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ActionAid Senegal Annual Report 2022



DJERINDA + NIODIOR



CONSEIL DES ANIMATEURS POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE DJERINDA
C.A.D.D

5^{ème} Edition

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**FOIRE LOCALE
DES PRODUITS
AGRICILES**



Acronymes

AAS: ActionAid International Senegal
ALM: African Led Movement
APS: Alianza Por la Solidaridad
AJS: Senegalese Lawyers Association
APROVAG: Association des Producteurs de la Vallée du Fleuve Gambie
AFD: French development Agency
CAADP: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBO: Community Based Organisation
COSYDEP: Coalition des organisations en synergie pour la défense de l'éducation publique
CMR: Country Model Review
CNCR: National Farmers platform for Rural Cooperation and concertation
CNTS: National confederation of Senegalese work union
CRSA: Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture
CSO: Civil Society Organization
CSP: Country Strategy Paper
ELBAG: Economic Literacy Budget Accountability and Governance
EU: European Union
FGM: Female Genital Mutilation.
FODDE: Forum pour un Développement Durable et Endogone
GAC: Global Affairs Canada
GAFSP: Global Agriculture for Food Security Programme
GBV: Gender Base Violence
GEP: Education and Population Group
GP: Global Platform
GPE: Global partnership for Education
GRPS: Gender Responsive Public Services
HRBA: Human Right Base Approach
ILO: International labor organization
IOM: International Organization for Migration
ONGIS: Non-Gouvernemental international organisation base Senegal
PFONGUE: platform of European Non-governmental organization in Senegal
PSE: Senegal Emergency Plan
PRS: Promoting Right to School
PNIASAN: National Agriculture Investment plan for food security and Nutrition
MEL: Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
REMIDEV: Network of Civil society organization for migration and development in senegal
ROPROCAS: Network of female producer organization of Casamance
SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
SCOFI: Girl Education Association
SNEEG: National Strategy for Gender equality and Equity
SHEA: Sexual harassment Exploitation and Abuse
WAM: West Africa Mediterranean Delegation



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Country Director Forward

ActionAid Senegal is pleased to share its achievements and stories of change for 2022 in this Annual Report. The stories shared here indicate our political commitment at national and local levels. It also explains how we contribute at local, national and global levels in-order to transform visible and invisible powers. This report also shows how our actions contribute to changing the lives of the communities that we work with through women's empowerment. These selected stories of change are as a result of the implementation of various activities within our programmatic framework that are aligned with the three priorities of our Country Strategy Paper (2018 - 2022) and ActionAid Senegal Internal Global Strategy (2018-2028). From a transparency and accountability perspective, it was also deemed important to tell the stories of change that are in line with our strategic commitment. It is envisaged that the report will impact of our interventions at different levels and how we are helping communities, especially women and girls, to change power.

As an organization that advocates for the human rights-based approach and advocates for social justice, we are proud to have accompanied 100,000 women and girls and their respective communities to better understand their rights and claim them in full transparency. We are also pleased to include in this celebration, as always, our 10 women champions and our male champions who were able to accompany more than 2500 women and girls to fight against the different forms of violence in the different areas of intervention.

These results have also made it possible to strengthen women's economic and political empowerment in the regions of Fatick, Tambacounda and Kédougou to make women's voices heard in the decision-making process. Women's economic empowerment has been possible thanks to the investment in the 100 VSLAs (Village Savings and Loan Associations) to promote women's access to finance by putting the social and solidarity economy and in the same vein and in connection with the recommendations of the capitalization study on VSLAs, ActionAid works with women in the circles, partners and authorities to conduct a pooling exercise of VSLAs to make them a FAVEC (federation of VSLAs). This work has had the support of partners and communities and women in the circles.

Access to finance (VSLA) and agricultural inputs (groundnut seeds and fonio, climate information) and agricultural equipment and advice have greatly contributed to strengthening ActionAid Senegal's work to improve the rights of women farmers towards achieving food sovereignty and climate justice. In 2022, 10,390 women and youth acquired new skills in agricultural and agroecological practices and market access (Foundiougne Fair). The seed multiplication programme provided 118 women with access to certified seeds and organic inputs. This development action has contributed to strengthening their resilience in the context of climate change.

Our efforts to build a constructive and lasting partnership with administrative authorities (timely tabling of quarterly reports, participation in the harmonization conference, courtesy visit) and customary authorities at the local and national levels has made it possible to have a good visibility of our actions and increased recognition. In this annual report we have shared important moments of our field visits to decentralized authorities and communities. The visit highlights our solidarity, equity, and commitment towards issues of accountability to rights holders and duty-bearers.

As part of our journey towards social justice, and economic and climate justice, ActionAid Senegal believes that the intersectionality of our work, building alliances and connecting the local to the national and the global are essential to build an effective and sustainable program. We would like to express our gratitude to the communities we work with, our local and national partners, donors, supporting institutions and our highly engaged staff for their commitment to providing the work necessary to achieve our goal of social justice for women and girls.



Who we are?

ActionAid Senegal is part of the ActionAid Federation and began working in Senegal in 2000, focusing on four of the country's 14 regions (Fatick, Tambacounda, Kedougou and Kolda), covering five of the 45 departments (Foundiougne, Tambacounda, Bakel, Kedougou and Goudiry) in nine localities (Djilor, Niodior, Foundiougne, Dioussong, Koussanar, Missirah, Bala, Kedougou and Bakel) and active in more than 160 communities. ActionAid is a global social justice federation working for social justice, gender equality and the eradication of poverty. In Senegal, ActionAid works to strengthen the capacity and action of people living in poverty and exclusion, particularly women and girls, so that they can assert their rights.

ActionAid Sénégal (AAS) has been operating in Senegal since 2000. Over the past decade, ActionAid has built a recognised niche in tackling power inequalities with people living in poverty, with a focus on women's rights and the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and feminist analysis to development in Senegal. Along the way, ActionAid Senegal partners with CSOs and social movements to advance their social justice agenda, which aims to empower communities to claim their rights. Our work on the human rights-based approach is embedded in our programming and rooted in communities. This allows us to hold government and the private sector to account.



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Mission and Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, free from poverty and all forms of oppression. To achieve social justice, gender equality and the eradication of poverty by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, grassroots organisations, activists, social movements and supporters.

We work with communities, people's organisations, women's movements, farmers' movements, other social movements, groups and networks and other allies to overcome the structural causes and consequences of poverty and injustice. We link the work we do at community level to wider efforts and struggles for justice at national and global levels in order to make the greatest possible contribution to a just, equitable and sustainable world.

