landmines.

At the national level, the capacity of the Ministry of Education was strengthened to mainstream education in the national emergency preparedness and response plan. A stocktaking exercise was initiated in collaboration with the Italian Cooperation Agency, and non-government organisations Humanity & Inclusion and Sight Savers, to help formulate national policy on inclusivity and special needs education in 2019. National standards and guidelines on the

prevention and mitigation of violence in schools were developed within the framework of violence against children, gender-based violence and to mainstream gender in the education sector, with the financial support of the Governments of Canada and France. National master trainers were trained on the standards and guidelines; and the training programme was delivered to an initial group of 150 school principals. Teachers were trained to deliver WASH-related education with focus on the promotion and management of good hygiene practices, benefiting 1,203 teachers and 100 schools in Matam region, which provided a more conducive and supportive learning environment to about 31,266 learners, a majority of them girls.

Most rural schools do not offer the full cycle of primary education, are challenged by chronic shortages of teachers and high rates of teacher mobility, and are operated by novice teachers, all of which negatively affect children's participation, retention and learning outcomes. Specific interventions, designed and delivered with the Ministry of Education, strengthened the capacities of 2,150 primary school teachers, through both pre-service and in-service training, to provide quality and child-centred education in multi-grade teaching environments, and introduced novice teacher mentoring interventions targeting newly recruited teachers assigned to rural schools.

Such interventions will improve the capacity of rural schools to enrol more children while maintaining quality standards. The integration of national quality standards in the training of school management committees and in the formulation of school improvement plans was also facilitated, in collaboration with Aide et Action Senegal, in a pilot programme for community and parental involvement in the monitoring of learning outcomes and the development of local interventions to support children with learning difficulties or at risk of dropping out. Good practices are being documented and will be integrated as part of the school profiles' initiative foreseen for 2019, in partnership with the World Bank and French Development Agency. About 1,631 adolescents aged 10-18 (an estimated 47 per cent girls) acquired skills in employability, leadership and citizenship through partnerships developed with local non-government organizations including ENDA and Social Change Factory, as well as through the promotion of child and youth participation in local governments.

In collaboration with the Government and regional authorities, the capacities of 161 communities were strengthened to extend pre-primary education through community-based approaches to 7,883 children of pre-primary school age. This in a context where no public pre-primary schools existed, and where in Qur'anic institutions ('daaras') operating outside the formal education system. UNICEF supported the training of educators and communities and provided essential supplies and equipment to support teaching and learning. This approach significantly boosted enrolment rates at pre-primary level, especially in Sedhiou region, and was identified as a key strategy to increase access and participation at pre-primary level in the new Education Sector Plan.

A preliminary action plan was formulated to strengthen gender-sensitive STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, in order to address factors affecting girls' participation and learning as well as gender-based violence. National capacities were

strengthened to modernize the national Education Management Information System to improve the timely collection of administrative data. UNICEF Senegal facilitated south-south cooperation, including the Ministry of Education hosting of a study visit from the Ministry of Education in Burkina Faso to share Senegal emerging experience in the integration of Qur'anic institutions. UNICEF Senegal developed a new partnership with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the context of the PISA for Development initiative, both in the context of the national launch of the PISA-D study conducted in 2017, as well as for the implementation in 2018 of a new component assessing competencies of out-of-school children aged 14-16, with the analysis and final report expected in 2019.

Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

UNICEF Senegal supported the Government and civil society in addressing key bottlenecks to better protect children, particularly girls, against violence and harmful practices, and to increase birth registration. There was progress in increasing access to services for child victims of violence, abuse, neglect and/or harmful practices (KRC5). According to available data, the number of children detected and referred to services (social welfare, health or justice) more than tripled between 2017 and 2018, with 9,015 cases in 2018 (32 per cent girls) including 2,760 victims of violence (39 per cent girls).

