

act:onaid
Senegal

NEWSLETTER



June 2023

Message from the Country Director

This newsletter outlines some of our key achievements during the first and second quarter, through our engagements with communities and authorities at the local and national levels. It also highlights progress made within our various programmatic priorities from 2022 to 2023, particularly the transformational work that we are engaged on with our partners and communities.

Indeed, I am excited with the publication of this Newsletter edition, as it highlights the potential impact of rural women to the economy in Senegal, once their collective efforts are harnessed. It is envisaged that when women are economically empowered, they will be able to consolidate their political leadership by accessing decision-making bodies and vie for key positions in their various localities.

Additionally, some analytical work has shown that integrating women into the economy, improving their capacities, and facilitating their access to financial services can result in an increase in our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2 to 3 percent.

Therefore, as a social justice organization using a feminist lens, it is vital that we continue our work on women's economic empowerment. This has to do with challenging the patriarchal system, through our Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) that avails women the appropriate tools to analyze the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. The overall objective of such an approach is to empower women for them to take the lead in advocating for change in unequal power structures.

We strongly believe that with the stories in this newsletter, we will get the requisite support that enables ActionAid Senegal to continue our work in changing the lives of communities' and that of vulnerable cohorts such as women and children. Cognizant of this, the Country Programme is committed to redouble its efforts, to ensure that the resources mobilized from donors is used in a transparent and efficient manner.

This newsletter serves the purpose of engaging with our strategic partners and to be viewed as an accountability mechanism to Communities, , government, donors, and supporters who believe in us.

Sincerely,



Zakaria Sambakhé
Country Director

Achievements

March 8



As part of the celebration of the 2022 edition of International Women's Day, a high-level panel was held on Monday, March 7, 2022. The focus of the theme was on «The Senegalese Presidency of the African Union: Challenges and Prospects for Senegalese Women in the Context of COVID-19 and Climate Change», which was held at the Doudou Ndiaye Coumba Rose conference room of the Grand Théâtre. The event was held under the chairmanship of the Minister of Women, Gender and Child Protection, as a prelude to the official ceremony held on March 8, 2022, and in tribute to the women of Nder (Talataay Nder).

The sub-theme was «Gender and Development: Senegalese Option and Experience Beyond Concepts», which was presented by Dr Maréma Touré Thiam, a sociologist who is a graduate in educational sciences, and specialist in human and social sciences at the UNESCO West Africa Office.

Dr Thiam began her presentation by evoking the decisive role of women in the development process, and welcomed the fact that the conference was also held in tribute to the women of Nder.

She recommended that, the mandate of the President of the Republic in the African Union, avails an opportunity for greater voice to be given to women who have the skills and means to assist the President to achieve significant progress for African women.

During her speech, Dr Thiam emphasised that President Macky Sall was a champion of the cause of women, having been Prime Minister when parity was established in the appointment of Commissioners of the African Union. According to her, by being a champion of He or She, President Macky Sall does not derogate from the Senegalese tradition where men have always been at the side of women. In African societies, positive masculinity was the norm. The Wolof term «Tiamiñal Linguère» (the friend of ladies) proves this sufficiently. The roots of equality and equity are therefore very strong and solid because they are secular values conveyed and preserved through several generations and battles that Professor Iba Der Thiam, her late husband, recounted.

In the context of women's rights, according to Dr Thiam, Senegal has been the origin of many advances. For example, the Dakar Platform informed 80% of the priority areas of the Beijing Platform, with particular attention paid to the girl child. In this area, Senegal has made great strides, ranging from the law on nationality, which she described as the «mother law» criminalizing rape and paedophilia, to what she considers to be the «major achievement», the law on parity and described as a civilizing law by Professor Djibril Samb.

She ended by saying that women have a fundamental responsibility in climate conservation, which is a solidarity struggle involving all of humanity.

Her presentation led to a dialogue that led to the idea of organizing, with the support of UN Women, a conference on Professor Iba Der Thiam's writings on women.

Visit of the Country Director to the Central and East zones

This field visit by the Country Director (CD) took place from August 4 to 13, 2022, in the center and east of the country. The field mission was marked by courtesy visits to administrative and customary authorities, as well as LRP partners and institutions working with our implementing partners. The various exchanges allowed us to get an overview of the progress on agreed action plans and to establish a way forward.