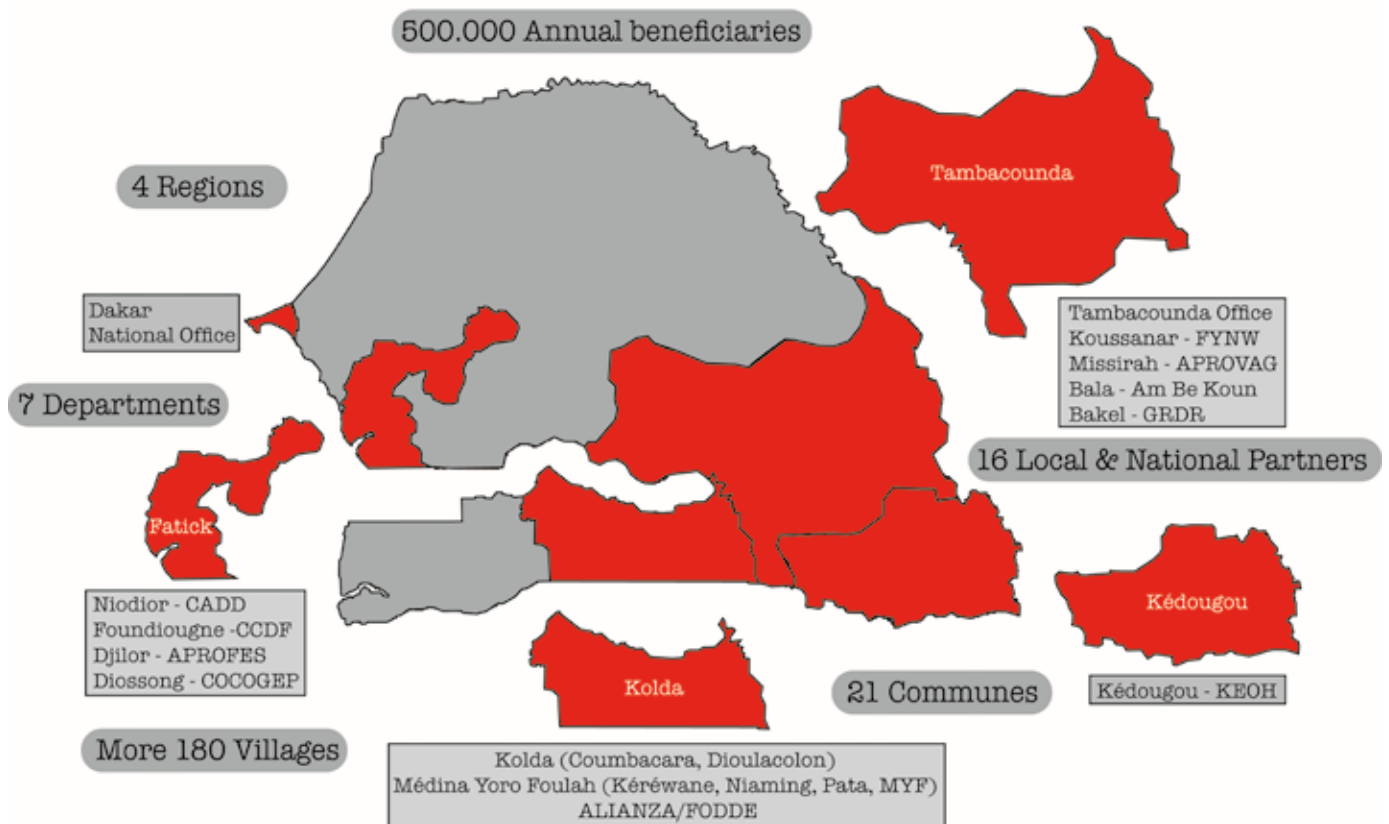


Areas of intervention

Actionaid Sénégal opère dans 4 régions : Tambacounda et Kedougou (zone orientale), Fatick (zone centrale) et Kolda (zone méridionale), car ces régions sont parmi les plus pauvres du Sénégal. Le programme national est basé à Dakar et soutenu par un bureau régional basé à Tambacounda.

All the achievements mentioned below in these areas have been possible thanks to strong partnerships with local, national and international civil society organisations.

Areas of intervention of ActionAid Senegal (LRP)



2022 Context

The reporting year of 2022, which also coincides with the last year of ActionAid Senegal's five-year strategy, was an important year for the Country Programme, as it faced several major contextual elements.

The country recorded two major local elections that resulted in major shifts within the political landscape. Whether they are the big, old or new political parties, the national political scenery has undergone major shifts. However, the people's adherence to a political culture that promotes peace, as well as the efforts of social regulators, helped to maintain social cohesiveness. In the post-covid context, both the government and citizens have suffered the effects of galloping inflation that has exacerbated political and social tensions. As a result, the post-covid context has demonstrated the fragility of the economic system and reinforced the vulnerability of the rural populations, particularly women and young people. Other sectors within society have also been affected. Civil society has kept up the pressure for more transparency and accountability from government. The reports on the use and implementation of the resources allocated to the Covid crisis in 2020 and 2021 were also the subject of debates, recalling the urgent need for transparent governance and bringing attention to the fragility of our current economic models.

With regard to the situation of Senegalese women, it is witnessed that there has been an increase in the number of women voted into elected office. This bodes well for women's access to decision-making spaces in order to implement gender-sensitive public policies. 44% of deputies are women and the number of elected municipal officials follows the same growing trend. Despite the government's significant and ongoing efforts to reverse the trend, Senegal remains one of the African countries with the highest rates of violence against women. The government has established a telephone line for reporting cases of violence against women and girls, and has launched a national strategy for the abandonment of FGM in Senegal. These are major steps forward, but more needs to be done to address this serious issue.

On education issues, it should be noted that the context was marked by a major crisis in the education sector due to a standoff between the trade union movements and the government, which resulted in a long strike at all levels of education. This crisis, whose main cause was the demand for an increase in teachers' salaries (an old demand of the unions hitherto not satisfied by the government) was resolved thanks to COSYDEP (coalition in synergy for the defense of Public Education) of which ActionAid is a member.

As a key sector of the Senegalese economy, agricultural activity has always been considered to be reserved for men. Although women still make up a considerable share of the agricultural labour force, they have fewer opportunities to exploit natural resources or acquire land. For example, men control 93.6% of cultivated area compared to 6.4%, for women with 16.4% of smallholder households headed by women compared to 83.6% by men. Despite a favorable legal framework and programmes initiated by the Senegalese government to promote a more gender-sensitive approach in the sector, women are still very vulnerable in the agricultural sector.

Access to water, finance, means of production, processing and marketing are other major challenges. Indeed, for women to have access to land, they often have to borrow, rent or set up networks through local women's organizations. The latter form of land acquisition is the surest way to own land for women, if approved by the relevant local authority. This means that a woman, as an individual, can rarely acquire land on her own. In Fatick, Kédougou and Tambacounda, where ActionAid Senegal operates, agriculture, livestock and fishing are the main income-generating activities. In Fatick, women are at the heart of oyster harvesting and sustainable mangrove harvesting, as well as fish processing and conservation. Local means of transformation often put women in precarious and dangerous conditions and other gender inequalities become visible in access to subsidies and canoes.

In addition, the country is facing the impacts of climate change with floods and sometimes recurrent droughts leading to food insecurity and economic instability.

Due to the different social roles assigned to men and women, the negative impact of climate change affects them differently. In the Fatick, Tambacounda and Kedougou regions, the negative impacts of climate change are visible at the community level, destroying people's lives and livelihoods. This is characterized by food insecurity, malnutrition, soil erosion, lack of income, livestock, drinking water, arable land and housing due to advancing sea and salinity, leading to loss of dignity and poverty. To minimize the loss of natural resources and economic resources of communities especially women, AAS has set itself the mission of strengthening the resilience of populations to climate-related shocks and social norms for economic justice. This is in line with the objectives of RIS 2.

Results achieved



118 women have access to certified seeds



The Green Space initiative reached **1,700** young people in **45** communities



10,390 women and young people have acquired new skills in agro-ecological practices



2,500 women fight violence against them



325 pupils in the Saloum Islands have benefited from toilets and classrooms



100,000 women and girls made aware of their rights



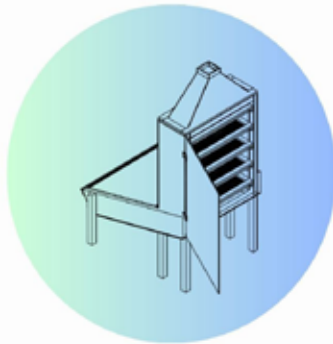
70 children under the age of **5** have benefited from a classroom in Afia - Kedougou



4,000 feet of living hedges have been planted by the women of Kédougou to protect their farms.



