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ActionAid Sénégal
Annual report 2021



Acronyms

AAS: ActionAid International Senegal
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



Forward Country Director)

Our journey towards social justice in Senegal is ongoing despite the multidimensional crises, the negative impact of COVID 19 and the climate crisis. This is an opportunity to recognize that most of the communities we work with are now resilient thanks to a combination of actions through the government's responses under the national economic and social resilience plan and ActionAid Senegal's resilience building program contributing to the national resilience plan.

The results and change we share in this report explain how we helped transform, preserve lives, and protect the dignity of women, men, and their communities in 2021. It reflects our collective commitment to challenge social and economic injustice, influence public services, and hold government and the private sector accountable.

In 2021, ActionAid Senegal strengthened the leadership of women and girls to significantly reduce different forms of violence (economic, social, psychological, etc.) and improve their political and economic empowerment through various practical actions and policy influencing. In concrete terms, we are proud to have accompanied more than 7,700 women and their respective communities to improve their livelihoods through agricultural processing, income-generating activities, and the development of an extensive seed multiplication program, as well as training on women's leadership and feminism.

The promotion of gender-sensitive public services and women's empowerment was made possible through advocacy for climate justice and the development of agroecological practices by integrating sustainable access to farmer seeds and organic fertilizers.

In total for the year 2021, 150 women farmers benefited from knowledge and sustainable farming techniques.

The 250 AVEC (Village Savings and Credit Associations) that we have set up since 2015 in different LRPs, continue to facilitate access to credit anytime and strengthen the economic solidarity of women at the LRP level.

In collaboration with local partners and extension services, we have been able to provide support on agricultural techniques, seed and grain banks for value-added processing as well as facilitate market access. During the lockdown, which was characterized by school closures, ActionAid Senegal and its partners were able to support 2010 students to resume teaching and learning by accessing appropriate textbooks and water facilities.

Our efforts to strengthen the capacity of CSO networks to hold the government accountable and protect human rights defenders is linked to our national policy engagement, which is in solidarity with international NGO platforms, CSO coalitions and our partners within the LRPs.

For gender-sensitive governance and public services, ActionAid Senegal collaborates with CSOs working on the financing of public services and education. This has involved advocacy for a steady and domestic increase in resource allocations to support public services. This commitment is translated at the community level through the Promotion of Rights in Schools (PRS) and the implementation of a project that promotes taxation as a source of endogenous funding for education. Teachers and communities have demonstrated their ownership and willingness to ensure the realization of the right to education for all and access to gender-sensitive public services.

The report also looks at our commitments at the federation level to complete the Affiliation process by 2023, as well as our contribution to the West Africa and Mediterranean delegation on migration and development.

In addition to the fact that this commitment will strengthen our role of dual citizenship and membership in an international federation, the affiliation process is a long journey to make ActionAid Senegal an impactful and relevant program in the socio-economic and political transformation of citizens.

ActionAid Senegal strives to translate the values of transparency, good governance and women's leadership into our daily work. We do this by working in close collaboration with community organizations, national and local authorities, and community leaders.

I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the communities we work with, our local and national partners, technical and financial partners, supporters, and institutions. I would especially like to thank the dedicated staff who are committed to always serving the communities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, for achieving our common goals.

Zakaria Sambakhe
Country Director



Who we are?

ActionAid Senegal is part of the ActionAid Federation and commenced working in Senegal in 2000, focusing in four out of the 14 regions of Senegal (Fatick, Tambacounda, Kedougou, and Kolda), covering five out of the 45 Departments (Foundiougne, Tambacounda, Bakel, Kedougou and Goudiry) within nine localities (Djilor, Niodior, Foundiougne, Diossong, Kousanar, Missirah, Bala, Kedougou and Bakel) and active in more than 160 communities. ActionAid is a global social justice federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. In Senegal, ActionAid works to strengthen the capacity and agency of people living in poverty and exclusion, especially women and girls, to assert their rights.

ActionAid Senegal (AAS) has been operating in Senegal since 2000. Over the last decade, ActionAid has built a recognized niche for addressing inequalities of power with people living in poverty with specific focus on women's rights and application of a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and feminist analysis to development in Senegal. In its journey, ActionAid Senegal partners with CSOs and social movements to advance their social justice agenda which aims to empower communities to demand their rights. Our HRBA work is embedded in our programming and rooted within the communities. This enables us to hold government and private sector to account.



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Vision and Mission

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organizations, activists, social movements, and supporters.

We work with communities, people's organizations, 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 connect the work we do at community level with broader efforts and struggles for justice at national and global levels to make the greatest contribution towards a just, equitable and sustainable world.

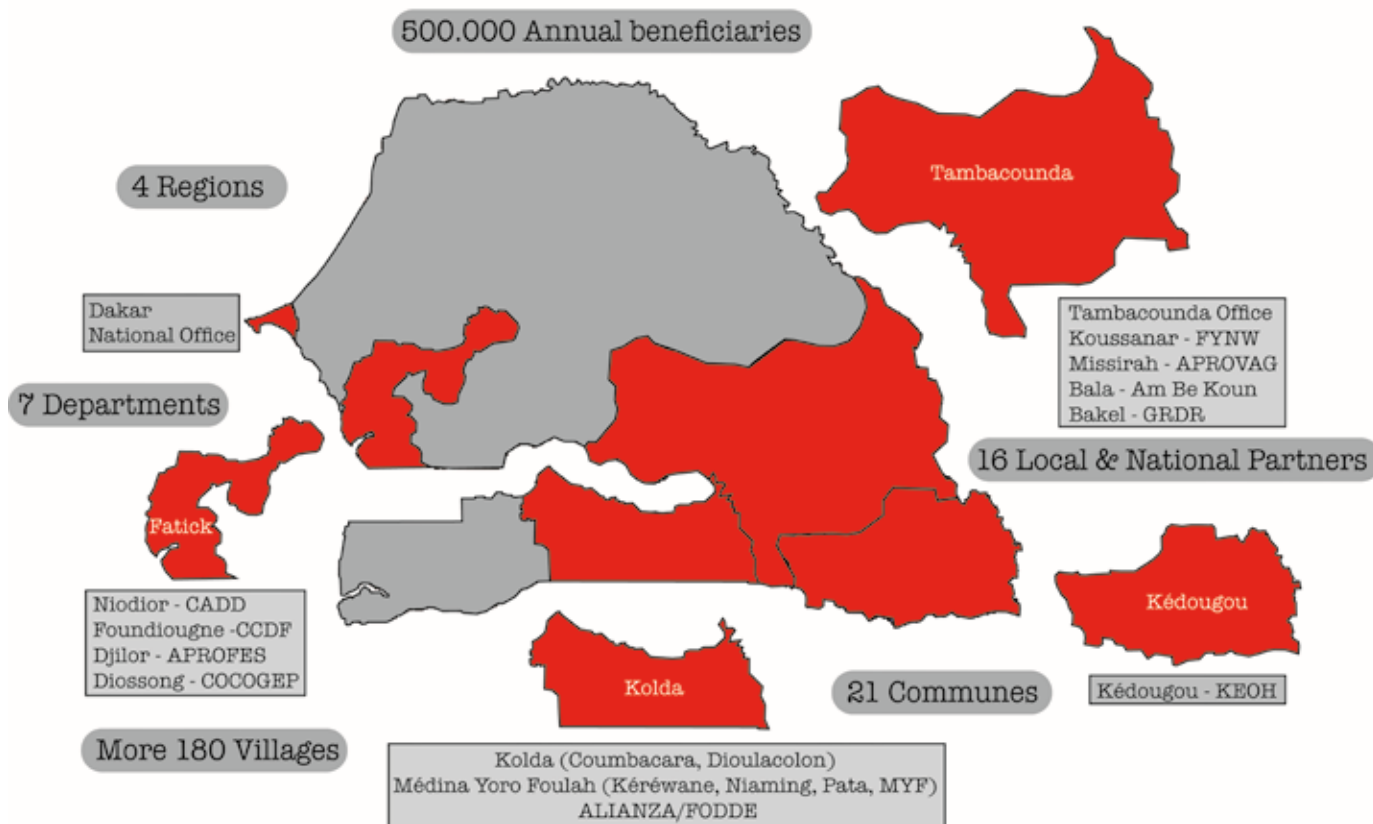


Areas of intervention

Actionaid Senegal operates in 4 regions: Tambacounda and Kedougou (Eastern zone), Fatick (Central zone) Kolda (Southern zone) because these regions are among the poorest in Senegal. The head office of the Country Programme is located in Dakar and supported by a regional office based in Tambacounda.