The UNICEF approach strengthened multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, built sector-based accountabilities and service capacities, improved data collection systems for better monitoring and raised awareness and community mobilization for child protection. In 21 districts, the child protection system's coordination mechanisms were strengthened through district child protection committees, led by the prefects and involving multiple sectors; 1,395 professionals were trained for improved service delivery; and 15 of 19 targeted districts periodically monitored and reported on child protection incidents and first response.

UNICEF Senegal helped pilot an innovative approach in the district of Pikine (region of Dakar), to generate real-time data for incident monitoring while facilitating reporting cases and giving child victims access to protective services, facilitated by RapidPro. Results were promising with the creation of an extended network of 735 committed and trained volunteers within community and in various services, organized as a network connected to social welfare services; an increase in the number child protection cases reported; and a real-time monitoring system via an online dashboard. Replication is underway in other districts.

With UNICEF advocacy and support, the Government for the first time integrated child protection and, specifically, birth registration in the new Priority Action Plan, linking child protection to human capital development. The Ministry of Justice adopted the justice sector policy paper, with strengthening justice for children as one of the three pillars. UNICEF Senegal played a key role in ensuring that evidence and recommendations of a review on the implementation of the National Child Protection Strategy (2017) were reviewed by the relevant sectors; and helping to develop a road map for each sectoral ministry's engagement and strategic actions for child protection. With UNICEF support, most of the ministries concerned

(particularly the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Action and Ministry of Family, Women and Gender) followed up actions relevant to their mandates. The ministry in charge of child protection, with the other ministries, began the process of reframing roles, responsibilities, procedures and tools for child protection services and coordination mechanisms operating at local level.

The Ministry of Education developed national guidelines for case detection and management by education staff, clarifying the links with other sectors' services. With financing from the Governments of Canada and France, a joint partnership with UNESCO and PLAN International is moving the child protection agenda forward in the education sector.

The Ministry of Health and Social Action integrated prevention of violence and female genital cutting and mutilation into the National Health and Social Development Plan and into its revised reporting and monitoring tools within the health management information system.

There was progress in birth registration. Most recent data indicate a 10 per cent increase in the national birth registration rate for children under five, from 70.4 per cent in 2016 to 77.4 per cent in 2017 (Demographic and Health Survey). The rate of progress is higher in regions benefiting from UNICEF-supported interventions, with an average increase of 18 per cent during the same period. The UNICEF multi-pronged approach stimulates demand for birth registration through communication (including awareness-raising campaigns, mobilizing and training community leaders), strengthening capacity of civil registry centres, increasing accountability through data reporting and enhancing the role and capacity of the health sector in promoting and facilitating birth registration.

Mechanisms to support civil registration are in place in 171 health facilities, and health workers were trained and mobilized in raising awareness of birth registration, detecting unregistered children and supporting notifications of births to civil registry centres. With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Health launched an assessment of the contribution of the health sector to birth registration to help formalize and standardize cooperation between health and civil registry services.

Further steps taken by the Ministry included integrating support for birth and death registration in the Global Financing Facility investment case and integrating birth registration indicators into the health sector's information management tools. In order to better monitor progress in birth registration, the National Civil Registry Centre launched, with UNICEF support, a pilot for real-time monitoring of the activities of civil registry centres in Kolda region through Rapid Pro, with 100 per cent of centres in Kolda currently reporting on birth registration. The system, which increases accountability, is to be replicated in other regions. Efforts supporting registration of undeclared children through judicial proceedings benefited 61,871 children in 2018.

Changing social norms and behaviour to better protect children against violence and harmful practices, along with promoting gender equality, is a long-term effort. In a context where community leaders are influential in the social and political spheres, UNICEF Senegal support

to the Government and civil society focused on mobilizing traditional and religious leaders (2,201 in 2018) and community influencers in promoting social change in favour of children, in particular to reduce violence, including the forced begging of talibé boys and, in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund and civil society organizations, female genital cutting and mutilation and child marriage affecting girls. Youth engagement actions, inter-generational dialogue led by women, community child protection committees (864 in 2018), parental education, female community leaders and health workers' counselling contribute to promotesocial change. In 2018, 292 communities engaged in collective ceremonies of abandonment of female genital cutting and mutilation, for a total of 6,855 communities to date.

Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

In the WASH sector, results from a feasibility study conducted with UNICEF support (the Blue Fund study) which defined innovative financing mechanisms for increased access to WASH services, paved the way for the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation to raise US\$1 million from USAID for the establishment of the Blue Fund and related technical support for the next three years. The new WASH baseline data from 2017 (based on a national survey conducted with UNICEF support by the National Agency for Statistics and Demography at the request of the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation/Millennium Drinking Water and Sanitation Program) and national resource mobilization strategy will strengthen WASH programming and financing, including domestic funding for scale-up of WASH interventions, with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities.

Progress was achieved towards ending open defecation, with the country exceeding its annual objective of 500 villages. Among the enrolled villages, 70 per cent have ended open defecation, thereby receiving the designation of 'open defecation free'. To end open defecation, nearly 1,180 local leaders were trained on community-led total sanitation; 590 villages (out of 500 planned villages) were triggered, of which 433 ended open defecation. Some 184,601 people in open defecation free villages abandoned the practice. Many traditional latrines and hand-washing devices with soap were constructed by communities.

In addition to the implementation of the community-led total sanitation approach, the 2017 gender review of the country programme recommended including interventions on menstrual hygiene management within community-led total sanitation. A test intervention was designed in 2018 to assess the feasibility at the community level. Reusable sanitary napkins were made available to 40 women leaders in a few community-led total sanitation villages in Diourbel and Louga for testing with different age groups of girls and women (10-14, 15-19 and over 20), who expressed a preference for reusable napkins based on cost and durability. Discussion is underway with the Government and private sector on how to make the re-usable sanitary napkins accessible logistically and financially.

To monitor water quality, through technical, financial and material UNICEF Senegal support to the hygiene brigades, 1,300 wells (out of 1,000 planned) were inspected. Results of the inspections were shared with the communities and awareness sessions on home water

treatment conducted through talks, home visits and demonstrations.

UNICEF Senegal supported the development and implementation of communication plans for the prevention of health risks and epidemics during major religious events.

Through a qualitative study, 44 adolescents aged 12-18 conducted action research on the determinants of handwashing across their peers and with adults in 12 municipalities. This initiative strengthened participation of adolescents and young people in research to create change and indicated determining and constraining factors for handwashing. The findings will guide communication campaigns and action to engage children and adolescents in handwashing behaviour promotion.

Goal Area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

UNICEF Senegal improved policy environment through advocacy and evidence-generation and informed programmes at national and decentralized levels, including policy dialogue to track public finance for children for more equity and efficiency. UNICEF contributed to the development of the second Priority Action Plan of the National Development Strategy by providing inputs to the diagnostic stages and recommendations to make it child-sensitive. UNICEF Senegal stressed the urgency of increasing social spending to at least 35 per cent of the state budget and the importance of strengthening stakeholder capacity, including children, adolescents and youth, to ensure their participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of public policies for the next five years.

UNICEF Senegal supported the establishment of the social budget monitoring observatory which was approved by the Minister of Finance by decree. The observatory is a framework to raise awareness and conduct ongoing advocacy to increase public spending to child-related programmes. UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to jointly advocate for an increase in the social budget, for example through the panel that made recommendations to the Government for better integration of issues related to children, adolescents and young people into the state budget.

A study of the state budget allocation to early childhood, conducted for the first time in Senegal, revealed a disparate share of state investment in early childhood, both at the central and local levels. In education, the level of public expenditure on pre-school represents less than one per cent of the state budget. The World Bank and UNICEF contributed to better tracking and monitoring of the early childhood budget based on the early childhood development conceptual framework.