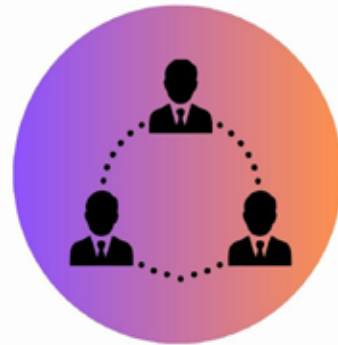
In **2022**, Senegal has been allocated **4,272** new links for the UK, GR and IT.



Provision of **4** solar dryers to **4** MSEs for **80** women in Kédougou



From **2020** to **2022**, **37,100** kg of groundnuts were produced and **18,200** kg of groundnut seeds were stored in seed banks by **97** women producers in Koussanar.



ActionAid Senegal received a visit from **47** Greek sponsors as part of the Solidarity Trip



20 women from the **5** villages received training in making local soap



More than **60** women benefited from various training activities in Foundiougne

Achievements with as sub-components

In 2022, various activities were implemented at the community and national levels to achieve the objectives of the country program. Capacity building, solidarity building, advocacy and different contributions to national and international spaces were activities undertaken





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Priority 1: Increased recognition of the impact of negative gender norms on the rights of women and girls in three regions of Senegal.

During 2022, a number of activities were implemented at community and national level to achieve the objectives of the country programme.

Capacity-building, solidarity-building, advocacy and various contributions to national and international species are some of the activities undertaken.



Under Priority 1, a number of key commitments were made in 2022

ActionAid Senegal continued the process of modelling structures for dealing with cases of violence against women and girls at the community level with the objectives of:

- Enable communities to lead the process of social change themselves to abandon negative norms that encourage or maintain violence and discrimination against women and girls
- Enable women and girls to develop themselves endogenous mechanisms for managing violence related to their contexts and their cultural and social practices

In each of ActionAid Senegal's seven intervention areas, a community structure has been set up. These structures have themselves led their mode of decentralization allowing to have a network of 95 community focal points as responders to survivors.

These structures were trained in social communication, advocacy and Senegal's legal, legal and institutional framework for combating violence against women and girls.

Community agents called narrators, numbering 33 and 6 other community actors, were also trained to accompany communities on specific issues of female genital mutilation in the specific areas of Tambacounda and Kédougou.

In order to support the strengthening of rural women's leadership, ActionAid and its partners namely the Yakar Niani Wully Federation in Koussanar, the Gambia River Valley Producers Association in Missirah, AM BE KOUN Solidarité in Bala district and GRDR in Bakel department have laid the groundwork for a regional platform of women in the Tambacounda region. This platform will have several objectives to:

- Connect women from different departments of the Tambacounda region to form a critical mass of women and girls capable of carrying out actions of social transformation
- Advocate for the updating of the rights of women and girls in the Tambacounda region in the light of public policies and local development agendas, particularly on issues of economic empowerment, education and access to public services sensitive to the specific needs of women and girls.
- Create and disseminate opportunities for learning and mutual reinforcement on topics of common interest.

The platform built on the pre-existing community governance structures installed by ActionAid aims to rally women from all departments of the Tambacounda region to support women and girls in their demand to update their rights at both the local and national levels.

Rama Diouf, community leader

«Since 2020, I have been actively involved in the fight against gender-based violence. I participated in the creation of community committees and a communal committee for the management of gender-based violence. After receiving training on our roles and responsibilities, we undertook actions such as awareness-raising, mediations and promoting safe whistleblowing. We have also worked to raise awareness among our sisters, daughters, men and boys, emphasizing zero tolerance for rape. Thanks to the support of ActionAid and the DASD, we have been able to establish links with the technical services available to manage cases of violence that are beyond our capacity. While we still face challenges related to women's access to justice, we remain committed to eliminating violence on our islands.»



ActionAid also, as part of its strategic partnership with the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Protection, contributed to advocacy actions at the national level by organizing a high-level meeting under the effective chairmanship of the Minister on the theme of «Women and Climate Change». This meeting was an opportunity for Ndeye Sarr who is a community champion from the Saloum Islands to share her experiences in strengthening the resilience of women and their communities in the context of climate change. She was able to bring the concerns of the community to the attention of the Minister in person, leading to a commitment from the Ministry to develop a specific agenda «Women and Climate Change» which would initially be concretized by the establishment of a working group.

As part of the global campaign against violence against women and girls, a campaign led by girls' clubs was set up at the community level by ActionAid and its partners. These girls' clubs are set up within communities or can polarize 3 to 5 communities depending on the context. Their role is to help promote and strengthen girls' leadership in their context and facilitate the inclusion of their rights in local governance. Girls' clubs also provide a safe space for girls to exchange and reflect on the actualization of their rights in their context. These clubs bring together girls in and out of school to build mutual support, self-esteem and fight stigma.

The clubs meet once a fortnight and are an opportunity for girls to develop advocacy messages or conduct advocacy and awareness meetings within their communities through circles of reflection and action and targeting leaders. Clubs also participate in celebrations of key dates such as the Global Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls. Thanks to PPL funding, girls in the Fatick region were able to organize an awareness campaign for the abandonment of female genital mutilation, focusing on education as one of the main keys to changing attitudes and practices leading to the protection of girls.

The campaign covered 26 of the most observant communities, including the 14 islands of the Saloum Delta, which is one of the crossing points for families travelling to The Gambia. It targeted 14 religious leaders and mobilized 14 action circles, more than 70 per cent of whom were women.

The campaign helped secure the social commitment of religious leaders to raise awareness about abandoning FGM during Friday prayers.

She also helped mobilize women's rights organizations that decided to include the abandonment of FGM in their strategic agenda. These organizations are SCOFI (Scolarisation des filles) and AJS (Association des Femmes Juristes Sénégalaises) which have joined the movement at the national level. The campaign mobilized more than 1700 girls who, for two days, walked through communities to say no to FGM and violence against women and girls.

It was also an opportunity for them to present the importance of education as a credible alternative for a better future for girls and for their protection from FGM.

In addition to youth engagement, ActionAid Senegal also mobilized national and international civil society as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Girls.

For three days, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Women, Family and Child Protection and in the presence of representatives of the Ministries of Education, Health and Justice, civil society actors as well as the ministries concerned, namely the Ministry of Women, The Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Health and Social Action and the Ministry of Justice, have reflected on ways and means to eradicate FGM in Senegal by positioning education as the main tool for social change but also for the protection of girls and the assurance of a better future.

At the end of the three days, the participants agreed to maintain this momentum and to accompany public action in its agenda for the abandonment of FGM on the basis of the following points:

- Develop an inclusive social and political discourse for the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence against women and girls Use and promote positive social norms to encourage abandonment of the social norm of female circumcision
- Create a community of practice that brings together national actors from all walks of life to continue working together to abandon FGM in Senegal.

- Develop an argument based on religious texts with the support of religious leaders to support and encourage the abandonment of this practice in conservative communities

- Continue advocating for the inclusion of awareness-raising modules against FGM in the school curriculum

- Build a discourse promoting girls' access to and retention in school by emphasizing availability, accessibility and gender consideration.

Main recommendations of the panel

On the basis of these conclusions, the following recommendations are made

To the State of Senegal:

- We recommend that efforts continue to provide ministries and institutions responsible for the protection of women and girls with the necessary and sufficient resources for the implementation of public policies to promote the rights of women and girls.

- Establish public services that are sensitive to the needs and rights of women and girls and able to protect them from violence, based on the principles of justice and equity.