All the achievements mentioned below in these areas were possible because of strong partnerships with local, national, and international Civil Society Organizations.

Areas of intervention of ActionAid Senegal (LRP)







2021 Context

The year 2021 was marked by the consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis, which, although contained, had a severe impact on Senegal's economy.

Fundraising opportunities were also limited in 2021 for legal and development programs. This is due to the fact that the majority of funds were channeled towards humanitarian responses during and after COVID.

On the political front, high levels of tension led to clashes between populations across the country in March 2021. There was a particularly large mobilization of adolescents and youth during these social protests, which resulted in 11 deaths. The basic demands of these social protestors were:

-  Inflation
-  Youth unemployment
-  Corruption of public systems.
-  Inequality reinforced by unequal power dynamics

Senegalese agriculture has traditionally depended on cash crops (groundnuts, cotton) and subsistence food crops (rice, millet, sorghum, corn). More recently, the production of high value-added fruits and vegetables (onions, mangoes, watermelons, but also tomatoes and bananas) has increased considerably due to the many comparative advantages of these products and the development support policies that benefit these sectors.

In addition, ecological agriculture, which, for ActionAid and many other organizations, remains one of the safest responses to the effects of climate change, is still poorly supported. Consequently, such a scenario increases the vulnerability of communities due to their high dependence on rainfall conditions and the availability of productive land. Thus, food and nutritional security, the fight against rural poverty and the promotion of sustainable agriculture remain urgent challenges in Senegal. In addition, women's access to land is still low despite a favorable legal framework and programs initiated by the Senegalese government to reverse this situation. As a key sector of the Senegalese economy, there is urgent need for the agricultural sector to promote a more inclusive gender approach.



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Women's vulnerability is also characterized by the lack of access to education, which affects girls who, although enrolled in school, still live under the threat of early marriage that may force them to drop out. Also, the unequal distribution of domestic work undermines their economic ambition and their desire to participate in the life of the city. Senegal is recognized in West Africa as one of the most proactive countries in education. The country is considered one of the best performing countries in terms of girls' enrollment and retention rates. However, the context also informs territorial challenges exacerbated by negative gender norms. For example, the regions of Kedougou and Tambacounda have secondary school completion rates of less than 30% for girls despite favorable indices for girls in terms of enrollment (sometimes between 1 and 10% higher than boys). In the region of Fatick and in the Saloum Islands in particular, an emerging phenomenon is that of boys dropping out of school, more interested in supporting their families. Some choose to invest in fishing while other cohorts prefer to embark on irregular migration routes, which exposes them to the risk of physical harm and loss of dignity (and sometimes even loss of life).

ActionAid's interventions under the Education theme are taking place within a favorable context with political will to give priority to education. This has been demonstrated once again through an increase in the education budget. Indeed, from 526,270,540,817 CFA francs in 2020, the budget of the Ministry of National Education increased to 597,848,738,341 CFA francs in 2021, which translates to an increase of nearly 15 billion CFA francs.

On the other hand, it is realised that most of the women's rights organizations with which ActionAid Senegal collaborates have seen their power weakened, by the lack of financial means to implement their programs. In addition, the pandemic affected program activities from July to September 2021, forcing program staff to prioritize activities and postpone to the last quarter.

The year 2021 was also the first year of celebration of the 2020 law criminalizing pedophilia and rape. While this law is welcome, among other advances, it should be noted that the country still faces a rate of violence against women and girls that still increasing according to (National statistic and demography report 2019). Whether it is domestic violence, economic violence, rape, forced marriage or child marriage, the country is struggling to reduce the indicators of violence against women and girls, particularly in rural areas and amongst those far from decision-making centers. This is more worrying because women and girls find themselves at the crossroads of multidimensional and intersectional crises, which exacerbate their vulnerability despite strong political will.

ActionAid's 2021 program has therefore attempted to contribute to the agenda of women and girls' rights and those of their communities implemented by the Government of Senegal.

Our achievements and success against objectives priorities

150 women farmers did benefit from knowledge and sustainable farming techniques



The **250** AVEC (Village Savings and Credit Associations) that we have set up since 2015 in different LRPs



Accompanied more than **7,700** women and their respective communities to improve their livelihoods

A total of **755** women, **250** girls and **160** men was effectively sensitized on FGM-VBG feminist leadership



10 women champions shared their experiences with women and girls as a results hundreds of women joined the decision making bodies sometime as a deputy mayor



7 communities radios debates organized on GBV and economic empowerment contributed to reduce the number of GBV cases at communities level



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

Under Priority 1, ActionAid has initiated an agenda for the development of a community-based Care Model for Victims of Violence (VCMC). Community-based structures to address violence against women and girls will be established in the context of each of the 190 communities with which ActionAid works. The mandate of these structures is to help communities analyze their contexts and identify the types, forms and causes of violence induced by prevailing social norms. These structures will then develop responses based on these same norms, whilst strengthening their comprehension and capacity to access and use available public services. A national training session followed by the establishment of a working group helped lay the groundwork for this agenda of empowering women and girls in the face of violence. These structures, which involve community leaders and all segments of the community, will now serve as community safety nets for women and girls. be the guardians of the safety of their women and girls. This training involved all 7 LRPs with which ActionAid collaborates: Djilor, Niodior, Koussanar, Bala, Missirah, Bakel and Kédougou. The process will continue into 2022.

A program radio debate on violence at the community was organized in intervention zones namely in the regions of Fatick, Tambacounda and Kedougou. LRPs did take advantage of the International Women’s Day, which is celebrated on 8 March of each year. These programs, animated by community representatives, helped to raise awareness in the communities and to disseminate the legal and political instruments that protect women’s rights in Senegal.



These are notably the constitution, the law against female genital mutilation (fgm), the law on parity, the national strategy for the promotion of gender and equity, the law against rape and pedophilia, and the national strategy against female genital mutilation. It was also an opportunity to inform the communities about the public services made available to them by the state of senegal for the actualization of their rights. A total of 755 women, 250 girls and 160 men was effectively sensitized, 7 communities radios were involved under the leadership of the partners and 7 community champions. The panel discussion organized with the ministry of women affairs with 20 cso during the 16 days of activism were also an opportunity to question gender sensitive public services in terms of budget, program, and availability. The panel was an opportunity to share the findings of the study on the impact of debt on the wage bill conducted by actionaid.

The study revealed that about 21% of senegal's budget (about 900 billion cfa) is devoted to the payment of external debt, which affects the country's capacity to put in place public services that are available, accessible, acceptable, and adapted to the needs of women and girls. On this occasion, each of the intervention zones under the leadership of their representatives (about 35 women leaders) produced strong advocacy messages for the attention of the different ministries in charge (women, family, gender and child protection, health and social affairs, justice, internal security, economy, and finance). The commitments made were also to significantly strengthen the leadership of more than 7,000 women and girls to reduce violence against them in their communities and beyond.

Community sensitization within each of the 80 community governance spaces (Reflection Actions Circles) will continue by equipping them with a toolkit on human rights and violence.



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Celebration of 16 Days of Activism women in the fort from to fight austerity

In Senegal, domestic violence has reached a worrying proportion of the population (more than 60%) and is often followed by killings. Added to this are other forms of violence, such as sexual, psychological, and economic violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation, women and girls trafficking, sexual exploitation, and unpaid care and domestic work. ActionAid Senegal with different national partners including The Ministry of women affairs, ministry of agriculture, ministry of health and social affairs, Association of lawyers (AJS), GDSP, Save the children, and LRP partners embarked on a national campaign to combat violence against women and girls. This is possible thanks to the legal provision in place which recognizes and promotes women and girls' rights but also the commitment demonstrated by national actors. Rising inequality, gender injustice and the climate crisis are part of everyday life. It is therefore urgent to review the fundamental role of redistribution of the state and to re-imagine the public sector.

These situations happened during COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in economic crisis (Senegalese economic inflation is average 5%). It's happened that the debt situation with IMF conditionalities impact negatively on the living conditions of the most vulnerable people. Over the last forty years, austerity policies in developing countries have led to downsizing in the public sector that have undermined the ability of governments to deliver quality public services.