UNICEF Senegal contributed to make public policies and programmes take child rights into account by supporting the national statistical system, social protection system and decentralization sector. This allowed better targeting of the poorest children; minimized inclusion and exclusion errors in public programmes; and provides data and evidence for decision makers to better plan, implement and monitor social programmes at national and

decentralized levels. UNICEF contributed to the social protection sector review, making it possible to take stock of activities and to generate evidence on the social protection coverage of vulnerable households with children. The number of households benefiting from the cash transfer programme increased from 298,381 in 2016 to 316,941 in 2017.

At the decentralized level, UNICEF Senegal consolidated achievements during the test phase of the basic social services monitoring system, by strengthening and scaling up monitoring with new communities. The decentralized monitoring system was integrated into the local development agency platform for ownership, and will be scaled up to align with the Key Results for Children. To ensure efficiency in the field and optimum utilization of existing resources without overlapping, UNICEF Senegal developed strategic and operational alliances with the donor group on decentralization for better coordination of coverage of local communities.

UNICEF Senegal strengthened its partnership with civil society organisations to encourage companies to take children's rights into account as corporate social responsibility. UNICEF together with other stakeholders guided companies to promote child rights in their activities and policies. Through the national non-government organization Coalition Nationale des Associations et ONGs en faveur de l'Enfant (Child Rights Coalition), UNICEF strengthened and structured the contributions of 16 national and multinational companies to address children's rights, through a partnership strategy that identifies the added value of engagement with businesses. UNICEF in partnership with Child Rights Coalition and Save the Children is developing a framework to integrate child protection into corporate social responsibility, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Two new companies were co-opted to adopt the good practices.

Across the Strategic Plan goal areas and Key Results for Children and in line with the country office's strategic communication and public advocacy plan (2017-2018), attention was paid to communication for development to address challenges in need of public advocacy and behaviour and social norms change approaches – in particular child health (including nutrition, WASH and immunization), early childhood development, violence against children including child-begging and birth registration. This was accompanied by capacity-building and technical support both internally and with external partners.

Other cross-cutting work

UNICEF Senegal used its sixtieth anniversary in Senegal to boost visibility, both to draw attention to UNICEF's profile and work as a solid and reliable partner, and to put children at the centre of the development agenda. Two high-profile events were organized: the "High-level political dialogue on children, adolescents and youth: development priority for an emerging Senegal" as a contribution to the second Priority Action Plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning; and a 60th anniversary celebration in December with large-scale participation of government officials, partners and children. The event was accompanied by the launch of a publication, "60 years of Shared History for Every Child: UNICEF in Senegal 1958-2018", with a preface by the Prime Minister. The two events reached over 51,000 people

through social media.

External communication outreach resulted in international media coverage (BBC, Canal+, RFI). Capacity was built for journalists on child rights issues with the launch of the child rights guidebook for journalists and training workshops in association with Support Cell for Child Protection and the Convention of Young Journalists, accompanied by an annual prize for media and child rights.

The promotion of young people's participation in the issues that concern them, as actors and agents of change, developed their capacity to carry out actions with channels such as community radios, digital platforms including U-Report, artistic expression (photography, writing workshops and public speaking) and formative research, specifically on handwashing. UNICEF Senegal played a catalytic role in interventions, working with the ministries covering woman, family, gender, youth, education, health and social action; citizen formation and promotion of volunteering activity; good governance and child protection, non-government organizations (Enda Youth Action, Union of Community Radios, Save the Children) and youth associations.

Beyond the mobilization of 45,490 adolescents and young people on the U-Report platform (57 per cent boys and 43 per cent girls), the partnership with Social Change Factory engaged 3,000 adolescents on the themes of registration of children at birth and adolescent citizenship. In the fight against HIV/AIDS, 153 adolescents and young people, 20 of them HIV-positive, engaged in collective storytelling and life story exercises through digital channels. Another 149 child reporters carried out awareness-raising and advocacy actions aimed at eliminating child begging (Sedhiou, Kolda, Tambacounda, Dakar and Ziguinchor regions). These initiatives aim to enhance the participation and engagement of children, adolescents and youth as agents of change.