- Prioritize investment in the education sector to bring educational opportunities closer to girls, especially in geographically and socially isolated areas.

- Continue to disseminate, popularize and raise awareness of legal instruments, including Act No. 99-05 of 29 January 1999 against female genital mutilation, the Convention against All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls and all other instruments and frameworks that protect girls in Senegal.

- Considering teachers as a fundamental element of quality public education, we recommend prioritizing the recruitment of qualified teachers who work in a safe environment and respect their rights.

- Establish a harmonized participatory mechanism for monitoring and evaluating budgets and investments, including indicators that take into account the specific needs of women and girls.



Alongside the State of Senegal, the organizations present here have expressed their conviction that the greatest gift we can give to our children is Education. It was recommended that

- Create a national dynamic composed of the actors present to build and implement a common agenda against violence and for the abandonment of female genital mutilation throughout Senegal.
- Support and promote a culture of reporting all forms of violence against women and girls
- Promote education as a means to protect women and girls from violence and provide them with better opportunities.
- Create spaces for multi-actor, intergenerational and intersectional dialogue to generate knowledge, share good practices and connect different families of actors to say stop to violence against women and girls throughout Senegal.
- Develop a code of conduct for the absolute protection of children, ensuring their full intellectual and physical development in a viable, reliable and peaceful school;
- Promote the active participation of learners, especially girls, in school governance.
- Ensure the effective involvement of out-of-school and out-of-school girls in the implementation of programs and projects in order to strengthen their economic power and not leave them behind.

The national call to action entitled «Mbour's Call» includes key recommendations and action points for different stakeholders and will be disseminated at advocacy events organised by ActionAid and other stakeholders in 2023.

The meeting was an opportunity to promote the toll-free number set up by the State of Senegal to receive people suffering violence, 116. This issue is also promoted as part of the activities of the DAM CAM project implemented in the Kedougou region and which promotes the human rights to health of young people and their communities. The DAM CAM project produced andragogical tools for community awareness and education in close collaboration with targets. More than 17 girls' clubs have been set up in the Kédougou region to raise awareness among more than 3,000 young people, most of whom are girls. With the support of public health, culture and education services, 15 Mobile Learning Labs (MLLs) have been set up to ensure that girls have secure access to essential information, including information that contributes to their leadership development. These LAMs will benefit more than 4700 young learners. In 2022, more than 97 communities spread over the three departments of the Kédougou region have benefited from various activities to help them change their perspectives and agree to talk about sexual rights for the well-being of their children. More than 10 huts and health posts have also received equipment to strengthen medical facilities and make them more sensitive to the needs of young girls.

The DAM CAM project was complemented by the ALM project, which focused on mobilizing and strengthening the capacities of power holders and raising their awareness of the needs of girl survivors of FGM. Through various sessions involving more than 180 people, context analyses were conducted to understand the factors influencing the maintenance of excision and propose sustainable and endogenous solutions.

ActionAid and its partners work closely with the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Protection. One of the major deliverables of 2022 was the development of a list of recommendations and the annual action plan linked to the national strategy for the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Senegal.

Fatou Sane, , ex-circumciser

“I participated in a workshop organised by ActionAid which made me aware of the consequences of female genital mutilation (FGM). This awareness prompted me to question the practice of female circumcision that I perform. Following this workshop, I invited all my circumcising friends to my home on March 8 to discuss the consequences we are inflicting on these girls and to find solutions to put a definitive end to this practice.»



Concerning education thematic

In the above context, ActionAid continued to implement the SRP process at local and national level.

The year 2022 was indeed the year of the implementation of the management plans of the pilot schools identified following a participatory and inclusive process that involved communities, teachers, education services (IEF, IA, CODEC). These plans were developed in a participatory manner and with the involvement of technical services, trade unions and education actors at the community level. A total of 133 management plans have been developed and validated by the education authority and the management committees.

In the seven intervention areas, a minimum of one school and a maximum of 35 schools have been identified as PRS model schools through the implementation of their management plans. The country program is essentially committed under four of the 10 rights of the PRS



Under Law No. 3: Right to Quality Infrastructure

3 of the 7 intervention zones are engaged under this right.

In Missirah: the primary school in Sankangne was able to equip itself with toilets to improve the hygiene of school girls in particular. This benefited 330 students, including 176 girls, in the full cycle that constitutes the school. 2 classrooms whose roofs destroyed by the weather forced children to attend classes in temporary shelters were repaired and allowed students to return to classrooms.

In Niodior, the two schools of Djirnda and Rofangué benefited in 2022 from the renovation of toilets and classrooms for the benefit of 325 students.

In Koussanar, five primary schools, including the largest and most populous in the commune of Koussanar, were supported by the programme to improve the learning environment for children and girls in particular. The school of Koussanar Elevage benefited from the construction of an office for the Director in addition to equipment in benches and school materials. The school has 286 students, 162 of whom are girls. School 2 in Koussanar has benefited from several initiatives. The construction of the fence wall for the safety of some 580 learners and teachers at this school located near a busy road and the wide-body garage.

Under Law No. 5: Right to a safe and protective learning environment

In Kedougou, in order to combat all forms of violence against girls and boys and improve their learning environment, the primary school of the community of Afia received support for the construction of a classroom for the preschool cycle and to protect the 70 children under 5 years of age who were studying under a temporary shelter. This classroom was built thanks to a co-financing between the budget of ActionAid and that of the municipality of Dimboli on which the Afia school depends. The CGE has also been equipped with safety and awareness-raising equipment and training for the supervision of children during the crossing of the busy road leading to the regional hospital of Kedougou.

The communities of Bakel, in order to avoid exposing children to the risk of accidents, the college received a reprography printer to prevent children from going out during school hours.

The school has also developed its safety plan which includes raising children's awareness against peer abuse, education and awareness of the values of mutual respect. The school was also supported to provide separate toilets that were rehabilitated to improve hygiene for girls. The Bala pilot school, which brings together more than 200 children, has invested in road safety measures in close collaboration with food security management services. The management committee has been trained in safety gestures and equipped with awareness-raising materials to protect the children and staff of this school in Bala located near the market and the garage of the city including that of the jumbo jets. The school received sanitary equipment and school materials to support the retention of girls in school.

Under Law No. 9: Right to transparent and inclusive governance of public schools

Djilor has accompanied 35 Management Committees including 1 high school, a middle school and 32 primary and preschool schools in capacity building on the role and responsibility of CGEs, mastery of the CGE Guide, renewal of CGE members.

At the community level, all initiatives were accompanied by the strengthening of the management capacities of management committees in order to ensure the sustainability of interventions. Clear communication was also made to communities polarized by each school or institution. It should be noted that all 133 schools are implementing Law No. 9, which concerns the strengthening of local governance of public schools.

At the national level

ActionAid continued its commitment to sister organizations through effective and constant participation in the COSYDEP Board of Directors and participation in the national working group of technical and financial partners in education.

Law No. 9 is also implemented in all pilot schools where all CGEs have received training, sometimes following the renewal of their offices. All CGEs have at their disposal the CGE guide and have also been trained on mobilizing resources at the local level to ensure the financial sustainability of their schools. The 133 schools have also initiated awareness-raising activities against violence in the school environment and on the protection of girls' right to education. This has led to Bakel College, Koussanar School 2 being ranked among the most successful of their academies.

Through the EOL project, in line with commitments at the national level, ActionAid was able to bring together a critical mass of actors to engage them in a strategic reflection around the financing of education and the accountability of public services in the education sector. ActionAid thus contributed to the civil society policy brief presented at the annual education sector review by highlighting the promotion of a fair, feminist and progressive tax model that would sustainably strengthen domestic financing of education. Following this note, the Ministry of Education wished to contribute to the ongoing reflection for the identification of innovative financing mechanisms to guarantee endogenous and sustainable financing for public education.