The research conducted by ActionAid was part of the contribution to collective reflection initiated in support of government action and aims to have evidence to develop a new narrative that is more realistic and adapted to the contexts of Senegal. This study contributes to the global study conducted by the ActionAid federation, which by establishing evidence of external pressures imposed on our governments and countries hopes to contribute to building alliances of strong national actors committed to claiming the rights of women and girls to live free from violence through available public services, accessible, adapted and accepted.



Story of change 1: Chantal is committed to enhance Nguene women resilient capacity

The intervention of AAS in the district of Missirah dates back to 2007 in ten villages. Among these villages is Nguene, located about twenty kilometers from the capital of the district. The population livelihood is derived mainly on agriculture, livestock, and petty trade. Women and girls are at the heart of our intervention in this village. One of the women leaders shows us her appreciation.

“My name is Chantal Aram Tine; I live in the village of Nguene. I am 55 years old mother of 7 children including 3 daughters. I am an awning producer, president of the Nguene unit for 2 years, member of the GFP and the RAC (Reflection Action Cycle) and of the “AVEC” group. Prior to ActionAid’s intervention in our village along with its partner APROVAG, the inequality between men and women was very accentuated, especially on access and control of resources such as access to land. add the impact of climate change such as flooding and high winds that were increasingly weakening my economic power and making me more vulnerable. Before, I was only active in banana production, I encountered difficulties in accessing financing, I did not know of the existence of this International Women’s Day on March 08, 2021, for the promotion of women’s rights and leadership. feminine because we most often face economic and physical violence.

The joint intervention of ActionAid and APROVAG in our village allowed me to become a member of the RAC in addition with training on female leadership, on the processing of local cereals, on financial education, etc. I have strengthened my leadership and I know my rights and duties.





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I also joined the “AVEC” group, which allowed me to save money and access loans to buy organic inputs for my banana plot. With this capitalized experience, I was elected president of the banana processing unit that process Banana into Thiakry, Araw, Thiéré, Sankhal and producing infant flour. Today we have several sources of income that allow us to deal with the impacts of climate change and prevent violence.

The organization of International Women’s Day March 8, 2021, by ActionAid Senegal and APROVAG was a good opportunity for me to meet other women leaders and partners at the national level. This day allowed me to understand the constraints based on gender in different areas but also to be aware of the negative effects of climate change, especially on rural women who have difficulty accessing and controlling resources and to propose collective solutions, I learned that in order to be resilient in the face of the current context, it is important to diversify sources of income and beyond banana production, which is our main activity, to do market gardening, processing, participate in training, at the Foundiougne or Dakar fair, at the Reflection Action Cycle at the “AVEC”.

APROVAG and ActionAid have set up a RAC to strengthen the awareness of women about their rights through animation and awareness sessions. I attended a lot of capacity building training for women on their rights. Every year I participate in the two major fair activities on women’s rights, namely March 8 and the 16 days of activism. Today, thanks to these achievements, I feel confident and experienced enough to be the ambassador of the women of my community for the respect of their rights. I ask APROVAG and its partner ActionAid to organize these kinds of activities every year so that local authorities can hear the voices of women and girls’.

Projet DAMCAM : Her voice, Her choice

- ▶ Digital communication materials accessible to adolescents were developed with them
- ▶ Teens were trained in the use of social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube).
- ▶ Ultimate outcome 1000: Improved access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, with a focus on women and adolescent girls, in Kedougou region, Senegal.
- ▶ Outcome 1100: Improved gender responsive SRHR service provider practices for adolescent girls and boys and waste management in Kedougou Region, Senegal.
- ▶ Immediate outcome 1110: Increased capacity of teen counseling centers and health structures in the Kedougou region to deliver quality SDSR services to adolescents and meet national environmental standards.
- ▶ Teens understood the process of creating a channel, Instagram account and Facebook page.
- ▶ The teens created their respective accounts for their communities present at both workshops.
- ▶ Outcome 1200: Increased uptake of gender responsive SRHR services for adolescent girls and boys in Kedougou region, Senegal.
- ▶ Immediate outcome 1210: Improved knowledge of adolescent girls and boys in the Kedougou region of existing SRHR services.
- ▶ immediate outcome 1220: Reduced stigma of adolescent girls and boys related to the use of SRHR services in the Kedougou region.





Priority 2: Working with communities to address two social barriers that limit girls' access to education in three regions of Senegal

Under Priority 2, as part of the implementation of the program «Pour une Ecole Promotrice des Droits à École» or PRS, the year 2021 was an opportunity to support 49 elementary schools and 4 high schools and colleges in capacity building on school governance and community accountability systems, leading to the realization of the right of children to education. Some of these schools are engaged in effectively ensuring respect of children's right to education, improvement of the school environment, improvement of school facilities, through the strengthening of school management committees. 155 girls have also been supported to improve their academic performance through a partnership with the teachers' union. To this end, during 2021, four of the seven main teachers' unions agreed to accompany the PRS process. Two blocks of latrines were renovated to allow more than 140 students and 9 teachers to improve their access to sanitation at school. ActionAid was also confirmed as the civil society representative on the Education Partners and Donors Working Group, which is chaired by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. Through advocacy, ActionAid secured the support of the working group to ensure accountability by pushing for the creation of a monitoring and evaluation subgroup within the working group that, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, will be responsible for developing a robust monitoring and evaluation system capable of tracking the performance of the education system.





ActionAid supported the provision of school materials for more than 1,050 children, including 764 girls, enabling them to continue learning.

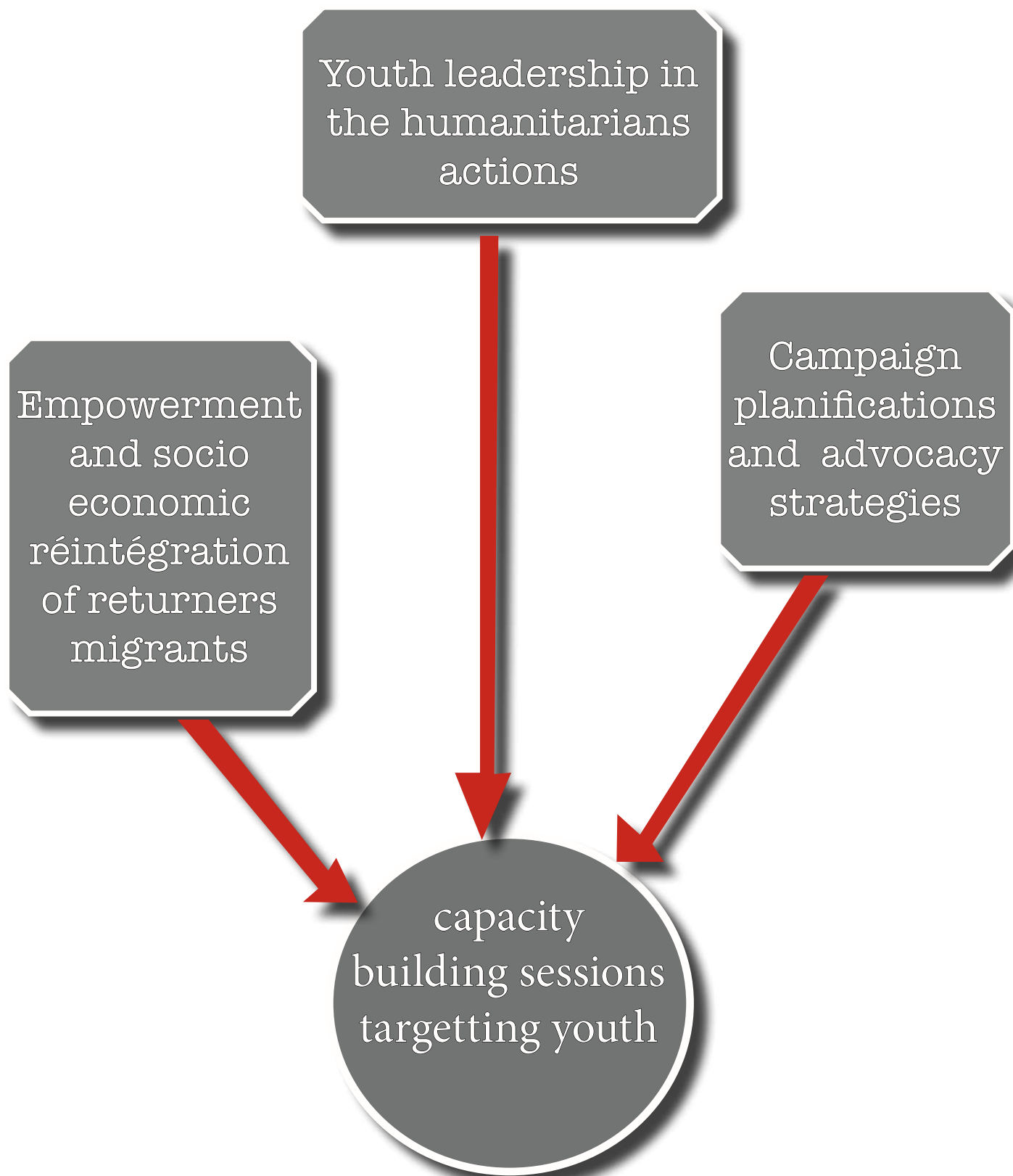
In Bala school benefited from a fence wall for the safety of the children and another school in the department of Goudiry and the district of Bala benefited from a well to also improve the learning environment of the children.

