

# Senegal: At a Glance



## Gender Moments

### Introduction

The Deliver for Good campaign is rooted in the premise that girls and women are key drivers of sustainable development and powerful agents of change. As the local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begins, now is the time to ensure that national decision-makers consistently prioritize girls and women – whether in health, environment, or education policies – thereby enabling their potential to impact and improve the economic, political, and environmental situations of their nations. The Deliver for Good campaign partners have selected India, Kenya, and Senegal as focus countries to launch locally-led advocacy campaigns that will keep girls and women at the center of decision-making during the SDG era.

Each Deliver for Good focus country will convene campaign coalitions and define campaign priorities that are appropriate to the local policy landscape. Deliver for Good partners will ensure that the campaign aligns with SDG priorities and perspectives at the country level and focuses on sparking policy action for girls and women.

The following is a summary of the current political landscape and country-based civil society efforts on issues affecting girls and women.

### Statistics

Data points that reflect the status of girls' and women's health, rights, and wellbeing

**Population, female (percentage of total):** 50.9%<sup>1</sup>

**Fertility:** 5.09 children/woman<sup>2</sup>

**Maternal mortality rate:** 430/100,000 live births<sup>3</sup>

**Contraceptive prevalence, any methods:** 22% (2010-2015)<sup>4</sup>

**Health facilities with minimum infrastructure (electricity, clean water, and improved sanitation):** NO DATA

**Child marriage:** Married by 15: 9%, Married by 18: 32%<sup>5</sup>

**Is Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting legal, and under what circumstances?** FGM was outlawed in Senegal in 1999, however, in 236 communities across the country the practice is still widespread with the rate for women having been subject to FGM at 25%.<sup>6</sup>

**Are there laws around violence against women, and what are the penalties?** Yes, there is legislation that criminalizes spousal assault, battery, domestic violence, and sexual violence.<sup>7</sup>

**Female adult literacy rate:** 43.8%<sup>8</sup>

**Women-held registered land titles:** 5% of land is registered solely to a woman.<sup>9</sup>

**Females age 15+ with an account at a financial institution:** 8.2% of women over the age of 15 have a bank account.<sup>10</sup>

**Proportion of national parliamentary seats held by women:** 42.7% of national parliamentary seats held by women.<sup>11</sup>

**Use of improved sanitation facilities (overall %):** 48%<sup>12</sup>

**Government collecting gender disaggregated data? For how long and at what levels?** NO DATA

### Political Landscape

Senegal is a presidential, multi-party republic and considered one of the most stable democracies in Africa.<sup>13</sup> Members of parliament are elected for 5 year terms, and in 2016 Senegal voted in a referendum to reduce the presidential terms from 7 to 5 years. Women hold 65 of Senegal's 150 parliamentary seats – approximately 43% of the seats.<sup>14</sup>

Civil society in Senegal is relatively strong with robust opposition parties that cut across social, ethnic, and religious boundaries;<sup>15</sup> however, many civil society organizations (CSOs) are disproportionately located in urban areas, and often struggle to maintain adequate funding.<sup>16</sup> Freedom House has rated Senegal's associational and organizational rights as 10 out of 12, and its political pluralism and participation as 13 out of 16, although the country's overall Freedom rating is two out of seven.<sup>17</sup> According to CIVICUS, Senegal is known for its vibrant and independent media and the government's respect for the rule of law.<sup>18</sup> However, there is concern over increasing political ownership of media outlets.<sup>19</sup> Moreover, Senegal still struggles with regards to political corruption,



- 1973**  
Senegal passes the Family Code, which establishes a minimum age of marriage, and bans early or forced marriage
- 1985**  
Senegal ratifies the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 1994**  
Senegal participates in the International Conference on Population and Development, and adopts the Programme of Action
- 1995**  
Senegal attends the Fourth World Conference on Women, endorses the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and adopts the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 2001**  
Senegal adopts constitution that guarantees equality between men and women
- 2005**  
Senegal ratifies the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- 2010**  
Senegal passes the Law of Parity, mandating equal access for men and women to appointed and elected office



high levels of poverty, and inadequate protections for the rights of women and the LGBT population.<sup>20</sup>

In 2015 Senegal joined other UN member states to vote for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda,<sup>21</sup> the core of which are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In stakeholder consultations held after adoption, Senegal identified the following top priorities: Water and Sanitation; Terrestrial Ecosystems; Poverty; Hunger, Food Security, and Nutrition; Climate Change; Energy; and Quality Education.<sup>22</sup> The country's first Voluntary National Review (VNR), in which it will report progress toward the SDG indicators, is expected in 2018.<sup>23</sup> To advance progress toward the SDGs, Senegal takes part in several partnership initiatives and voluntary commitments, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, International Health Partnership and related initiatives (IHP+), Education for Rural People (ERP), the WASH for all Initiative, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), and the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership, among others.

## About the Deliver for Good Campaign

Deliver for Good is a global campaign initiated by Women Deliver and partners, that applies a gender lens to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promotes 12 critical investments in girls and women to power progress for all. The evidence-based advocacy campaign calls for enhanced policies, programming, and investments in girls and women. Deliver for Good highlights the ripple effects of investing in girls and women so decision makers understand the central role that gender equality plays in global development efforts.

With nearly 300 supporters in more than 50 countries, Deliver for Good is mobilizing supporters across sectors and issues areas to redefine the narrative around girls and women—from the most vulnerable, to agents of change and critical drivers of progress. The campaign is building a movement to fuel concrete action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the global and country levels.

## ENDNOTES

- 1 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS>
- 2 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?locations=SN&view=chart>
- 3 <https://data.unicef.org/resources/state-worlds-children-2016-statistical-tables/>
- 4 <https://data.unicef.org/resources/state-worlds-children-2016-statistical-tables/>
- 5 <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/senegal/>
- 6 <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/LawSenegal.pdf>
- 7 <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/senegal?typeofmeasure=3ebd6d85ae4d4dfcab5553635944fc9>
- 8 <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=health-nutrition-and-population-statistics>
- 9 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC?locations=SN>
- 10 [http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/WP\\_time\\_01.3?locations=SN](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/WP_time_01.3?locations=SN)
- 11 <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=1228>
- 12 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS?locations=SN>
- 13 <http://www.parlcent.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Summary-Report-SENEGAL.pdf>
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- 19 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/09/historic-new-sustainable-development-agenda-unanimously-adopted-by-193-un-members/>
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