The youth engagement led by the Global Platform has resulted in the engagement of more than 13 Activista clubs and 19 girls' clubs in community-level awareness-raising actions against climate change, violence against women and girls and girls' education. These initiatives have reached more than 1700 young people in more than 45 communities. The Green Space initiative was an opportunity to set up green spaces within the Lycée de Djilor, which polarizes more than 40 communities in the communes of Djilor and Mbam.

The girls' clubs also conducted a community awareness campaign covering Action's 14 intervention islands in the Saloum delta and in the Djilor district. This activity was part of the global 16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women and Girls campaign.

Mariatta Diarra, community leader

«Thanks to the training and advice I received from ActionAid Senegal, I now have access to decision-making spaces. I can attend parliamentary votes and propose amendments. I have the power to decide and influence resource management in my community. And I know how my taxes are used!»



Samba Sow, Speaker of the Bala Children’s Parliament

«Thanks to ActionAid, I discovered my rights and learned how to communicate with other children. As a sponsored child, I participated in educational activities and developed awareness and leadership skills. The booklets I received during the COVID-19 crisis allowed me to continue my studies at home. My future goal is to become the youth leader in my community.»





Women's empowerment (empowerment)

Several activities have been carried out at the level of our various Lrps for the empowerment of women in order to develop the technical, organizational and managerial capacities of women for their economic empowerment. More than 100 women benefited from capacity-building activities to strengthen their agency. Thus a:

Foundiougne: More than 60 women benefited from various training activities in packaging production techniques, curd production, local cereal processing and tabletop gardening.

Kedougou: 50 women members of the Kedougou platform of processors also received training in packaging manufacturing techniques.

Bakel: 32 women's representatives from different sectors were trained on administrative and financial management.

Women's access to and control of productive resources: the example of seeds

Since 2020, ActionAid through its partner, the Yakaar Niani Wulli federation has initiated a seed multiplication program to facilitate women's access to inputs and build household resilience. From 2020 to 2022, a total of 37,100 kg of groundnuts were produced by the program with the following impacts: 18T200 of peanut seed canned in seed banks that will benefit 97 women, construction of a seed conservation bank polarizing 04 communities with a capacity of nearly 80 tons for the benefit of 04 communities, direct sales to traders, which provide resources to finance children's education, temporarily pay contributions to VSLA funds and contribute to the daily expenses of the household, are used by some; while other producers prefer to transform the rest of the production into peanut paste for sale to pay the same charges, the creation of jobs example of the women of Saré Malédé who did not even know agriculture because of Their social rank have become today great farmers and are fully active in the program, the development of activity of the units with the use of groundnuts in processed products.

The success of this model is based on: The provision of quality first generation seeds; The commitment of the beneficiaries; Securing the system with the signing of contracts registered at the level of the competent authorities; Support in organic fertilizer (fertinova and greenok) for soil fertilization; close monitoring of beneficiaries by the partner, the administrative and technical authority. Despite the success of the model, challenges still remain through men's awareness of the importance of empowering women as a production resource; the establishment of management committees at seed bank level; the development of internal regulations for all bank beneficiaries, the support of women to acquire draught animals and agricultural equipment; the subscription to agricultural insurance to compensate for all natural disasters; the creation of an agricultural cooperative exclusively for women to benefit from state seeds and reach a larger number of women producers; Train management committees on stock management, bank maintenance and seed conservation techniques.

The Missirah area is also in the same dynamic of empowerment of women and seed communities. 3.5 tons of groundnuts, 250 kg of maize and 250 kg of cowpea were provided to CRA members in the 10 villages (Saal, Nguéne, Sinthan, Wassadou, Adiaff, Dialico, Sankagne, Bady, Dialacoto and Diyabougou). 210 people benefited from seeds, 72% of whom were women. For better conservation of reimbursed seeds, 44 members of bank management committees, 77% of whom are women, are trained on seed saving techniques.

Kedougou: 02 tons of seeds or 40 bags of groundnuts made available to groups for the exploitation of agroecological fields; 04 (four) tons or 80 bags of groundnuts were made available to the seed banks of Bakho and Madina Kénioto.

For the Bala area, the establishment of the cereal bank has contributed to the economic resilience of households. This year the collection operations reached 3Tons and this facilitated women processors to sell couscous, to assist heads of household in the form of credit during the lean season and also to sell to transhumant herders who are in the Bala area. Bala: A community training on risk management and natural disasters was held. This training enabled the 30 participants to understand the types and manifestations of climate change phenomena and to be able to define adaptation strategies through the development of an Action Plan. Following the training, it is envisaged to set up management committees in the villages.

Moussa Sarr, Ambassador for the Protection of Returning Migrants

«The Corti project has been beneficial for us. Our association of returnees has been formed and we have become ambassadors of behaviour change for regular and informed migration. We gained knowledge about visas, migration rights and opportunities available to young people. We also discovered the «Senegal Services», which provide support to young people looking for employment and reliable information. Through this training, we better understand migration, our rights and our value in our communities. We are committed to tackling irregular migration and promoting good governance. We are grateful to ActionAid and its partners for their support in our fight against poverty and the improvement of our living conditions.»



Women's economic empowerment

Revival of market gardening activities :

Bala: Accompaniment of the women of Kouthia in the realization of a water supply and the acquisition of iron poles for the fence of the market garden. The realization of this work has facilitated access to water and has made it possible to secure the perimeter, also giving the commitment to women to be more active in the exploitation of market gardening and this will surely contribute to the increase of production and income of members.

Missirah: The market garden perimeter of Bady has been revitalized for 73 women by an organizational structuring of the group and a rehabilitation of the irrigation network.

Kedougou: the market gardening activities of the Kenioto Peulh school garden have resumed with the integration of the young target to the beneficiaries of the project. 30 women were trained in soil preparation, layout and plank making. An irrigation system was set up by installing a submersible pump at the well. The market gardeners of Fadiga have also received support for the fencing of their plot in live hedges: 4000 feet of live hedges have been set up; 50 women have a better knowledge of live hedges; 35 women are trained on the maintenance of live hedges.

Ndeye Fatou Sebor, Local entrepreneur and Baobab fruit processor

“I benefited from training in processing local products thanks to ActionAid. Thanks to these trainings, I became a committed woman leader, having acquired knowledge in management and marketing. I was able to achieve my economic empowerment by developing a regular clientele, attending national fairs and using the income to buy land and take care of my family. I am grateful to ActionAid for this life-changing opportunity.”



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Processing of Local Products

Bala: the support of the processors of the baobab fruit has made it possible to repair a room housing the operations, to contribute to the valorization of the production by the acquisition of a mill with a lot of equipment that will allow to have good quality Products and to increase income. In addition, it makes it possible to lighten women's work, and to save working time and increase women's incomes in the long term.

Koussanar: The diagnosis of the transformation units of FYNW and the women of the legal CRA was made in order to properly organize the units in management and mode of operation.

Missirah: The Bady and Saal processing units have been equipped with solar equipment and refurbished to provide a better working environment for women and cost-effective equipment.

Bakel : Purchase of 4 solar dryers for the benefit of 4 Economic Interest Groups (EIG) and for 80 women for the reinforcement of the means of production of processing units.