The CD met with the following authorities:

- The Mayor of the commune of Tambacounda, the Governor; the Prefect of Tamba; the sub-Prefect of Missirah; the sub-Prefect of Koussanar; the Mayor of Bala, and the deputy Mayor of Koussanar.

- After a brief reminder of the mission, objectives, and areas of intervention with the implementing partners, the authorities unanimously recognized the important work done by ActionAid Senegal and its partners. These actions, which are considered positive, have greatly contributed to improving the living conditions of the target populations.

- During the meeting with the authorities, they stressed the relevance of ActionAid Senegal's activities within the region. They acknowledged that the Country Programme's presence beyond Tambacounda region into other areas has complimenting their development efforts. They also urged ActionAid Senegal to continue their support in the region.



Training on sponsorship and fundraising

A training workshop on the SAHAKOM system and fundraising skills was held in Saly (Mbour) from June 2 to 8, 2022. The workshop was divided into two parts: five days on sponsorship and two days on fundraising.

All ActionAid partners were present during the workshop, including sponsorship officers and program officers. The workshop was an opportunity to review the fundamentals of sponsorship and fundraising and to allow partners to get a better understanding of the concepts covered. It also provided an opportunity to clarify questions that the participants had.

In terms of future plans, AAS intends to continue to strengthen the capacity of our partners in managing the new system and to provide them with the requisite equipment's needed in-order to meet production deadlines.

Another outcome of the visit is that, our strategic partners have welcomed the idea of jointly developing concept notes, proposals and exploring the pooling of resources in the implementation of future projects. It is envisaged that such initiatives will foster regional integration and strengthen cross-border collaborations.



Joint visit of ActionAid Senegal and ActionAid Gambia to donors

As part of ActionAid Senegal's efforts to diversify its resource mobilization initiatives, the organization has renewed and revived its efforts to use Dakar as a hub for its ambitious fundraising campaign. In-order to achieve this goal, it was deemed necessary to engage in joint fundraising with strategic AA Country Programs within West Africa. The first step of this joint initiative was the visit organized in July 2022 with ActionAid International The Gambia during a week-long visit to the capital city Dakar. This intervention provided an opportunity to meet strategic partners such as UN FAO, OXFAM, OSIWA, the European Union and IOM. The meetings held indicated that our partners are willing to visit our LRPs to interact with communities and attend our events. Another outcome of the visit is that the partners welcome the idea of jointly developing concept notes, proposals and exploring the pooling of resources in the implementation of future projects. Such initiatives foster regional integration and strengthen the skills of PHC promotion platforms so that they can engage in debates at local, national and regional level.



Fair of Djimini (Velingara)



Various activities showcased at the fair:

- Exhibition and presentation of seed diversity by farmers' organizations
- Information and awareness-raising seminars on seed regulatory frameworks
- Self-managed workshops on agroecology, nutrition, etc.
- Screening of videos on food sovereignty.
- Development of the COASP work plan (2022-2024).
- Documentation and capitalization of testimonies, experiences and peasant innovations.
- Exhibition, stand visit and seed exchange.

ActionAid and its partners participated in the West African Farmers' Seed Fair held on 15, 16, 17 March 2022.

The objectives of the Djimini Fair are to:

Revitalize exchange and advocacy channels for Farmers' Seed Systems (PSS)

Strengthen the skills of PHC promotion platforms so that they can

engage in debates at local, national and regional level

Contribute to the media coverage of farmers' seed systems for their better support

The Fair saw the participation of several actors including local authorities, public services, technical services of the State, actors of vocational training as well as development actors and producers of the different countries of the sub-region.

At the end of these days, there were sharing of studies carried out by partners among which we can mention, ActionAid on the role of women in the conservation of farmers' seeds, Enda pronat on the use of pesticides, we are the solution on natural broths, on fonio Digital exile (kipnist, staff): issues, challenges and research at ISRA by Dr Cissé.

The Producers of the LRP of Koussanar, MISSIRAH and Balla proceeded to visit the stands but also to exchange seeds.

16 days of activism

In our efforts to contribute towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, ActionAid Senegal in one of its interventions is focused on the abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM). ActionAid Senegal, in collaboration with its local, national, and international partners, organized a three-day high-level panel on the fight against GBV (violence against women and girls) under the theme:

“Abandonning FGM: Education as an alternative in the context of social norms - what policy and public action to protect girls from FGM?”