UNICEF Senegal finalized its programme strategy notes for the country programme document, presented to and approved by the Executive Board in September, and the country programme management plan. The documents presented the changes expected for the next country programme: strategic repositioning to better support national system strengthening; focused support towards integration and a multi-sectoral approach, with implementation in fewer regions but with emphasis on lessons learned, with appropriate tools and mechanisms within national programmes; and a stronger partnership around Key Results for Children.

With support from the UNICEF regional office, the country office undertook the annual emergency preparedness planning process in accordance with UNICEF preparedness procedures. The country office identified the main risks facing Senegal, defined scenarios, response plans and developed preparedness actions to strengthen UNICEF's capacity to respond in the event of an emergency.

UNICEF Senegal was part of the development partners' coordination group, G15, which initiated a reform process to play a stronger role in the political dialogue with the Government. Participation in G15 allows UNICEF to draw broader support for priorities for children as part of

the group's policy agenda.

UNICEF played a role in the development of the new UNDAF, leading one of the three result groups in basic social services and social protection, developing the theory of change and the results matrix, and coordinating the work with more than 15 United Nations agencies. Contributions were provided on UNDAF support strategies on communication, partnership and fundraising and on operations. UNICEF Senegal proposed the development of joint workplans aligned with quality norms, similar to its own workplans, to avoid the multiplicity of agency workplans and improve efficiency with government collaboration. The objective is to create synergy and integration and provide a coherent and coordinated approach and visibility to the work of the United Nations, in particular in favour of children.

Inter-agency work was strengthened in operations, particularly with implementation of the business operation strategy. Synergy was reinforced across United Nations agencies through joint training on the harmonized approach to cash transfers with implementing partners, and efficiency in information, communication and technology connectivity through common long-term agreements. United Nations agencies worked together on the joint United Nations house project in Diamniadio to generate savings and efficiency gains by 2020.

Several initiatives in 2018 led to improved operational efficiency. The relocation of the zone office from Ziguinchor to Kolda, more centrally located in its geographic intervention areas; and management of the vehicle fleet resulted in 20 per cent savings on fuel consumption compared to 2017. The implementation of an electronic bank transfer order system made manual processing of bank transfer orders unnecessary, reducing the payment processing time from 72 to 24 hours on average.

Starting in 2018, information, communication and technology support was moved from the UNICEF Senegal country office to the UNICEF regional office. Several improvements were made as part of the common support: bandwidth was tripled at a lower cost; multifunctional printers were installed on every floor; remote connectivity was improved by the installation of virtual meeting devices in the meeting rooms; and the obsolete telephone system was replaced by a new cloud-based system.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Lessons learned

UNICEF initiated a high-level meeting on children, adolescents and young people to ensure that the second phase of the National Development Plan had a strong child-focused perspective. The voices of young people during the critical advocacy phase had a strong effect and reached the hearts of decision-makers. A common position emerged from the discussions on the need for a strategic shift, by adopting a life-cycle approach in policy formulation for children, adolescents and young people to reduce inequality and to capture the demographic

dividend.

U-Report is a UNICEF tool that has yet to sufficiently demonstrate its full potential in terms of attractiveness to young people (45,490 youth reached against a target of 60,000 for 2018, or 76 per cent of the target) and its added value and impact of young people's voice in terms of socio-political changes at national and local levels.

The major concerns by U-Report users were the platform's weak capacity for interaction, lack of availability of qualitative information of interest to young people and the lack of youth voices actually being heard by decision makers. Social Change Factory and UNICEF decided on an innovative approach through which polls were preceded by online debates, radio broadcasts and school visits around the chosen theme to create interest among young people. This increased the participation rate in polls and the number of U-Reporters, which indicated that using stand-alone polls, as U-Report is currently designed, is not an efficient strategy to engage young people significantly. UNICEF Senegal and Social Change Factory will review and redefine the U-Report strategy, to build a bridge to decisions makers and to inspire youth engagement and participation through this digital platform. Mechanisms of engaging decision makers to consider the voice of young people need broader consultation and strategic approaches.