Also in Bakel for the strengthening of women's entrepreneurship, a study on the barriers that limit women's entrepreneurship was carried out to identify the constraints to development with 77 economic initiatives composed of EIGs, associations, restaurateurs, farmers. The study was shared with different actors of the territory (communities; administrative and local authorities), a local forum also held for the strengthening of distribution and sales channels, networking with other women's EIGs from other localities. All these activities are part of a perspective of transformation of a new paradigm of entrepreneurship in Bakel.

Other economic alternatives

Kedougou: The Sélafindind group was supported in the implementation of a mini chicken coop: Repair of the chicken coop; Endowment of 250 chicks; Provision of starter materials, inputs and feeds, growth and finishing;

Bala: 20 women from the 5 villages (MBangol, Thiara, NDioum, Dioulanguel, Darou NDioufène.) benefited from training in local soap making. For support, the beneficiaries have already received lots of equipment to enable them to start the activity. The village chiefs played an important role in facilitating their access to a place to carry out the work.



Advocacy was also carried out to strengthen women's economic leadership and promote agroecology at local, national and international levels

Participation in the Djimini Fair



This Fair is a framework for exchanges, discussions and gathering by several nationalities, whose general objective is to bring clearly defined proposals on governance and seed policies that will be chart the way forward for West African farmers and their organizations. Participants discussed agroecology, seed sovereignty, visited stands and exchanged on farmers' seed varieties. ActionAid presented its study on the role of women in seed saving.

The organization Local Fair and Rural Women’s Day

The fair brought together about fifty women from the municipalities and areas of intervention of ActionAid Senegal namely: Bakel, Bala, Kedougou, Missirah, Koussanar, Djilor, Dioossong, Foundiougne, Saloum Islands. The fair also registered the participation of other organizations such as PAPIL, DER -FJ, administrative and local authorities. The event was marked by the display of local products, sale of variety of products and exchange of goods between processors from different areas. The celebration of Rural Women’s Day was combined with that of the local Fair of Foundiougne. It was an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of rural women to the socio-economic development of the country. To mark this day, two discussion panels were held on the following: «Rural women at the center of a balanced diet for all» and «Rural women and food sovereignty: challenges and perspectives».

Strong recommendations were formulated by the participants for the effective support of women in their agricultural and processing activities, including: The modernization and enhancement of local products with the establishment of processing units that meet hygiene and quality standards, Effective support for agroecology in the face of contemporary challenges of food sovereignty: the various crises and agribusiness, improving women’s access to finance through financial education that fights against waste and promotes the sustainable management of natural resources, developing inclusive and participatory food sovereignty policies at the local level built on national public policies.



The DYTAEL caravan



For the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the management of natural resources, on March 10, 11 and 12, ActionAid and its partners, APROVAG and FYNW participated in the caravan of dynamics for an agroecological transition in Senegal for the Tamba stage. The general objective of the caravan is to update the policy contribution document for an agroecological transition in Senegal in order to contribute to the structuring process of the PES-Vert, the World Water Forum and COP15 on Desertification. The caravan allowed to visit the different agroecological initiatives in the area and to share experience with our partners. Our experiences on the seed multiplication program, processing, access to markets, our perimeters of experimentation of agroecology practices.

Participation in the World Water Forum

ActionAid Senegal participated in the 9th World Water Forum, «Dakar 2022» from 21 to 26 March 2022. This counter-forum allowed civil society to come together to fight against the goal of turning water into a commodity, promoting the financialization of water bodies and ecosystems, privatizing resources and making this human right a commodity. ActionAid Senegal presented 2 case studies highlighting the difficulties of access to water for women farmers. We emphasized the importance of water resources for the practice of agriculture, livestock. If we do not manage water effectively and rationally, future generations may face conflicts whose origin could be water scarcity or deficit. It is therefore important not to entrust our water resources to multinationals that care more about making a profit than thinking about people's well-being, even if the two can go together.

To support the fight for the commodification of water, a positioning note was produced with the various recommendations of the actors. The final declaration was submitted to the authorities to better take into account the concerns of women producers.

ActionAid's Campaign for Climate Justice

ActionAid was also represented at the climate justice campaign training held in Tanzania. The aim of this international campaign was: Funding institutions (national and international, private and public) are shifting money from agribusiness and climate-damaging fossil fuels....

... to agroecology and other climate-resilient and low-emission alternatives led by women and youth. For Senegal, the campaign revolved around the dynamics already initiated for the financing of agroecology through the involvement of young people, women, children, national social movements and advocacy at the regional level.



Challenges

- According to the farmers, the market is not open to products from organic farming. Indeed, agricultural policies are mainly favorable to cash crops for agribusiness. Thus, thanks to the support it receives, export agriculture brings to the market products that are cheaper than those produced locally in an agroecological way. However, in a context of poverty, the cheapest products will be preferred by consumers. Therefore, agricultural policies that support agroecological production are essential for the food and nutrition sovereignty of developing countries.

- The other challenge women face in building resilience is access to water to develop alternative livelihoods such as gardening. Due to the impact of climate change, rainfall is not sufficient, which has led to groundwater and wells are drying up rapidly. Women find it very difficult to fetch enough water during drought. Their gardening activities suffer greatly with losses and decrease in production, cessation of activity and loss of income.

- Lack of information in case of funding by state structures.

- Insufficient resources to meet the important needs of schools, many of which still have temporary shelters and toilets.

- The illiteracy of the members of the management committees, which affects the mastery of rights and obligations for quality governance of the community school

- Tensions in the education sector that affected initial planning.

- The unavailability of public services in areas such as the Saloum Islands or women face the lack of public health and transport services.

- Some students on the islands do not have transportation to school.



Sponsorship

ActionAid Senegal’s main source of funding is child sponsorship. Since 2018 with the advent of the international strategy, ActionAid has embarked on a process of modernization of its Sponsorship systems, by integrating new technologies.

At the AA level, a team was tasked to develop a new system that would replace NK. This team was able to set up a new system called SAHAKOM, which was also able to integrate partners as stakeholders in its use.

With the obtaining of their ActionAid accounts, each partner through its implementation team, started its practical activities in the administration of the system. The year 2022 is strongly marked by a record allocation of 3772 new files for Senegal. This allocation also took into account the new changes underway. One of the major changes was that it is imperative that we obtain the consent of one of the parents before integrating the child into the new system. Children who had been under two years old in the old system should be updated so that their profiles are maintained.

To take into account the new changes underway, partner staff were trained on different aspects of the collection system and methodologies.

As part of the support of children’s clubs and parliaments at the LRP level, the partners have identified child friendly activities to retain children in the communities. Regular animations are also carried out in collaboration with these bodies.



In terms of our collaboration with FAs, ActionAid Senegal has only three with whom we have direct sponsorship between children and their sponsors (Italy, England and Greece). The Swedes have changed their product by now using Girl Support, the latter product does not require a bond between a child and his godfather. The Swedes have selected four countries to work through this product.

In terms of prospects, we intend to continue to strengthen the partners' capacities in the management of the new system but also to strengthen their equipment to better meet production deadlines. The integration of the mobile application will be an asset for the field team by facing the difficulties related to the connectivity of certain areas.



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2022 Fundraising

As the Country Programme (CP) continues its efforts to increase its funding mix and diversify its revenues, ActionAid Senegal (AAS) launched numerous activities in 2022 that aimed to support its ambitious drive to rely less on sponsorship revenues and cultivate strategic partnerships. With the aim of providing an overview of 2023, this report aims to highlight the key activities that marked the course of the year.

During the year, AAS made impressive progress in its efforts to cultivate strategic partnerships, raise awareness, build capacity for resource mobilization, and intensify its engagement with relevant stakeholders. These efforts include efforts by consolidating the gains made during the life span of the current CSP and to invest in activities at the national and international levels.

