

Senegal

March - August 2018

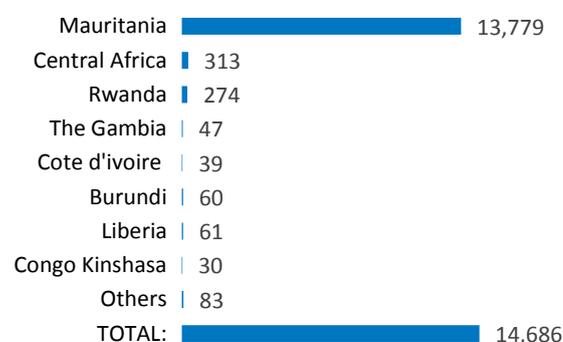
The Government of Senegal co-chaired a workshop with UNHCR on the multiyear, multi-partner (MYMP) protection solutions strategy to integrate long-staying refugees into the national system.

At the end of July, 837 urban-based refugee were verified, including 132 asylum seekers and 40 persons not of concern to UNHCR. The exercise targeted refugees in Dakar and Thiès from 21 to 28 July 2018

Five (5) Mauritanian refugees in mixed marriages with the Senegalese nationals received their nationality certificates in conformity with UNHCR's **durable solutions**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN : 18,120

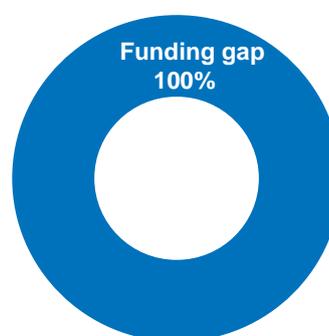
Host Countries



ASYLUM SYEEKERS : 3,434

FUNDING

1,374,122 USD



With zero funding for Senegal, activities are financed through unearmarked contributions some of which by the USA Govt.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 4 National Staff
- 1 International Staff
- 1 International UNV

Offices:

- 1 Office in Dakar



Refugees display their traditional artifacts on 20 June, World Refugee Day (Monika Rohmer UNHCR Dakar)

Working with Partners

- UNHCR in Senegal works in partnership with the African Office for Development and Cooperation (OFADEC). OFADEC has partnered with governmental bodies such as the National Eligibility Committee (CNE) and the National Committee for Refugees, Repatriated and Displaced Persons (CNRRPD). It also collaborates with NGOs including Caritas-PARI and Vivre Caprec and as well as international organisations ICRC. UNHCR also works with other UN sister Agencies as UNDP, IOM and UNICEF.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR in Senegal organized 16 protection hearings in which 143 refugees and asylum seekers participated, among whom 40 were women. Generally, their concerns related to assistance, asylum procedure, resettlement, voluntary repatriation, documentation, etc. Mauritanian and Central African nationals are often in majority during these protection hearings.
- The National Commission on Eligibility (CNE) organized 18 meetings during which it examined 72 asylum applications. The applicants are mainly Turkish and Central African nationals. It delivered 14 favourable decisions, 11 unfavorable, 15 referrals and declared 13 requests without valid basis and of whom left Senegal before the asylum process was concluded. The asylum process in Senegal is lengthy and asylum seekers are obliged to fend for their basic needs while waiting for the determination of their status. This sometimes leads to numerous movements of the asylum seekers to other countries in search for better opportunities for their survival.
- Thirty-one men and ten women refugees and asylum seekers (41 in all) received financial and material assistance. The assistance is provided to persons who submit requests that are evaluated to determine the level of vulnerability. Senegal has in the recent past recorded a higher number of male survivors of SGBV as compared to women. Survivors of SGBV receive financial, psychological, medical and material support depending on their needs.
- Income Generating Activities funds attribution committee deliberated on 11 projects presented by refugees during this trimester. 11 of these small business

projects trading in food, clothes, bags and jewellery, were awarded **2,490,810 FCFA** in cash.

- Two (2) advocacy events were organized in the Senegal River valley aimed at improving access to health and legal services. The events also focused on case management of survivors of gender based violence as well as children at risk. The Kanel department hosted the advocacy workshop against GBV on 2 August 2018. Sharing, and exchange of information and advocacy on GBV are encouraged to bring together potential actors. Another workshop was held on 25 July in Podor on the rights of children.
- Seven hundred and forty-seven (747) sanitary towels have been distributed to 204 vulnerable women and girls at the rate of 03 sanitary towels per woman / girl.

Education

- OFADEC received applications for 2018-2019 scholarships. The call for applications was launched in June 2018. OFADEC and a deliberation committee decide on the support to be provided to the applicants based on the criteria of the standard operating procedures (level of education, documentation, and status of refugee). Selection is also dependent on the availability of funds.
- Two (2) refugees have applied for the Ashinaga Fellowship following collaboration between the Japanese Ashinaga Foundation and UNHCR in West and Central Africa. This initiative is funded by the Government of Japan to promote higher education of young refugees. Written and oral interviews are currently in progress.

Health

- Between March to August 2018, UNHCR partner OFADEC held individual meetings with 21 refugees in regard to health issues. It was noted that only 02 male refugee paid their health insurance premium. Most refugees cite lack of financial resources to pay for the monthly insurance fees as it is not affordable to them owing to their large households to support. Some households exceed five (5) individuals. The monthly contribution is a pittance 1,250F per person for refugees with less than five years of granted asylum in Senegal UNHCR contributes 50% of their requirements. However, for the refugees who have been granted asylum in Senegal for over 5 years they pay 100% of the monthly 2,500FCFA instalment per individual to access health insurance.
- To facilitate students' access to health care, the health insurance company MS Transvie continues to pay the monthly contributions of DAFI scholars who do not receive their subsistence allowance on time due to administrative and budgetary

processes. Affected students reimburse the advanced insurance premium once they receive their education grants.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR and the Government organised a workshop on MYMP protection solutions strategy developed to integrate refugees in Senegal's national development programmes. The workshop was held from 23 to 24 May during which refugees also participated. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to review and pre-evaluate the strategy.
- Four (4) refugees (3 men and one woman) nationals of Central African Republic were repatriated to their country between March and August 2018.
- Five (5) Mauritanian refugees living in mixed marriages with Senegalese received their certificates of Senegalese nationality in July 2018.

Main event during March – August 2018

- Refugees, joined by UNHCR, the Government, donors and partners celebrated World Refugee Day on 20 June in Dakar. The event took place at the monument of the African Renaissance. Rap star, Didier Awadi, who is also a UNHCR high level influencer, staged a performance to entertain invited guests. A peace caravan paraded through the suburbs of Dakar to highlight the cause of the refugees and their needs. The caravan event was also an opportunity to spread positive messages about refugees to residents that refugees are like every one of us. In a show of solidarity with the refugees, UN sister agencies participated in the committee that organized the day's event.

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LINKS

Operation page: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/sen>

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