11 schools, including 3 middle schools and 1 pre-school, were helped to develop safety and protection measures for the school environment for children, especially girls. This has included roadside awareness campaigns, anti-violence awareness campaigns, training of education services on the management and elimination of violence. This has also included the provision of quality equipment including tables, teaching materials for teachers, and mats for the 130 children in the Bakel pre-school. In Foundiougne, 8 schools, including a middle school and a high school, are being supported to develop a tool to fight against violence in the school environment.

ActionAid also engaged with national and local actors in conducting various research to support its policy advocacy program focused on progressive taxation, public financing of gender-sensitive public services and debt cancellation.

ActionAid has also been able to support 35 schools, including two pre-schools, two middle schools and a high school in the Djilor district in the development of a transparent and inclusive governance system. This process includes the development of financial management tools, the upgrading of management committees and the dissemination of policies and legislation governing the education sector.

Global Platform, spaces for youth engagement in governance and public accountability



Youth Leadership in Humanitarian Action

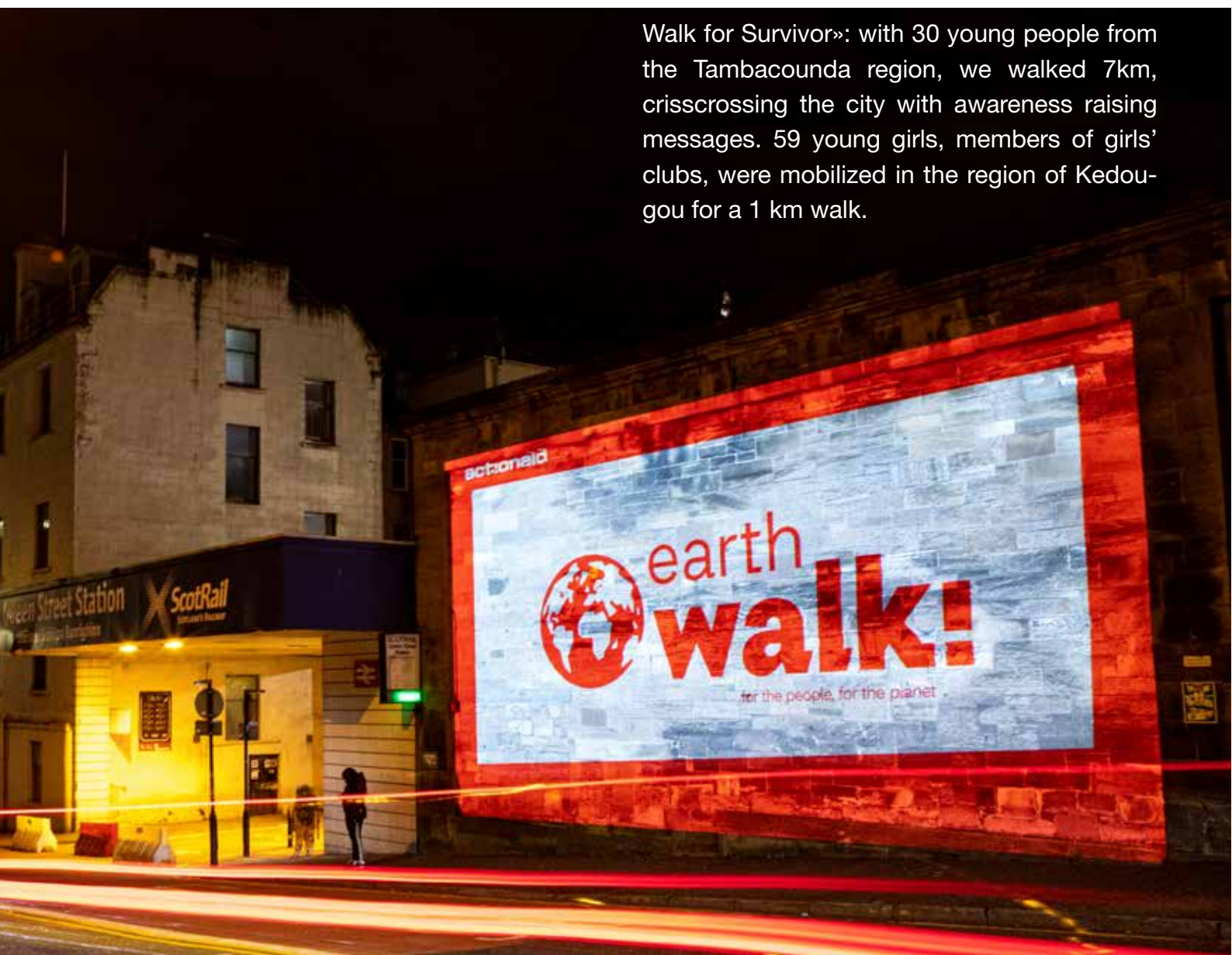
A training session was delivered for youth leaders on humanitarian responses in crisis situations, to facilitate an introduction to ActionAid’s humanitarian signature, to have a framework of expressions to discuss the place and responsibility of youth in the fight against Covid-19, to share case studies and to develop the intervention model in humanitarian response, and also learning about public action in humanitarian response interventions

Capacity building in advocacy and campaign

20 trained youth members of the Red Cross and the Conscious Movement of Tambacounda were brought together to reflect on the impact of climate change in different LRPs through ActionAid’s Reflection Action tools such as: stack analysis, power analysis and message sunshine.

Awareness raising campaigns

Walk for Survivor>>: with 30 young people from the Tambacounda region, we walked 7km, crisscrossing the city with awareness raising messages. 59 young girls, members of girls’ clubs, were mobilized in the region of Kedougou for a 1 km walk.



EOL- Education Out Loud Project funded by GPE and in partnership with global tax justice and education actors for a three-year period (2021-2023).

This project falls under our priority two, aims to build the capacity of local and national organizations on cross-sectoral dialogue between education and public finance actors to improve domestic financing for education. In Senegal, the project funded by the Global Partnership through Oxfam IBIS is implemented with national partners COSYDEP (National Coalition of Education Stakeholders), the Civil Forum (CSO with recognized expertise on taxation issues) and USEQ (coalition of teachers' unions affiliated to Education International).

For 2021, the first year of the project, priority has been given to capacity building of civil society and community actors on the themes of taxation, governance of the education sector, and gender-sensitive advocacy for an effective strengthening of domestic financing of education.

For 2021, 34 actors from more than 8 civil society organizations, including CICODEV, FAWE, CNDRAO, CADD, KEOH, etc., were trained on progressive taxation issues, tax niches at the country level that would allow the country to strengthen its capacity to generate endogenous resources, risks related to the privatization of education and advocacy.

This meeting also allowed for the establishment of a group of actors committed to stabilizing and increasing domestic public financing of education for the achievement of SDG 4 in favor of girls.



© Jamba Chissokho/APROVAG

Story of change 2: School girls and boys in Fayako are advocating for their right to education

Seynabou Sidibé is a second grader at Fayako Elementary School. She is 13 years old; she is one of the winners of school award during this school year 2020-2021. She is an excellent student.

Her impression on the day of the African Child, celebrated on June 16 of each year, is expressed below.

“I am very happy to be among the students awarded on the occasion of the Day of the African Child. Before this type of action, we used to go to school but without really understanding why. Because of this, parents did not attach much importance to school. When the time of fishing or seafood gathering came, we accompanied them to the sea instead of going to school. Now parents have understood the importance of children’s rights and education especially for girls. This award ceremony encourages us to persevere in school.

