



ActionAid Senegal policy note for the 2022 local elections



Local elections to transform positively and sustainably the communities' living conditions in Senegal


Let's celebrate Democracy in Peace !


The Local elections in Senegal will take place this year in January 2022, Senegalese citizens will go to the polls to elect their mayors and regional and departmental councilors. These elections are an essential opportunity because it is about electing mayors of cities and municipalities who will have the heavy responsibility of implementing the programs linked to Act 3 of decentralization for the next 5 years. This means that it is crucial to have development actions in the candidates program that will have a positive impact on all Senegalese citizens. About ten coalitions of political parties and social movements are in competition for the 557 municipalities and 46 departments of Senegal.


Elections in a very demanding context by women and young people in particular


ActionAid Senegal recognizes the power of citizens to elect the leaders of their choice and therefore invites all Senegalese voters especially women and young people to come out in large numbers on Sunday January 23rd, 2022, to vote peacefully and choose representatives who will work to positively manage the affairs of their communities so as to improve the well-being of the people. ActionAid would like to remind citizens to keep in mind the key challenges that their communities are facing and which they would like to recommend to the various candidates in these elections and beyond. These challenges are:


-  A high percentage of young people and women with little training or no professional training, food insecurity that affects a large part of our territories,
-  Difficult access to quality and inclusive public education,

-  Limited access to quality public services for women and young people, limited access, and control of resources (land, seeds, water, financing, etc.) and other means of production by women,

-  An increased number of cases of violence against women and girls, despite the existence of a favorable legal and policy framework,


-  A limited offer of social protection services for vulnerable people,


-  A weak consideration of unpaid care work borne by women and girls,


-  A weak commitment to the promotion of agroecology and the fight against climate change.


Our propositions (we carry the voice of communities)


ActionAid Senegal therefore calls on the men and women who will be elected on Sunday's local elections to prioritize the following policies and programs:


-  The establishment of a budget line for capacity building for women and young people,


-  The promotion of free quality public education that respects the rights of all children, especially girls, in Senegal with a safe learning environment, quality teachers, and relevant curricula contributing to the future resilience of Senegalese children.


-  Women's empowerment programs that build their economic capacity and capacity to resist gender-based violence and address the unpaid work that women currently do.


-  The development of local initiatives that contribute to the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change


-  The promotion of the green economy through ecotourism, agricultural entrepreneurship and recycling mainly for young people,


-  Develop programs to strengthen civic and civic awareness and community engagement of children, young people and youth organizations in order to contribute to the construction of peace and general stability


-  The establishment of good quality inclusive public services, including nurseries, accessible neighborhood schools, maternal health facilities in rural communities, safe public transports and safe, well-lit and accessible streets in the urban areas.

-  The creation of an enabling environment that creates training and employment opportunities for young people, including access to credit and other initiatives to support youth self-entrepreneurship.

-  Support for access to and control of resources (land, quality seeds, water, financing, etc.) and other means of production for women and young people,

-  The creation of storage spaces to boost production and local consumption and promote access to the market,

-  The financing of family farming to contribute to food sovereignty in our regions,

-  The establishment of risk and disaster preparedness systems at the community level (local plans for adaptation to climate change).

ActionAid wishes good luck to all candidates and calls for a peaceful fulfillment of their right to vote and that of their supporters for a Senegalese where the rights of all citizens, especially women and girls, are fulfilled .

Dakar, January 17th , 2022