

Country	Senegal						
Population	818,000						
Title of practice	School meals: an economic leverage of PAT						
Subtitle	Support for the Implementation of the Rufisque Department Food Plan: central kitchens, an innovative model for school canteens in Senegal						
Photos/videos	Please check the link to the Sharepoint folder provided. If you need access, please contact the MUFPP Secretariat.						
MUFPP Recommended Action	7. Promote sustainable diets (healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, environmentally friendly and rights based) through relevant education, health promotion and communication programmes, with special attention to schools, care centres, markets and the media. – SUSTAINABLE DIETS AND NUTRITION						
Starting year	2016	Ending year (if any)			2025	already submitted in the past	
Actors and stakeholders' involvement	Municipal departments	Other public institutions	NGOs CSOs	Research centres	Private sectors	International organizations	Other
	4	4	2	2	4	3	2
Budget	Over the period 2019-2025, total budget of € 1,500,000, including € 800,000 from AFD, supplemented by various co-financing sources: CDR, European Union, CFSI, ECOWAS. School meals budget: € 320,000 financed by CDR (30%), parents (25%), businesses (15%), international partners (30%).						
Brief description	<p>The Departmental Council of Rufisque (CDR) is a local authority created in 2014, bringing together 12 peri-urban communes occupying two-thirds of the surface area of the Dakar Region. Its demographic growth is rapid and urban pressure strong, due to the creation of a new urban centre around Diamniadio, the wholesale market, the new airport and the future port of Ndayane. The department's ambition is to create a space for sustainable living and economic activities in which urban and agricultural areas remain compatible.</p> <p>Since 2016, the CDR has had a Territorial Food Plan (PAT) aimed at preserving existing agricultural areas and better linking them to the market for the department's 800,000-plus residents; stimulating agri-food activities; and improving the food and nutritional security of its residents, particularly children. The CDR has developed a school meals policy with the establishment of four central kitchens supplying 5,500 meals a day to 18 schools. These kitchens are supplied by ten groups of local producers and processors. This food policy is overseen by a governance committee that brings together a wide range of stakeholders from across the département.</p> <p>This PAT (Projet Alimentaire Territorial) is inspiring other local authorities in Senegal, such as Ziguinchor, which recently adopted the model of a central kitchen supplied by local producers.</p>						
Innovation	<p>With only 13% of schools in Senegal equipped with canteens, the Department of Rufisque is a pioneer in school meals policy and a benchmark from which other local authorities can learn. But it is also its model, based on central kitchens serving several schools with hot meals, that is innovative. It enables economies of scale while guaranteeing quality meals for pupils.</p> <p>The partnership forged with local producers and processors to supply these kitchens is also innovative, given that many of the country's canteens still rely heavily on imported industrial products. The economic governance model, in which local players (CDR, parents, businesses) share the budget, with limited assistance from international partners, opens up the prospect of sustainability. To get the State to take over from these partners, the CDR is</p>						

	<p>lobbying with the many partners (consumer associations, education inspectorate, etc.) on its policy governance committee, which is also an innovative body.</p> <p>As part of this, a survey of secondary school students is currently being undertaken to analyse their views on their current diet, their aspirations and fears for the future, and their suggestions for improving school meals. Such an original study will enable the voice of future generations to be heard in the governance of the CDR's policy.</p>
Impact	<p>Favouring tangible actions, the CDR does not yet have the capacity to evaluate the impact of its policy in figures. However, it continues to give priority to options that create as many jobs as possible, benefit the most vulnerable sections of the population and help to create a healthier living environment for the region.</p> <p>From a social point of view, the school meals policy targets establishments accommodating a vulnerable and strategic population, at an age when eating habits are formed. The challenge is not only nutritional, to improve attendance and success rates among pupils; it is also social, to maintain solidarity among them (meals are shared in a common dish).</p> <p>In economic terms, the effects are threefold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four community kitchens have generated 31 jobs for women. • They secure outlets for local producers and processors. • The decision to give priority to dishes made from local produce means that this type of consumption will become part of young people's habits in the longer term. <p>From an environmental point of view, training market gardeners in techniques to reduce the use of chemical pesticides, economies of scale in the energy consumption of the central kitchens and ongoing training for pupils on the environmental issues surrounding food all contribute to building a sustainable food model.</p>
Inclusion	<p>The CDR's PAT (Projet Alimentaire Territorial) involves local farmers, who are partners of the central kitchens. It secures outlets for craftswomen and SMEs involved in food processing, and is currently seeking to involve the department's wholesale market as well. It gives schoolchildren access to meals and helps to raise their awareness of the challenges of sustainable food. This PAT (Projet Alimentaire Territorial) is therefore part of a process that involves the various links in the food chain from the outset.</p> <p>The governance of this TAP is also very broad. The Governance Committee, which took place on 10 April 2025, was attended by around 150 people representing a wide range of public and private associations, all of whom have a strong interest in participating in this policy in various ways. At the same time, the CDR also maintains close relations with the national authorities, both to ensure that the State provides more funding for school meals and to participate in the development of the national school meals policy.</p> <p>Finally, for the past five years the CDR has been involved in a partnership with the Metropole of Montpellier for joint discussions on school meals policies, the role that wholesale markets can play in local agricultural and agri-food development, and the governance of food policies.</p>