The young girl sees the organization of this day to advocate excellence and also encourage girls to go to school. It shows that girls are also intelligent and that they can also contribute to building their communities. I thank the actors of this day, namely the CADD, ActionAid, the CODEC, IEF and the teachers for their unfailing commitment to the service of education and especially for the protection of children. With the PRS, we who are in landlocked areas, feel supported by partners and authorities who accompany us to implement our action plan so that our schools are well built and solid.

We also sensitize the local authorities so that the town hall builds infrastructures adapted to the islands with special equipment for the girls. We took advantage of the celebration to sensitize our parents on the safety rights of children who must cross the sea to get to school. I am very happy, and I thank CADD and ActionAid.”



ActionAid Senegal Advocates Against Austerity Measures to promote social justice

Officially launched on October 12, 2021, the ActionAid shared the global report of its study entitled “The Public vs. the Cult of Austerity” through an ongoing eight-hour Zoom webinar launch event where many countries had to share key data/evidence from their own research. The presentations were divided into the regions of Asia, Latin America, East, West, Southern and West Africa. The West Africa segment included Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria was facilitated by ActionAid Senegal country Director. In addition to ActionAid colleagues who joint massively this report launch we also register the participation of teacher Union, tax justice network, public service international, a representative of Ministry of finance,

The different interventions emphasized the importance to mobilize social movement, academia, civil society in various sectors (education, health, agriculture, etc.) to advocate for paradigm shift through challenging neoliberalism system, with the austerity measures recommended by IFM. The need to invest on gender responsive public services was also raised by the participant to make it more inclusive and transparent. The ActionAid Senegal report “The impact of Debt service on the public sector wage bill and gender sensitive quality public services in Senegal provides very interesting recommendations which can help to transform public services and achieve social justice.”





Governments, finance ministries and the IMF must go beyond their rhetoric and show real change in practice:

- ▶ Stop pursuing austerity policies in the face of financial, health, inequality, and climate crises, given that it is known that this will prolong the economic recession and undermine the economic recovery.
- ▶ Recognize the contribution of the public sector to economic growth and development, including the impact on unpaid care work and gender equality.
- ▶ Set ambitious targets for progressive tax reforms, using progressive taxes, especially on the wealthy, to raise tax rates relative to GDP by at least 5% by 2030.
- ▶ Support more ambitious programs of debt cancellation and rescheduling, and help governments restructure their debts so that they can prioritize investments in quality public services.
- ▶ Set ambitious targets to increase the public sector wage bill year on year to reinvigorate public services after decades of decline.
- ▶ Recognize that the public sector workforce is part of the basic national infrastructure that must be protected and strengthened, even at the height of the recession.



Priority 3: Promote women's economic empowerment through the elimination of social norms that limit their rights to sustainable natural resource management.

Under Priority 3, the activities that have been implemented at the community and national levels to achieve the objectives include capacity building activities, activities relating to the provision of equipment and advocacy initiatives.

To strengthen the resilience of communities particularly exposed to the effects of climate change, they have been supported in developing climate change adaptation plans as part of disaster management and natural resource preservation. At the level of the 5 LRPs: Missirah, Koussanar, Djilor, Niodior, Kedougou; the preservation of natural resources according to ActionAid requires, among other things, capacity building in innovative and creative production techniques. Therefore, in the Djilor district, 30 women from the Kamatane community have been trained and equipped to make ecological charcoal using resources other than wood. In the same vein, the communities of Missirah have set up firebreaks in anticipation of the dry season, when many bush fires occur in the district. In Niodior, more than 4 hectares of mudflats have been planted. All these adaptation and biodiversity preservation activities were initiated under the direction of community disaster management committees set up at the village level by ActionAid and its partners, namely APROFES in Djilor, CADD in Niodior, Fédération Yakar Niani Wully in Koussanar and APROVAG in Missirah.

Hence 60 women from the communities of Missirah, Niodior and Koussanar were trained on risk management and vulnerability analysis in the context of climate change. This training allowed the communities to understand the different vulnerabilities that their resources face, to measure the existing capacities within the communities, to set up risk management committees to take charge of risk management at the community level and to be the interface between the communities and the institutional actors intervening in their area.

In 2021, we also continued the seed multiplication program for 153 women in the Koussanar district, to enable these women to become self-sufficient in seeds and thus consolidate both their food security and their source of income. We hope that this will enable them to be more resilient to the vagaries of the climate and to negative and violent environmental changes. Aware of the loss of traditional sources of income and the complexity of the causes of this situation, ActionAid has included in its resilience program an important component dedicated to diversifying sources of income by developing economic alternatives for and with communities. Thus, two units processing cereals and other local products as well as banana-based soap have been supported in the districts of Missirah and Bala for the benefit of more than 150 women in each area.

In the same area, community chicken coops have also been set up or strengthened, as well as AVEC (Association Villageoise d'Épargne et de Crédit) funds, of which there are more than 50 spread over the departments of Tambacounda. These funds now allow women and young people to have resources to finance their own activities without depending on traditional financing systems that are more restrictive for small grants.

In terms of documentation and advocacy, and to capture both good practices and messages from communities, ActionAid creates spaces for collective reflection where communities, national actors and decision-makers meet to exchange and consider possible solutions for the actualization of social justice, particularly in the context of climate change.



Celebration of International Rural women day and world food day

The International Rural Women Day and World food day are celebrated all around the world to call world leaders and policy makers to fulfill their commitment to achieve the 17 SDGs. In Senegal two days' workshop were organized by ActionAid, in collaboration with the Social and Political Dialogue Group (CSO group) and scaling up nutrition platform (SUN), LRP partners, in the context of the Decade of Family Farming and the Year of Nutrition.

The meeting brought together also the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection, FAO and research institutions such as ISRA, the National Secretariats in charge of Nutrition and Food Security.

Several presentations were made as well as some testimonies on best practices which some of the organizations are experiencing in ground and amplified to influence positively the policies.

The Ministry of women affairs will base on the conversion will launch shortly a resilience building programme to strengthen women farmers economic empowerment in order to fight violence against women and promote social and economic justice. The recommendation targeting CSO and local partners will be followed and update will be share the next IWD.

High level panel with the ministry of women affairs and UNWOMEN Regional Director



Story of change 3: Empowering women in Bala community through training in financial management and marketing

Bala is an area of Eastern Senegal where the forest is full of baobabs. This natural resource is prized by communities for its edible fruits and leaves. Baobab fruit is used to make juice for drinking which is consumed in households and during family ceremonies. The baobab fruit even has therapeutic virtues for people. This is what makes it widely used by people. The women of the locality of Bala have therefore invested in the collection and transformation of baobab fruits into powder for commercial purposes, as a means of bolstering women's access to income. They organized themselves into a group to start the processing activity. ActionAid in its objectives of economic empowerment of women, creation of jobs for women, development of female leadership at community level has supported women with the smooth running of the activity of processing baobab fruit into powder. Various actions have therefore been carried out for the benefit of women through technical training, support in processing equipment, training in hygiene, management, marketing, and management of financial resources. This activity has considerably changed the status of women in terms of their level of income, their self-confidence, and women's leadership. The next story is that of Ndeye Fatou.

“My name is Ndeye Fatou Sebor, I am the President of the Bala Baobab Fruit Processors. I am not from Bala. It was after my marriage that I joined which happens to be the locality of residence of my husband.

I live here now with my children. Bala is an area where women do not have many opportunities to access income.





Women generally engage in petty trade and market gardening for income. The market gardening activity does not generally last long with the difficulties of access to water and the income derived from it is not so substantial to meet all our needs. This is the reason why women have turned to processing the baobab fruit into powder. Indeed, baobab fruit powder is widely consumed by people since it is used in the preparation of juice or certain foods such as porridge. The women therefore saw it as a good opportunity to earn income. The women have therefore organized themselves into groups to invest more in the processing of baobab fruit. So, I joined the group of women to better integrate myself but also to have a job and income. We have therefore set up groups to work in turns and have time to take care of household chores. This is how we started our activity until ActionAid came to support us to better supervise our work. Thanks to the support of ActionAid, we have learned a lot. ActionAid allowed us to understand the need to set up baobab parks to preserve this resource necessary for our activity in a context of climate change. Capacity building has greatly improved our technical capacities, the management of the group and the distribution of financial resources. The supervision of ActionAid has greatly contributed to women's access to income and the development of women's leadership in our community. If I take my example, the income I derive from this activity allows me to participate in the needs of the household in terms of buying food, contributing to the education of my children. The great satisfaction I had with this activity is that I was able to buy a piece of land of 8 m² with the money from the sale of monkey bread powder. It is also this money that will allow me to build on this land. Indeed, I will build a store and rent it out. It's another source of income that opens to me and all that thanks to the baobab fruit and the support of ActionAid, which encourages women to develop various economic alternatives in a context where agriculture no longer works as it used to climate change."

