

Senegal

The rights of the child

Full name

Republic of Senegal

Population

12.4 million (UN, 2007)

Capital

Dakar

Area

196,722 sq km (75,955 sq miles)

Major language

French (official), Wolof

Major religion

Islam

Life expectancy

61 years (men), 65 years (women)
(UN)

Monetary unit

1 CFA (Communaute Financiere
Africaine) franc = 100 centimes

Main exports

Fish, peanuts, petroleum products,
phosphates, cotton

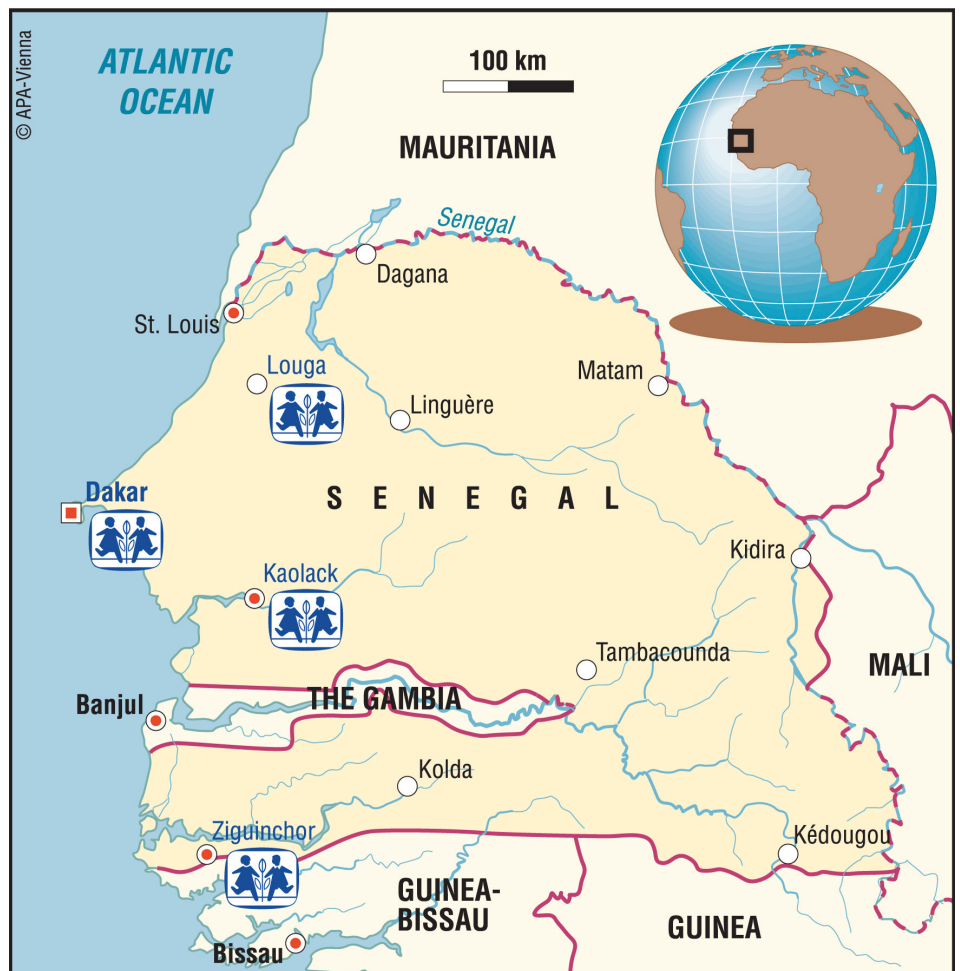
GNI per capita

US \$710 (World Bank, 2006)

Senegal fact sheet

Senegal is a former French colony in West Africa which became fully independent in 1960; it is one of the most successful post-colonial democratic transitions in Africa. Its climate is tropical, with well-defined humid and dry seasons and periodic droughts and seasonal lowland flooding. The economy is based on agricultural produce (Senegal is amongst the world's largest peanut exporters) and is one of the continent's most stable. Infant and maternal mortality levels are at moderate levels, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is among the lowest in the region. However poverty and unemployment are widespread and are made worse by rural to urban migration, and progress in education has been slow with only three in four children enrolled in primary school. Since independence, a low-level separatist war has been going on in the southern Casamance region and thousands of people have fled to refugee camps in Guinea-Bissau.

SOS Children has four villages in Senegal, as well as kindergartens, youth facilities, schools, a medical centre and a vocational training centre. Three villages run family strengthening programmes which aim to support poor families in the community by providing help with food, health, education and gaining employment. In 2005 SOS Children's Villages Senegal ran an emergency relief programme to help 1,130 children in 326 families affected by the flooding in Dakar and Kaolack by providing basic food, medicine, mattresses and mosquito nets.



Sources:
www.soschildren.org
www.bbc.co.uk/news