Another initiative in collaboration with Social Change Factory, as part of Voices of Youth, involves "project solutions" that young people implement to address problems in their communities. This was innovative in that Voices of Youth moved from a simple platform for expression to a space for development, that is generating enthusiasm among young people and sensitizing communities to their potential to bring about change. UNICEF Senegal should build on the success of "project solutions" with Social Change Factory to reinforce young people's involvement through school government and municipalities, for example, and help them to then empower other young people.

In the area of technology for development, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health in scaling-up and expanding the mInfosanté platform. This real-time data-monitoring platform, based on open-sourced RapidPro technology, was originally conceived in Senegal as a tool for epidemiological surveillance but also allows coordination in health emergencies and supports local health-management functions (including search for ambulances) and interactions between health managers and service providers, primarily using SMS.

With funding from United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office, UNICEF collaborated with that office, the World Health Organisation and Food and Agriculture Organisation to support the Government to expand mInfosanté for community-based surveillance to include monitoring zoonosis and improved dashboard reporting features, and to host the RapidPro platform locally within the Ministry of Health and at the government information technology agency. In 2018, coordination issues between the two bodies, since resolved, confirmed the importance of government leadership, interest and capacity in driving initiatives. Scale-up of mInfoSanté, as agreed by the Ministry of Health, will require significant

additional effort and resources in 2019, including technical assistance, in coordination with the ministry and partners, under government leadership.

In the area of child protection, in a national context where business processes for case management are not yet standardized enough to introduce a tool like PRIMERO, RapidPro was piloted in one district to ensure child protection case monitoring, particularly cases of violence against children. Initially perceived as a means to collect data on child protection cases, the participatory approach led to a shift in the tool's design and purpose. The system was redesigned to respond to locally-expressed needs to connect communities to social welfare service providers to report child protection cases and ensure rapid response from services; and ensure real-time incident monitoring.

The pilot underlined the importance of complying with national regulation on personal data protection. The participatory and open approach ensured the usefulness, adequacy and ownership of the tool by users on the ground, resulting in strengthened commitments and collaboration between communities and services with a more effective and appropriate referral and rapid response to children, an increase in the number of children in need of special protection reported to services and real-time data monitoring. The pilot showed the importance of a “small step” approach when designing a monitoring tool that is easy to manage and useful to users. The system enabled a quick start for real-time data monitoring with low investment. The system is operational in one district and replication is underway in other districts.

The reactivation of the early childhood development taskforce strengthened a multisectoral approach in the country office and partners. With UNICEF advocacy with institutional stakeholders, 16 essential family practices in health, nutrition, protection, and early stimulation were articulated and validated. The adoption of essential family practices is a step towards an integrated early childhood development system. The integrated approach of ministries reinforced early childhood development as a national priority, especially for sectors like health, and the coherence and coordination of interventions. In the new country programme, UNICEF Senegal should support integrated and synergistic approaches to early childhood development.

UNICEF Senegal leveraged different community-based approaches to generate community dialogue, build community capacities and drive behavioural and normative change. The participatory approach was means for integrated development and social change. An experience in Tambacounda revealed that communities understand the need to improve the nutritional status and survival of their children when communities highlighted education and child protection in their new priority plan. A participatory approach can also create a new community dynamic and promote local development. The approach will be expanded in 2019 on the assumption that it will be modelled or fully integrated in national programmes.

To improve multi- and inter-sector programme components, UNICEF Senegal conducted a cross-sectoral review and decentralized planning exercise. The workshop allowed the country office to experiment and develop an innovative methodology of multi/intersectoral planning that entails establishing cross-sectoral analytical tools, using “sectoral and geographical gateway

points”, adopting a life-cycle approach, focusing on the Key Results for Children and mobilizing actors represented in each work group.