Niodior Project: Strengthening the resilience of rural communities to environmental and climate change

The LRP of Niodior in the Saloum Islands, which is heavily affected by climate change, as part of our third priority, has benefited from the Niodior project (2021-2022) thanks to funding from an Italian foundation. The project is specifically implemented in the Commune of Djirnda and the beneficiary villages of Baout, Diamniadio; Nghadior and Djirnda. These communities are in the heart of the Saloum Delta and contain important melliferous potentialities.

In order to help restore the resources of this delta, which is classified as a World Heritage Site and is part of the RAMSAR sites, the project has strengthened the capacities of 20 women and 1 man in honey production in order to provide the beneficiaries with alternative sources of income.

Beekeeping, which is considered an adaptation and mitigation strategy to climate change, can help strengthen alternative incomes so that initiatives such as organic rest are fully respected. The beneficiaries of this training were also provided with equipment to set up a loaf and harvest mangrove honey.

ActionAid also produced various capitalization and advocacy documents on the themes of climate change and resilience mechanisms developed with the support of communities and local partners.



Story of change 4: Scaling up Agroecology practices to improve Women's Leadership

ActionAid Senegal has been engaged in the agroecological transition for several years, aware that sustainable development preserves the health of humans, animals, and nature for generations. Thus, to fight against food insecurity in a context of chronic poverty and for the economic empowerment of women, AAS supports women's groups in setting up market gardening areas that respect the environment where the milestones of food security will be developed. This more than topical theme is addressed by AAS in its interventions.

Market gardens help provide food diversity for remote communities in addition to providing additional income for women and girls to strengthen their leadership.

ActionAid Senegal has invested in all the means of production for the proper functioning of the market gardens, such as fence mesh, drilling of wells, and installation of solar pumps. Capacity building activities were also carried out on composting for soil fertilization, the manufacture of natural pesticides for the protection of plants against insect attacks. Our involvement in DYTAES gives us space for advocacy and policy influence. Thanks to the combined actions of civil society organizations, the state of Senegal granted a 10% subsidy on organic fertilizers (i.e., a subsidy of 15,000 tons out of the 150,000 tons in total).

Noteworthy changes have been observed: because most the farmers work with stopped using chemical inputs. Women in particular implement agro-ecological practices, composting, mulching, biological control of insects.



An improvement in the nutritional quality of meals through the production of diversified vegetables is evident as well as an increase in the purchasing power of women and better support for the education and health of children, access to savings and credit.

“My name is Coumba Coulibaly, I am 50 years old. Like all women, I like to take care of my family and my children, the garden helps me a lot in this regard. Currently 40 women are active in the garden. Today, thanks to the garden, we cook without buying vegetables except rice or palm oil. The restrictive measures taken by the state during COVID-19 have been difficult for us. Fortunately, thanks to the market gardens, we were able to get up because we were able to eat the fresh vegetables harvested directly from the garden, we were unable to sell the surplus at the local market during the period of COVID-19 when everything was closed, the garden gave us a lot helps. We were even able to contribute to the repair of the pump up to 500,000F. The garden is of paramount importance in terms of meeting the financial needs of the family, especially the school fees and health costs of the children. I also salute the training courses that focused on ecological farming techniques that guarantee a healthy environment and healthy products for better health. My greatest satisfaction will be the maintenance of these achievements to register this perimeter in the long term for the benefit of all women and the community.”



Understand ActionAid Senegal contribution to the West Africa and Mediterranean Delegation on Migration

ActionAid Senegal’s role and continued engagement in the West Africa and Mediterranean delegation (WAM) was reinforced in November 2021 through the hosting of a face-to-face meeting of the delegation’s members in Dakar. The meeting brought together the delegation’s technical focal points from the following ActionAid offices: ActionAid the Gambia, ActionAid Italy, ActionAid Nigeria, Alianza por la Solidaridad (ActionAid Spain) and ActionAid Senegal. Migration presents an opportunity to bring ActionAid offices together, in particular with Dakar as a hub for the West Africa work as the delegation continues to build out its programme portfolio and policy engagement.

The meeting reinforced and reinvigorated the objectives of the delegation, namely, to promote human rights in the migration space whilst maximising the positive effects of migration and minimising the negative, and moved forward the delegation’s Theory of Change, providing more clarity on the links between migration and the topics on which ActionAid works. ActionAid Senegal is member of a larger CSO platform called REMIDEV (Network for Migration and development), in that regard we are pushing Senegalese government and ECOWAS to adopt a regional migration policy with a strong focus on human right so that migration can have a human face.



Phase Out Ceremony in Diossong LRP

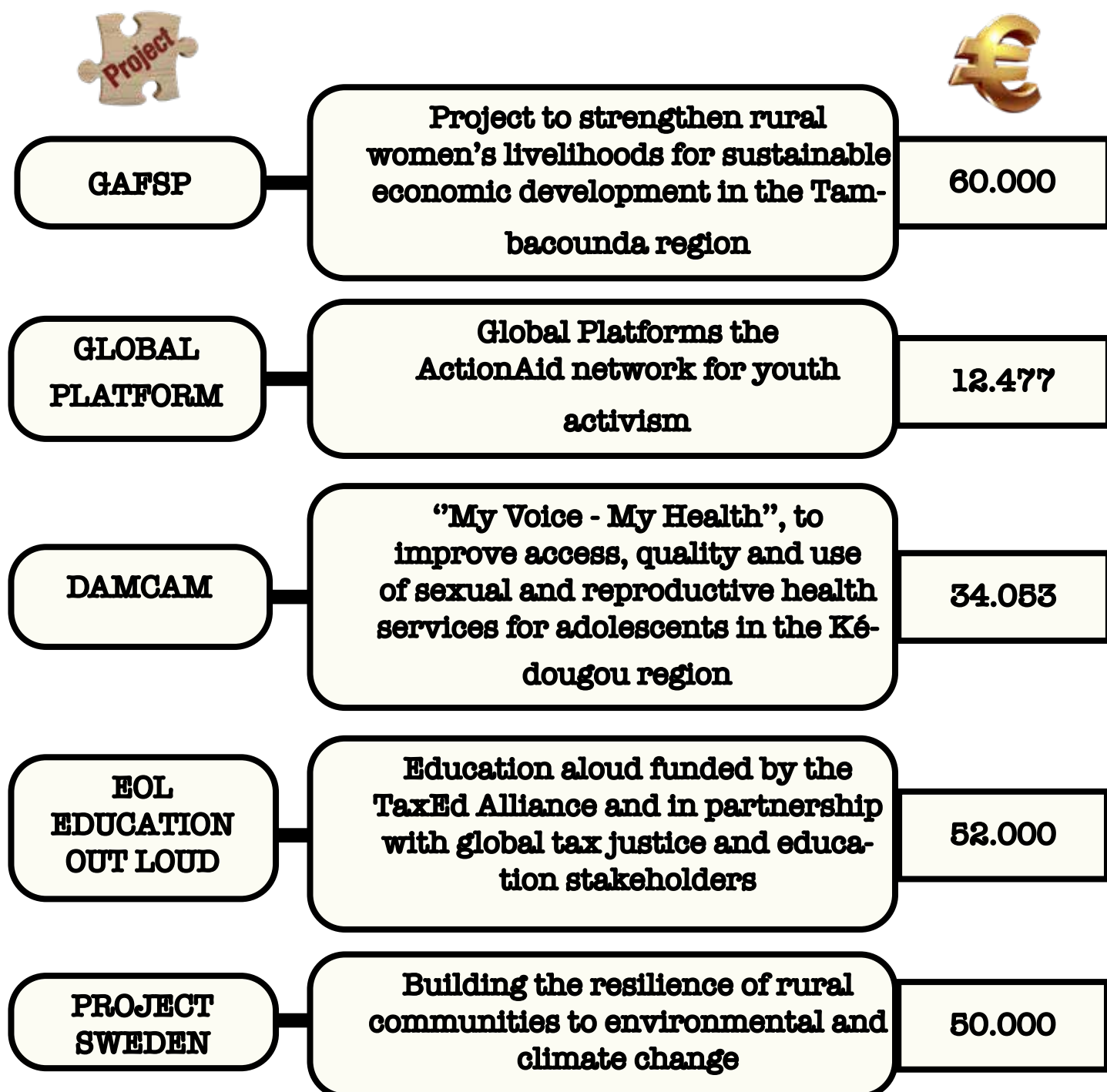
Ndiaye Diouf : LRP Champion “Thanks to ActionAid”



