

Senegal

December 2017 - February 2018

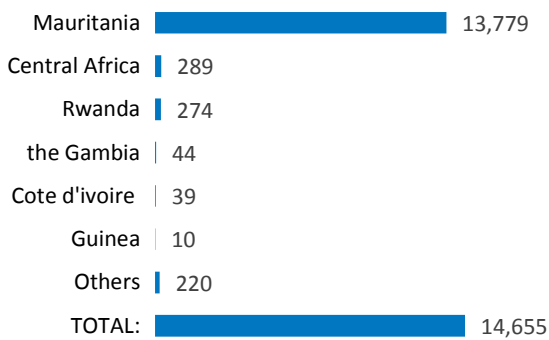
UNHCR's Senegal unit participated in the 3rd Financing Conference of **The Global Partnership for Education** on 2nd February.

The **25th anniversary of DAFI scholarship** was celebrated on 19th December 2017. Approximately 130 persons from the education system participated in this German Academic Initiative commemoration.

All the necessary actions were taken to ensure that 26 refugees received the adequate **durable solution** in conformity with their situation.

POPULATION OF CONCERN : 18,031

Host Countries

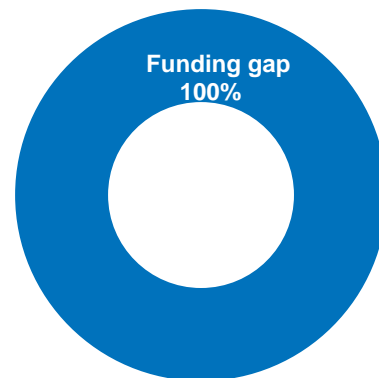


ASYLUM SYEEKERS : 3,376

FUNDING

1,374,122 USD

requested for the Senegal operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 3 National Staff
- 1 International Staff
- 1 International UNV

Offices:

- 1 Office in Dakar



Football match between UNHCR staff, the German Embassy and OFADEC against DAFI students on 2 December 2017 during the DAFI scholarship celebration. The German Ambassador giving the cup to the DAFI team. Photo: UNHCR/RO

Working with Partners

- The Senegal unit has an implementing partner which is the African Office for Development and Cooperation (OFADEC) and works in partnership 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 other IOM, international organisations as ICRC, as well as with UN sister Agencies such as UNDP, IOM and UNICEF.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR's Senegal Unit organized 07 protection counselling sessions at OFADEC's Social Orientation Office (BOS) in Dakar for refugees and asylum seekers from Mauritania, Central Africa, the Gambia, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo. 61 persons including 18 women requested for assistance in divergent areas as resettlement, documentation, health and food assistance. Most of them received the appropriate and available assistance.
- The National Eligibility Committee organized 8 deliberation sessions with the participation of UNHCR's Senegal Unit as an observer. The cases of 32 asylum seekers' were examined. At the end, the Committee issued 6 favorable opinions that were transmitted to the President of the Republic of Senegal who will make a decree to grant the refugee status. There were 17 unfavorable opinions. These requests can be re-examined if the asylum seekers present additional information to argue their cases.
- Two assistance committees were organized with OFADEC, the implementing partner, during which 34 requests of 22 refugees and 12 asylum seekers were reviewed. There were 32 cases that were granted favourable decision. Depending on their level of vulnerability, they received either a one-time or monthly financial assistance up to 3 months, for their primary subsistence needs such as housing and food. There were 2 rejected requests for assistance which will be reconsidered if they meet all criteria.
- The Income Generating Activities funds attribution committee deliberated on 21 projects presented by various refugees. 19 projects were funded at an amount worth 3,088,450 FCFA.

Education

- On 19th December 2017, UNHCR's Senegal unit celebrated the 25th anniversary of DAFI scholarship, the German Academic Initiative « Albert Einstein » for refugees, at Maison de la Culture Doua Seck, in Dakar. An approximate 130 people representing different Educational actors (former and new DAFI students, refugees' leaders, CNRRPD, the Senegalese Ministry of Education, Universities and big schools, UN Agencies, NGOs, media ...) graced the commemoration with their active presence.
- There were 406 students at different levels including primary, secondary and tertiary education who benefited from scholarships following the decisions made by the scholarship deliberation committee.
- At the primary level, the Senegal unit provides one-off support for the purchase of school supplies for all refugee and asylum-seeking children on the basis of the presentation of the pupil's certificate of enrolment in a public school and a copy of the documents attesting their status and affiliation. A total of 258 students including 134 boys and 124 girls were supported in 2017. The most represented nationalities are Mauritania 79.45% and Central Africa (15.11%).
- There were 4 children with special needs who were supported through cash transfers for the purchase of school supplies. These 4 children also received support for their transportation; 2 new students were also assisted to pay their tuition fees. This assistance made possible the right to education for refugee children.
- At the secondary school level, 85 students (46 girls; 39 boys) received cash transfer for their school supplies and transportation given that the secondary schools are at far distances from most habitations of the population.
- At the level of vocational and technical training, students are supported with registration fees, teaching supplies and fees, internship and thesis fees. In 2017, 57 students (32 women; 25 men), including 9 students at the post-primary and 48 students at the post-secondary level, were supported. The most representative nationalities were Mauritania (58%), Central Africa (31%) and the Gambia (7%). This support has facilitated the acquisition of vocational qualification and women's entrepreneurship for a large number of refugees, particularly girls and women, for their self-management and hence facilitation of their integration.
- The unit also took part in the 3rd Financing Conference of The Global Partnership for Education held in Dakar on 2nd February in the presence of various heads of states and major donor countries. There was a UNHCR stand that show cased the different activities that advocate for the inclusion of refugees in the national education system.

Health

- The partner OFADEC held individual meetings with 07 refugees in regard to health issues. It was noted that only 1 male refugee paid for the health insurance charges for the months of January and February.
- To facilitate students' access to health care, the health insurance company MS Transvie committed to pay the monthly contributions of DAFI scholars who do not receive their subsistence allowance on time. The students would then make the necessary payments once they receive their education grants.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- As part of the 2017 celebration of the 16 days of activism against the SGBV, an awareness session was conducted in a primary school in Keur Massar 2, and a significant number of refugee children participated. There were other 105 students (50 boys; 55 girls) between the ages of 10 and 13 years and 14 teachers (5 women; 9 men) as well as a refugee student and parents who took part in the event. There was a summary and interactive presentation on UNHCR mission, SGBV concepts, causes, consequences, as well as actions taken to prevent or respond to SGBV. The participants acquired response and prevention tools against SGBV.
- Trainings in micro gardening and screen printing were organised for 43 people (33 women; 10 men). After these 3 training sessions, the 3 groups based in Dakar, Thiès and Saint Louis received another training in GERM (Better Management in One's Company). Subsequently, funding was granted for the start-up of their livelihood activities.

Durable Solutions

- 11 refugees including one woman were resettled to Canada.
- 10 refugees were repatriated to their countries of origin with the majority from CAR.
- 5 refugees from mixed couples received their documentation pertaining to acquiring the Senegalese nationality from the Podor Court.

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LINKS

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

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