Apart from methodological exploration, the exercise developed a model for executing interventions in the field in terms of programmatic synergy, life-cycle approach and mobilization of local and government partners, communities, United Nations agencies, non-government organizations, with a focus on the Key Results for Children. Programmatic points were identified at the sector level (health, education), geographic level (local child-friendly authority) and community level (committees) as catalysts for sector complementarity and convergence. Intervention areas relevant to each age group (early childhood, school age, adolescence) were identified by state services, non-government organizations, local authorities and communities who participated in the exercises. The outcome will guide future programmatic action.

The visit of the UNICEF Regional Director to Senegal was an opportunity to reflect on and draw lessons from the implementation of the country programme. A lesson learned was the successful multisectoral interventions implemented in the regions of convergence in Casamance and the peri-urban area of Dakar, such as convergence of civil registry operations with the health sector; the inclusion of vitamin A distribution in routine immunization services; community-based nutrition interventions like flour-enriching organized by women’s literacy classes; the integration of an innovative, low-cost mechanism for handwashing with soap (“tippy-tap”) and menstrual hygiene management interventions through the community-led total sanitation approach.

The second lesson learned was the importance of the system-strengthening strategy in child protection, based on the district-level coordination committee led by the main state authorities. This proved that with support, decentralized authorities develop, monitor and evaluate multisectoral interventions to protect the most vulnerable children from violence and abuse. A recommendation was to coordinate actions at the governorate level to scale up interventions in all districts of targeted regions.

Investments in strengthening partnerships and coordination with the Government and development partners allowed UNICEF Senegal to leverage commitments and resources for children, and generate momentum for promising initiatives and strategies. UNICEF Senegal’s advocacy, based on recent evidence on out-of-school children, resulted in prioritizing out-of-school children in the new Education Sector Plan, and in commitments by development partners to support the Government in scaling up the second-chance education interventions piloted with UNICEF support since 2017. UNICEF will strengthen and expand these partnerships in 2019. In particular, efforts at municipal level must be intensified to improve service delivery and reach the most marginalized children, especially out-of-school children and adolescents.

Constraints

To address malnutrition, there was a need to secure the allocation of domestic funding for

ready-to-use therapeutic food and other essential supplies for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition. Although Senegal is no longer on the Humanitarian Response Plan to qualify for international humanitarian funding assistance, several regions in the country remain vulnerable for severe acute malnutrition every year. There is a risk of children dying from severe acute malnutrition if the Government and partners fail to mobilize resources. Advocacy is ongoing to continue to sensitize the Government and nutrition partners, including non-emergency partners, on this issue.

Senegal's progress and encouraging results in recent years in health, nutrition and WASH were threatened by recurrent strikes of government health workers in 2018, which resulted in data not being made available, which in turn affected the efforts made to build a common information system around the DHIS2 to facilitate regular performance monitoring and timely decision-making. The cessation of vaccination and seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis activities, among others, posed severe risks to the health of children in particular. The health worker strikes delayed the implementation of activities and adversely affected high level authorities.

Following the legislative elections in mid-2017, changes in government structure were initiated, including the creation of a new Ministry of Good Governance and Child Protection. The changes, though offering renewed perspectives of leadership and partnerships, challenged implementation of the UNICEF programme of cooperation during the course of 2018, especially regarding policy, law and institutional reforms, particularly due to the time needed to clarify mandates and responsibilities across and within ministries, and the ensuing institutional capacities of counterparts.

Despite efforts, limited progress was made in legal reform to align national legislation with international standards and conventions ratified by the Government. The sensitivity of some child rights and gender issues in the context of cultural norms; government institutional changes; and the preparation for presidential elections in 2019 were constraining factors. Nevertheless, the working process around the child code was relaunched in 2018 under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, and the draft law was reviewed by experts based on official recommendations from the experts committee under the Prime Minister's office.

Beginning a new programme cycle in 2019, UNICEF Senegal is positioned to pursue its strategic direction in line with the new country programme document and the priorities of the Pan Senegal Emergent.

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