2021 Fundraising efforts

As per the country strategy paper 2018-2022 «Social Justice for Women and Girls, Let's Act Now»,

ActionAid Senegal is developing and nurturing the means to put its words and values into action by committing itself to diversifying its funding mix and increasing income via different projects:



Fundraising is one of the CP's priorities and a critical component during the lifespan of the 2018-2022 strategic period. In 2021, AAS embarked on a learning mission to The Gambia around fundraising that allowed us to make the following resolutions:

- ▶ Take advantage of the opportunities available in Senegal, which is recognized as a hub in terms of resource mobilization in and for the sub-region, by improving visibility and strengthening strategic positioning at the national level.
- ▶ Explore opportunities for collaborative efforts and synergies with other ActionAid countries in the West African region, such as The Gambia, at both policy and programmatic levels.
- ▶ The decision to update the donor engagement strategy to maximize funding opportunities in the face of emerging challenges related to resource scarcity due to the COVID-19 health crisis, among others.
- ▶ The decision to plan joint multi-country missions to meet with donors on behalf of the ActionAid Federation, allowing us to embrace our dual citizenship. These meetings availed the CP an opportunity to present the interests of the ActionAid Federation and those of Senegal for the realization of the rights of women, youth and their communities. We have also strengthened our visibility by producing communication materials on each of the country program's programmatic priorities and thus attracting the attention of institutions such as Italian Cooperation, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, Spanish Cooperation, the Heinrich Boll Foundation and OSIWA.

These communication tools and materials also helped strengthen advocacy and influence with national institutions such as the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment. These results also served as a basis for sharing experiences within regional platforms such as GBV AoR (UNFPA-led regional cluster on GBV in development and humanitarian program), ANCEFA (African education NGO), FAHAMU (African Network on Agro-Ecology and Seed Saving), African Union Seed Committee.

The ambition of the country program is to become a key national and regional player in Senegal and in the West African sub-region. This requires and includes strong and quality governance that places accountability to communities at the center of its intervention. To this end, the country program has embarked on an organizational transformation process.

This process began with an organizational assessment that allowed us to

- ▶ Improve our understanding of the membership development process and issues.
- ▶ Identify priority action items and prerequisites before moving forward in the process
- ▶ Understand the importance of the national legal framework and the implications for the organization's current staff rights
- ▶ Have important information to develop a coherent and realistic action plan, supported by the entire country team.

Strengthening the team with new human resources in the areas of resource mobilization, youth engagement, and monitoring and evaluation was also beneficial in achieving the country program's objectives.

ActionAid Senegal Child Sponsorship modernization in progress

The implementation of ActionAid International’s new sponsorship management system, SAHAKOM, was a key element in the Child Sponsorship 2021 framework. This system is part of the modernization of sponsorship. A 5-day training was organized for the CSOs of the country programs followed by the official launch in September.

Subsequently, training sessions (virtual and face-to-face) were organized for the effective transfer of skills to implementing partners. Each partner now has an ActionAid account to access the new system.

The transition from NK to SK was completed in September 2021 with the transfer of 7541 active links.

Senegal has received a new allocation of 3772 new links for the year 2022 distributed as follows: Italy = 2139, Greece = 1019 and Great Britain (UK) = 614 which will allow Senegal to reach the bar of 10000 links which correspond to 10000 sponsored children on all the seven (07) zones of intervention of ActionAid in Senegal in 2022 as the federation wishes for all its member countries.



Organization priorities

Learnings and Ways forward

Ecological practices give women farmers more control and allow them to meet their own needs and increase their income while mitigating their exposure to climate shocks. Faced with the many difficulties that they encounter; the following recommendations are made:

Strengthen the capacities of women producers

There is a need to build women's capacity in agro-ecological practices and techniques. This requires innovation, science and technology to increase agricultural production and improve women's economic livelihoods. Supportive investment and a policy framework are needed to scale up these approaches.

Strengthen leadership and develop connections among women's groups

Given the important role of women in agriculture, there is an urgent need to strengthen rural women's leadership and networks and attract additional funding for their groups. Activities in rural areas need to be combined with advocacy so that policy makers and technical and financial partners change policies to address women's issues in agriculture in the broadest sense and agroecology practices.

Development and promotion of e Business for women

Digitization is essential to be competitive. If we want to invest in our infrastructure, we need to prioritize the digitization of all possible systems. This is one of the keys to improving and maintaining a high level of performance in an extremely competitive environment. The e business through digitalization can create more space for women to participate to the decision-making process.

Improve our intersection in programming and fundraising

Regarding women's rights, it is important to continue empowering women, as awareness is one of the most powerful weapons against gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls. Another key lesson is the importance of involving men in any gender-based violence behavior change program, as this improves their understanding and reduces the power barrier induced by invisible power. Creating collaborative women-led spaces at the community level allows women and men to practice power sharing without tension or competition. And action and reflection circles are therefore essential to actualizing women's rights and promoting their leadership. Documenting our achievement through a story telling will also contribute to improve our fundraising efforts.

ActionAid Senegal journey to Membership development process

ActionAid Senegal (AA S) has over the past few years had a long-held desire to pursue the path of Internationalisation. This process of transitioning from a Country Programme (CP) that is wholly dependent on AA UK, to that of a self-determined entity within the framework of a Federation, has always been our goal. In-order to achieve this objective, the CP has intensified efforts that would get us closer to attaining this, by carrying out an organisational restructuring process that commenced in 2016 and working towards improving our status within the AA S Risk Register. In July 2020, after tireless efforts, AA S was officially removed from the Red List. This was greeted with immense joy and further gave a renewed impetus for us to pursue Affiliation status.

Therefore, it is of vital importance that AA S has a holistic understanding of the entire Affiliation process, especially the administrative and governance requirements which need to be fulfilled. It is also imperative that AA S is aware of the challenges that await the team in-order to succeed in this process of full integration (Internationalisation and Nationalisation), and the requisite steps needed for the realisation of our individual and collective commitments.

In preparation of this process, the AA S held several meetings with the International Secretariat, the AA S SMT and All staff, to share information, agree on the expectations from the Federation and to develop a clear roadmap. Already an operationalisation document of the integration process with a roadmap had been produced for the management team.

The process of implementing the operational document is underway, involving a self-assessment exercise of ActionAid Senegal, frequent exchanges with the Federation's governance team and sharing of experiences with similar organisations in Senegal to engage on areas that promote good practice.

As a fully fledged member of the Federation, The Gambia Country Programme has completed its affiliation process and now has a Board of Directors and Assembly that represents its interest since 2013. The selection of The Gambia CP for this planned visit was deliberate and made logical sense. If we recall, it was because of the cross-border initiative that was nurtured by ActionAid Gambia, which blossomed and transitioned from ActionAid International's programme in Senegal, to what we now witness as an autonomous Country Programme since 2002.

This planned study visit to The Gambia will enable the ActionAid Senegal management team to learn from AAITG's experience and to seek advice on how to fully carry out this affiliation process. This study visit is part of the Internationalization process of ActionAid Senegal. The selection of The Gambia as stated above was based on several reasons. These include and not limited to, the proximity and affinity to Senegal, but also the fact that The Gambia as an Affiliate member, has vast experience with regards to change processes and organizational governance. The existence of a Board of Directors that provides oversight functions and a technical body that deals with the day-to-day implementation including the management of programmatic and organize.

To lay the foundations for a credible organization with a strong and effective governance system capable of integrating into the Federation and addressing the concerns of the rights holders.

The exchange and learning visit enable the top management to understand the different stages of the internationalization process, collected useful information on this process and to be inform about the conditions for setting up a Board of Directors and Assembly.