In recognition of the importance placed on strategic communications that support our resource mobilization objectives in the country, ActionAid initiated a capacity building for its staff and LRP partners during a 10-participant training in digital photography and film production. In November 2022, a visual content specialist from AAUK visited AA Senegal to provide training on film production.

The 10-participant training included AAS Communications and Fundraising, The Gambia Communications Coordinator and LRP Communications Coordinators. The objectives of this activity are to:

- Acquire skills in film production
- Strengthen service-sharing collaborations between ActionAid Senegal, ActionAid International The Gambia and West Africa and the Mediterranean Delegation (WAM)
- Workshop covering the fundamentals of filmmaking in practical and aesthetic forms.
- A collective discussion on the composition and representation of images.
- Post-production workshop covering the basics and techniques of modern editing, sound design and color grading
- The use of the images for the planned donor reception and forum will be presented in the second quarter of 2023.

ActionAid also trained seven LRP implementing partners on resource mobilization, so that they can raise funds and become financially sustainable entities. Therefore, in-country capacity building training was organized in June 2021 for CS partners, LRP CS and AA Senegal staff.



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The training covered resource mobilization strategies, the development of concept notes; Risk analysis and introduction to fundraising and preparation for fundraising. Other areas studied included grant management, donor reporting; cultivate strategic relationships; financial preparation and budgeting and Fundraising communications.

As part of the FPs' efforts to strengthen relationships with funding affiliates and explore partnership prospects, AA S has made the decision to intensify activities that facilitate LRP site visits and provide sponsorship engagement opportunities with countries such as AA Italy, United Kingdom and Greece. One of these visits to Senegal was the Jokkalante solidarity trip with AA Greece with a strong delegation of Greek sponsors, which was held from 1 to 8 October 2022. The 47 visitors were sponsors and colleagues of AA Greece, including representatives of their board of directors.

This important visit to our LRP was an opportunity to present the activities implemented by AAS that are associated with child sponsorship resources, and also to explore fundraising prospects with our AA Hellas colleagues. The visit also contributed to a better understanding of ActionAid's human rights-based approach. The visit of forty-seven Greek and Cypriot nationals to the communities of Djilor, Foundiougne and Niodior was an event that gave our visitors the opportunity to participate in the painting of the newly built community resource center of Djilor.

The genesis of the Djilor Resource Centre was born from a desire to continue to empower ActionAid's intervention communities as much as possible, as envisaged by the HRBA approach. Visits were also made to Saloum Island, where visitors had the opportunity to interact with communities and gain first-hand accounts of the impact of climate change on their livelihoods. Some members of the group also assisted the community by helping with the preparation of lunch.

In 2022, CMR funds continued to play a pivotal role in supporting the CP grow revenues and establish a solid foundation for a sustainable and viable fundraising entity. With the support of the CMR funding allocation, part of the salary of the Business Development Manager (BDM) was realized. Without such intervention, it would have been difficult to fill such a critical position for the country programme, which requires specialized knowledge and skills. As a beneficiary of the CMR funds, AAS was able to support the joint donor visit to Dakar, Senegal, with ActionAid International Gambia in July 2022. This initiative allowed the two AA CPs to visit Dakar-based donors and availed both CPs to expand cross-border and regional funding opportunities for our joint programs. This visit was also an opportunity to demonstrate that Dakar is an important resource mobilization centre and that the CP has the capacity to share services within the Federation. A report of the donors' visit indicates action points and areas of mutual interest for both Contracting Parties.

The CMR funds also enabled the CP to acquire a one-year subscription for a Donor Intelligence Platform in December 2022. Such a platform offers the CP the ability to obtain relevant donor information and analyze information in real time.

The acquisition of the subscription is intended to allow the CP to plan ahead with timely donor information on calls for proposals, rather than responding to calls from an ad hoc approach.



Implementation and ongoing projects

During the year under review, the CP also witnessed a number of new donor projects, reflecting the growing confidence of major donors in our programme. These interventions are expected to attract additional funding in 2023 and beyond.

ALM Project

Funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the ALM project complements the Senegalese government's program to end FGM by 2030 with goals on girls, women and their communities. It is implemented in the regions of Tambacounda and Kédougou.

CORTI Project

This is a project that will support returning or potential migrants with funding from the Italian CORTI Foundation for a period of two years. This project is being implemented in the regions of Tambacounda and Fatick, including the Saloum Delta, with funding of €130,225.

This multi-country project covering Senegal, Kenya, Somaliland and Ethiopia, focuses Senegal on advocating for the implementation of multi-sectoral approaches, policies and laws to effectively protect girls from FGM. This project intervention allocated £203,935 to AAS.



PPL Project

In order to advance the agenda for the elimination of violence against women and girls, and female circumcision in particular, ActionAid secured funding from the UK Lottery which mobilized national actors around the issues of female circumcision and led a reflection to make education an alternative rite.

A discussion paper was produced by all stakeholders, including more than 30 national organizations. These actors have joined this initiative and renewed their commitment to the elimination of violence against women and girls in Senegal. The project covers the entire Senegalese territory and has funding of £99,999.

GAFSP Project

ActionAid was honored to benefit from the first civil society financing mechanism of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) whose objective is to strengthen the capacities and empowerment of producer organizations while helping them prioritize the needs of women and youth in the context of climate change.

TIF Project

This is an endogenous financing mechanism of ActionAid which for 3 years will have as priorities, the strengthening of young women farmers and the initiation of advocacy actions to demand more environmentally friendly policies and agroecology promoters.



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DAM CAM Project

Funded by Global Affairs Canada, on the theme of sexual and reproductive health of young people, this 5-year project (2020-2024) is implemented in the three departments of the Kedougou region.

Green Space

Funded by ActionAid Denmark up to \$10,000 for one year. This project aimed to create green spaces in high schools and raise awareness among youth about the effects of change in order to mobilize them for action.

EOL Project

This project funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which focuses on issues of tax justice and public education financing, has been mobilizing education stakeholders for 2 years for a collective reflection on fairer tax models and domestic financing opportunities for education. It mainly targets public education services, civil society, trade union movements and youth organizations. This project covers the national territory and is also implemented in Zambia and Nepal.



The way forward

Following the progress made in 2022, the CP Resource Mobilization campaign will continue to work closely with all internal and external stakeholders to jointly raise funds and establish strategic partnerships in the new CSP under development. It is expected that the planned «partnership reception» and two-day Forum on Rethinking the Resource Mobilization Space in Senegal, originally scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2022, will now take place in the second quarter of 2023.

ActionAid Senegal is committed to strengthening its relationships with West Africa-based Country Programs to explore common perspectives and cross-border initiatives.

The joint visit of Dakar-based donors with ActionAid Gambia is the start of many more collaborations to come. These include the development of joint proposals and engagement with regional institutions such as ECOWAS in mutually beneficial areas. The country programme has committed to increasing institutional funding from diversified revenue sources in 2023 and to be less reliant on sponsorship income. It is also expected that our resource mobilization efforts will also intensify in countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Denmark and Greece where sponsorship revenues originate.

Financial Management

In a global environment characterized by the end of the Covid19 pandemic, the financial situation was strongly determined by the process of evaluating the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) and the adoption of a new five-year plan.

Incomes

The incomes mobilized for the year 2022 amount to GBP 1,232,000 at an average annual rate of 774 FCFA or an amount of 953,568,000 FCFA. The annual budget was estimated at GBP 1,425,000.

ActionAid Senegal aimed to mitigate the impact of the crisis by empowering women and girls to build their social, economic and political resilience so that they can realize their rights.