The panel was held from December 7 to 9, 2022, at the Royal Hotel Saly.

The objective of the panel was to:

- Engage in a collective reflection on the ways and means to achieve the abandonment of FGM in Senegal, based on the legal and institutional framework, its consequences, and the role of education as an alternative.

- Conduct an analysis focusing on education as an alternative to FGM
- Identify possible solutions enabling education to play such a role.
- Sharing best practices from communities and various categories of actors in their commitment to education and FGM issues
- Look at innovative financing mechanisms to make public education available and accessible to all, and to the most vulnerable girls in particular.

The high-level panel was moderated by the Ministry of Women, Family and Gender, the Minister of Health and Social Action, the Minister of Justice and CSOs.



DAMCAM project



As part of the implementation of the DAM CAM project, Crossroads International and ActionAid Senegal have revitalized 17 community Girls Clubs (YCWs) and created 15 new girls' clubs in the Kedougou region. They have also supported these clubs by building their capacity on their roles and responsibility, and by holding facilitation and awareness-raising sessions.

The Girls' Clubs have an institutional anchor, as they were initiated by the Ministry of Youth through the Teen Advisory Centres (CCAs). Their objectives are to combat early pregnancy and child marriage, strengthen the leadership of adolescent girls, and promote girls' education, participation, and employability.

The DAM CAM project supports the duplication of girls' clubs in schools and other establishments in order to reach as many girls as possible. The project will also build on the existing Gender and Equity Units already established in the school environment.



Phase Out Foundiougne

ActionAid Senegal commenced its activities in the Foundiougne Local Development Program (LRP) in 2006. However, after 17 years of intervention, the Country Programme concluded its intervention in December 2022 by engaging a Phase Out process. To mark this occasion, a closing ceremony was held which was chaired by the first deputy mayor of the municipality. This intervention was made possible due to the invaluable partnership between ActionAid Senegal and ActionAid Italy through child sponsorship. ActionAid’s intervention in the area has addressed some of the communities’ challenges and made transformational changes:

- The installation of action reflection circles, which are the entry point for ActionAid’s intervention, has enabled women to receive training in analysing their context and identifying their vulnerabilities.
- Reflection Action Circles have been set up in five neighbourhoods, allowing communities to discuss issues that affect them. It is through the identification of issues affecting communities during discussions within ARCs that measures are taken to improve their situation. In recent years, other sections of the community (men, youth, etc.) have joined the circles so that all their concerns can be resolved according to their scope.

- At least 390 women and girls now freely express their rights to decentralized authorities. These women have received training and sensitization to increase their awareness and ability to cope with certain situations that affect them. They have become references for other women in the community.

- ActionAid also supported eight schools and institutions in building a safe and protective learning environment. Due to the unsafe learning environment caused by inadequate infrastructure, security risks, and the economic vulnerability of families, the dropout rate of girls in the community was very high (about 39%). Today, this rate is about 27% thanks to a combination of actions around school governance, girls’ empowerment, advocacy, and women’s (mothers’) economic empowerment.

- The closing ceremony marked the end of this process, which began in 2018 and lasted for three years. Due to COVID-19, ActionAid Senegal obtained a two-year exemption. This allowed the program to finalize the last action plan selected with the CCDF.



Capitalization video production

In November 2022, Lyle Lindgren, ActionAid UK's visual content specialist, did visit ActionAid Senegal to conduct a training on film production. The training included ActionAid Senegal's Communication and Fundraising Coordinators, The Gambia's Communication Coordinator and LRP's Communication Coordinators. The objectives of this activity were to strengthen the capacity of ActionAid Senegal staff, to improve service sharing collaborations between ActionAid Senegal and ActionAid International Gambia.

The workshop covered the fundamentals of filmmaking, both practical and theoretical. He also tackled the areas of post-production, covering the basics and techniques of modern editing, sound design and color grading. The visit involved many communities within ActionAid Senegal intervention areas to show the effects of climate change and women's empowerment interventions in the eastern part of Senegal.



JOKKALANTE Week 2022, We dreamed it we did it!!!!