Critères de sélection des membres du conseil d'administration d'ActionAid Senegal

Expériences professionnelles et militantes	Qualités valeurs Saines et saines Disponibilité	Observations
Bonne connaissance en gouvernance organisationnelles	Intégrité, honnêteté, intégrité, honnêteté	Optimer les choix stratégiques de l'org.
Bonne connaissance des problématiques liées aux priorités organisationnelles	Avoir un casier judiciaire vierge	Gérer toute question nécessaire au bon fonctionnement de l'org.
Avoir une expérience de l'intervention des ONG au Sénégal	Bonne moralité	Lutter pour cette organisation sans CA d'une autre organisation sans
Bonne connaissance du contexte international des ONG	Bon réseautage	Respecter la diversité, la parité
Être multilingue, n'appartenant pas à un parti politique	Engagé dans le développement de son pays	Être financièrement autonome
Un universitaire sans coloration politique	Economiquement stable	Avoir un certain pouvoir d'action et d'influence sur un secteur de son des personnels
Une personnalité très influente bilingue		Avoir une certaine notoriété publique attestant de la bonne foi et caractère

Finances

The year 2021 was marked by the implementation of the new version of the Sun 6 accounting software in accordance with the schedule defined by the federation.

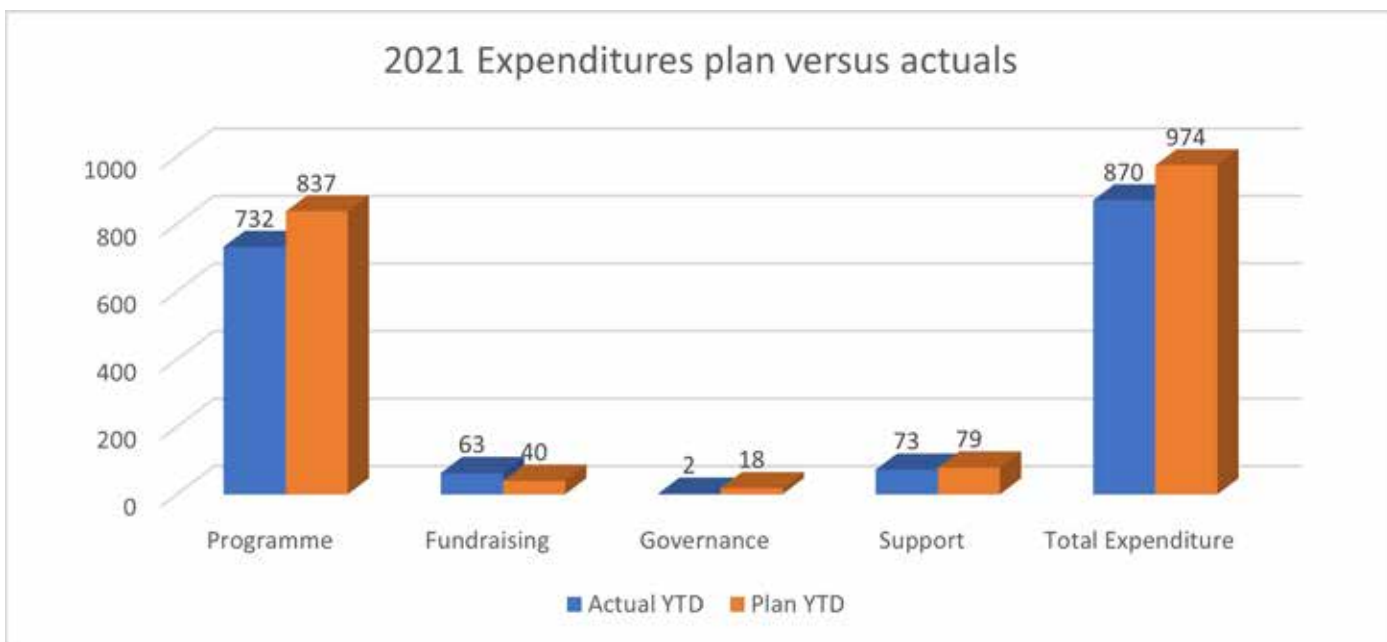
The gradual implementation of an internal control system designed to ensure the fluidity of supply channels and to prevent fraud, as well as to ensure that zero tolerance is applied to any shortcomings, has made it possible to strengthen internal governance and transparency at all levels of action.

Revenues during 2021 amounted to GBP 1,039k, an increase of GBP 240k against the previous year. However, due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19, the signing of some project contracts with FAO and FCDO has been postponed to 2022. This has had the effect of reducing the financial forecast somewhat in 2021.

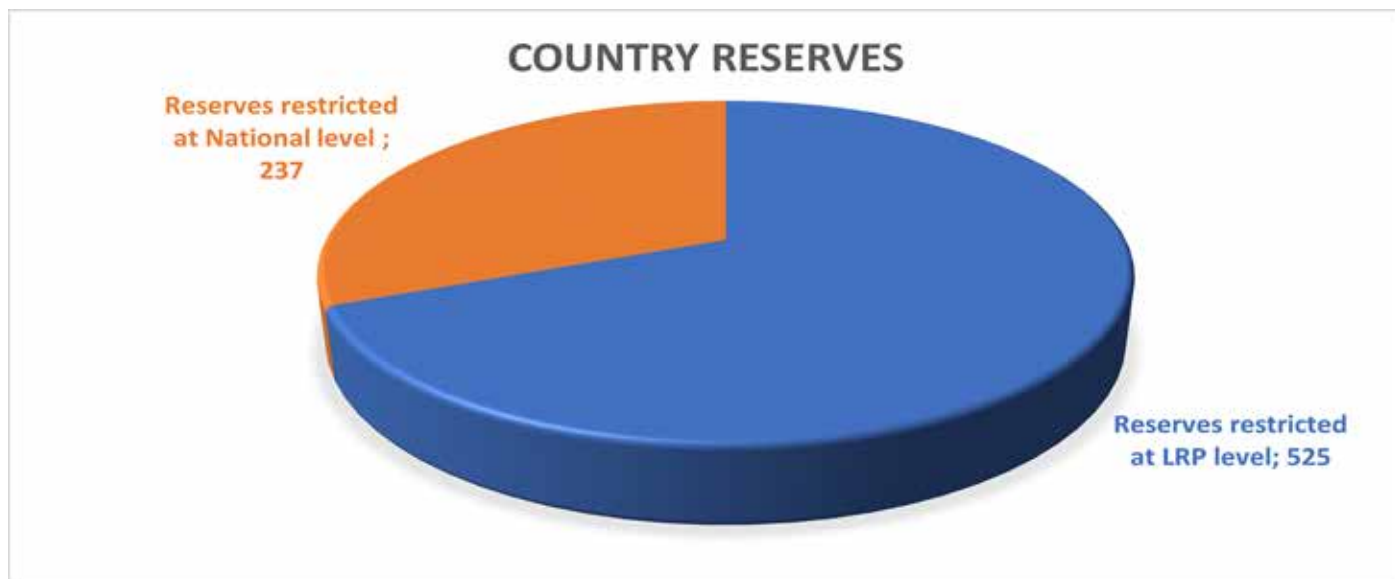
SECTION 1 : INCOME PERFORMANCE	2021		2020
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Actual YTD
Individual Giving - Regular	822	781	676
Individual Giving - Other	-	40	20
Philanthropy & Partnerships	96	5	8
Institutional	121	239	95
Other Income	-	-	-
Total External Income	1,039	1,065	799

Efforts in terms of cost recovery, savings and efficient use of available financial resources have been maintained in 2021 in order to make the best possible use of resources for the benefit of the communities. Thus, rather than adopting a unilateralist approach to planning,



ActionAid and its partners, with the support of its donors and supporters, reviewed the initial plans to eliminate or revise planned activities in light of the Covid 19 pandemic situation. This review allowed for a reduction in planned expenditures from a planned GBP 974k to actual costs of GBP 870k, a decrease of GBP 104k.




The country program reserve amounts to GBP 762k, 70% of which comes from savings on community resources due to the efficient use of resources made available to the country program. The Nation reserve on institutional funds is GBP 110k. ActionAid Senegal and its partners are doing a good cost recovery with the projects that are implemented at LRP levels.



The table below shows the performance indicators in relation to the federation’s standards and reveals the efforts to be made in terms of fundraising, where the country program is at 6% whereas the minimum standard is 22%. However, this could be explained by the health situation and the vacancy of the Fundraising Officer position and the upgrading of the Fundraising position to Manager level is quite explicit on the good awareness of the efforts to be made.

SECTION 3: RAF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Actual YTD
Programme target > 65% of total spend on programme, policy advocacy, campaigns & communications	84%
Fundraising target 22%-27% of total income invested in Fundraising, Voluntary + Institutional	6%
Efficiency Target < 15% of total spend will be on Support costs	8%



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