In view of the performance of the Sponsorship, the country programme had deemed it necessary to review the budget to GBP 1,359,000, i.e. a reduction in relative value of 5%.



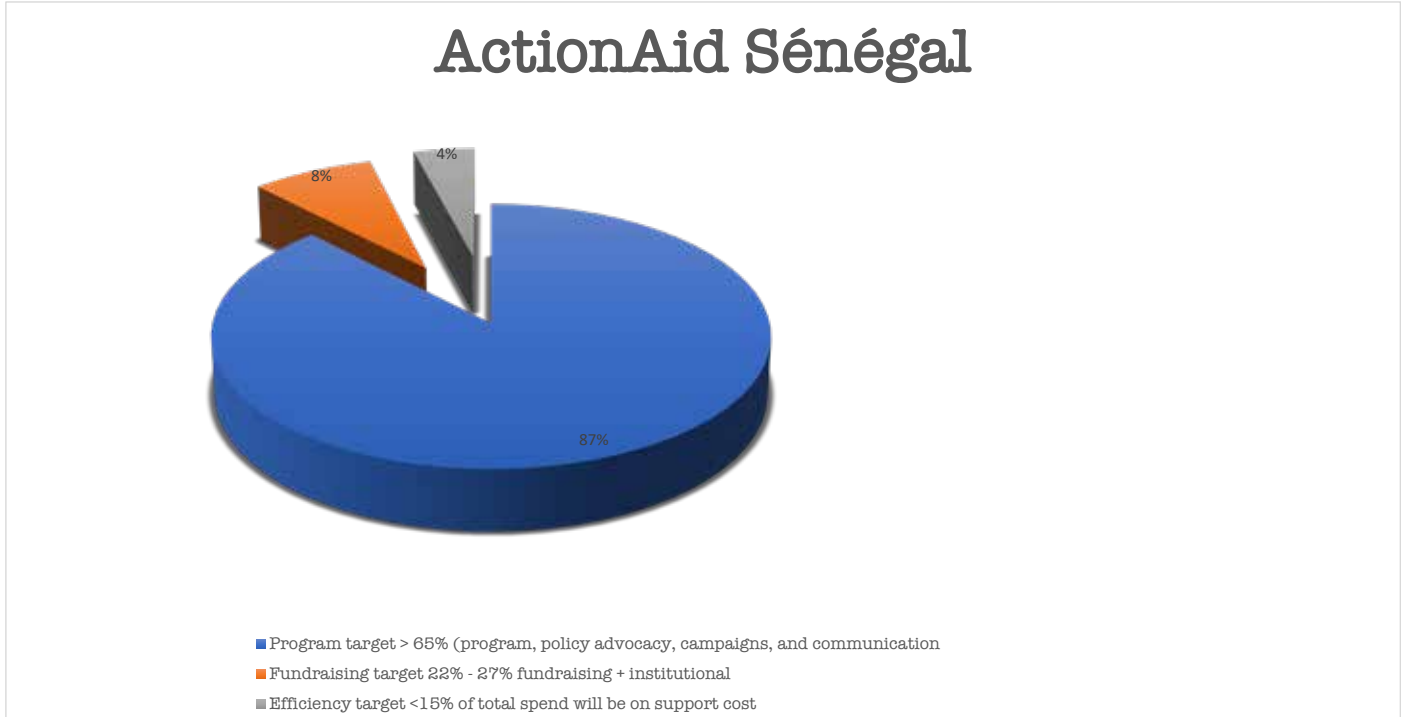
It shows that the overall implementation rate is 86% which can be classified as sponsorship and project revenues transmitted via the federation for 98% and the funds from donors

received directly by the country program amount to 2%

Expenditures

Expenditure for the year 2022 amounts to GBP 1,281,000 or 991,494,000 FCFA. The expenditure in 2021 was GBP 870,000 FCFA while the initial expenditure budget was GBP 1,336,000

In terms of analysis of the performance standards set by the federation, the levels of analysis of the country program are as follows



Spending on Fundraising increased from 6% in 2021 to 8% in 2022 although event activities could not be held given the busy calendar at the end of the year.

These postponed activities will not fail to make it possible to strive towards achieving the standards of the federation.

The reserves amount to 7 months including 6 months for LRPs and 7 months at the national level.

Human Resources and Organisational Development

ActionAid Senegal embarked on a review of its human resources by engaging a consultant. The objectives of this exercise were to verify compliance between human resources practices, gather feedback from staff, and make recommendations.

This exercise is the first of its kind since the 2016 restructuring. The results clearly show the need for structural and organizational reforms to better take care of the needs of staff and improve the working environment. It must be said that this work had started during the last staff retreat.

The nationalization process is ongoing with and ActionAid continues to consolidate its position within the federation in order to become an important representative member of the French-speaking area. A financial provision has been provided in the 2023 budget for the implementation of the operational plan of the nationalization process.

Learning from the experience of other institutions and CPs will continue within 2023. This will allow us to continue the affiliation process and the establishment of the Board of Directors at the end of 2023.

We are also in the process of reviewing our statutes with a view to nationalize them.

ActionAid has also strengthened its team with the arrival of five new staff members. This has increased its capacity to represent and occupy strategic spaces at the national and international level on the priority axes of its strategy. Over the course of the year, several capacity building sessions were organized to help improve the protection of children and adults at risk and to best protect the personal data of all actors in our programmatic action and governance chain.

Similarly, a workshop to revitalize the CRAs was attended by 29 people including: 02 Representatives of the Board of Directors, 06 facilitators, 01 Sponsor, 20 members of the circles with 48% women. The place of the CRAs and the commissions in the CRAs was recalled in the community system and a practical demonstration is made on the animation of the CRAs following central themes relating to community issues on human rights.



Governance and strategic partnership

In general, the field visits carried out by the Country Director every quarter contribute to strengthening our visibility with local authorities, rights holders and implementing partners. They are in line with what is called accountability through transparent communication in the management of the development program with rights holders (target communities; reflection circles, etc.), and duty bearers (governors, prefects, sub-prefects, mayor, customary chiefs, etc.). They allow us in one way or another to justify that the financial resources mobilized through sponsorships and funds from institutional donors without invested assets and that rights holders are actually affected.

To make the visits a success, all departments are involved. The information is shared in advance with the program department, which in turn arranges transportation with the various partners in the area concerned. The level of involvement of staff depends on the types of administrative authorities, local or customary authorities to be met. The degree of involvement could also depend on the type of projects or investments to be visited, but also on the circles of reflection actions to be encountered.

During the last visits, we noted a good mobilization and support of the populations, an increased recognition of the authorities of the work accomplished on the ground by ActionAid.

The women of the circles judged the actions carried out on the ground positive because a large number of vulnerable women saw their situation changed and their leadership strengthened thanks to the interventions of ActionAid Senegal. As proof, we see that there are more and more women municipal councillors with visible and confirmed leadership. The participant observations allow us to see the clear and determined support of men to achieve social justice and give women what is rightfully theirs, namely access to resources, to decision-making bodies.

Discussions with partners revealed deficiencies that require corrective action. These are the delay in the submission of quarterly reports in some areas (center), difficulties in the implementation of certain activities due to scheduling problems. There are also delays in the implementation of the action plan due to a low motivation and commitment of some partners. Investment visibility remains a challenge that will have to be addressed. Insecurity in the management of VSLAs also remains a challenge that must be quickly addressed to avoid further cases of theft.

In order to make better use of these visits, it would be useful for the program team to take charge of the recommendations made and translate them into a concrete action plan to be followed and to report regularly on the efforts observed.

The country program has also begun the final review of the national strategy in line with its governance and accountability commitments.

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