As part of ActionAid Greece's resource mobilization mechanism, it has for several years initiated visits to countries supported through its sponsorship programme. This exercise consists of a visit of sponsors or potential sponsors to a sponsored country, with a diversified program adapted to the context of the country. During the tour, visitors interact with the communities, meet their sponsored children and learn more about the ActionAid program.

The visit to Senegal was also a powerful accountability tool that allows sponsors to witness the added value of their support through direct exchanges with stakeholders. Greece sponsors were able to visit to investments sites, meetings with local authorities and with the ActionAid team.

These types of in-country visits also avail sponsors an opportunity to gain a better understanding of ActionAid's programmatic approach, which is a human rights-based approach that focuses on women, girls and marginalized groups.

Therefore, this mechanism is a vital tool that promotes governance, accountability, advocacy, and establishes a chain of solidarity that mobilizes additional resources.

Finally, this visit is an opportunity for sponsors or potential sponsors to participate in a collective project at the community level in order to leave a tangible legacy of the encounter between these peoples.

The Jokkalante week in Senegal was therefore an opportunity to:

- Receive 47 Greek visitors including 40 sponsors and 7 employees of ActionAid Greece.
- Meet sponsored children.
- Visit some communities in the LRP intervention areas.
- Meet some local authorities.
- Participate in a community project: as part of this visit, visitors participated in the financing and construction of a resource center in the commune of Djilor.
- Exchange with the ActionAid team in Senegal
- Seek opportunities to mobilize resources to continue and consolidate the support already provided to communities.

#SolidarityTrip2022

#JokkalanteWeek2022



Testimonials



Ndeye Sarr - LRP Niodior Champion



I became a woman champion of my LRP Niodior thanks to my journey with ActionAid. With its local partner CADD, I received a lot of training that strengthened my leadership in the area, especially my locality Féfir.

Now our communities are well awake on issues of climate change, violence against women and girls, respect for children's rights at school...

Every year I accompany the ActionAid partner to carry out awareness-raising actions with the beneficiary communities.

This approach has allowed us to achieve our change goals.



ActionAid Senegal is one of the organizations that promote Senegalese women through activities that highlight the issues of violence against them.

My participation in this high-level panel organized by ActionAid Senegal, which deals with FGM issues, allowed me to better understand the importance of the link we must make between our institutions and the actions of these NGOs from local to national...



Ms Marie Sarr Ndiaye - Former Member of Parliament

Topic of the Quarter: Addressing GBV

Women's rights work is exciting at ActionAid Senegal. The Country Programme as a feminist organisation continues to stand in solidarity with communities and works tirelessly to promote human rights with the most vulnerable women and girls as our priority targets.

At ActionAid, we are passionate about women's rights. We stand alongside the communities, and we work to promote human rights with the most vulnerable women and girls as our priority.

We are committed to working with women to fight against all forms of violence (physical, sexual, psychological, economic).

The recognition of the impact of social norms on initiatives to promote women's rights and empower them has led us to revise our approach; Indeed, women's invisible work, unpaid care of the family, female circumcision, are all norms and practices that affect the effective realization of the rights of women and girls.

To achieve our objectives, ActionAid develops programmes to raise women's awareness through knowledge of their rights.

The spaces for community dialogue and reflection serve as receptacles for all the initiatives and projects undertaken by women, thanks to the accompaniment of women community leaders identified and chosen by the communities as their LRP champions.

The circles also host capacity building on various themes: leadership, agroecology, local governance, legal framework and policies.

A modelling program for our work on gender-based violence has been in place since 2020. The process began with a national training involving public services (such as the Protection of Women) and continued with the identification of the most prevalent negative norms in each intervention area. This identification then informed the development of localized models for the management and care of survivors of violence and discrimination induced by these social norms. To date, each of ActionAid's intervention areas has a survivors' care structure that meets the needs of the local context and is linked to public services available in the immediate vicinity of the communities.



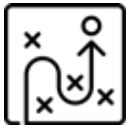
Khardiata Ndoye Pouye - Responsable Droit des Femmes AAS

Prospects

This section will deal with the perspectives of ActionAid Senegal, in the next appearance of quarter 2, an evaluation will be made on the progress of these perspectives.



Federation Membership Development Process (MDP)



Development of ActionAid Senegal's new strategy 2024-2028



Finalization of the evaluation of the 2018-2022 strategy

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