



Facts and figures

Senegalese migration

- The Ministry of Senegalese Abroad estimates that in 2007 over two million people were living abroad.
- An estimated 80,000 Senegalese live in France, which has an immigrant population of 6.4 million.
- This study focuses on migrants from the middle valley of the Senegal River, commonly known as Fouta, which is populated by the Halpulaar group, formerly known as the Tukulors.
- Migration has been a survival strategy for the people of Fouta as they face serious environmental degradation.
- In France, migrants from Fouta are concentrated along the valley of the River Seine, especially in the Ile-de-France region and in Normandy. The major Halpulaar communities in France are: Mantes-la-Jolie in the Yvelines department, Etampes in the Essonne department, Le Havre in Normandy, and also Marseille in the Bouches-du-Rhône department, which used to be the main port of entry for African workers.
- 82% of the population in the case study area have never been to school. Only 11% of the people questioned had attended primary school, 5.2% secondary school and 0.2% university. Women were even less represented in education, as only 10.5% go to primary school, compared to 13.8% of men, and 4.3% go to secondary school, compared to 6.9% of men. There were no women recorded as having attended or are attending higher education at the time of research.

Remittances

- Official estimates of remittances reached over 500 billion CFA francs (around € 762 million) in 2007. They represented 15 to 65% of migrant revenues and 30 to 80% of the budget of the Senegalese families receiving the remittances.
- Remittances make up over 7.6% of the national GDP of Senegal.
- In the villages studied, the average annual remittances sent by migrants living in France are estimated at 156,300 CFA francs (around € 240) per month for female-headed households and 137,500 CFA francs (around € 210) for male-headed households.
- France ranked second of the top 10 remittance-sending countries for Senegalese migrants with 20% of the volume of remittances for the year 2005.
- Remittances are used to cover the basic needs of recipient families in Senegal: food, ceremonies, health care and housing. Migrants transfers go toward is a response to the survival needs of the household and to repay the money borrowed to cover travel expenses.
- The money invested in farming goes mainly toward inputs rather than production, in particular the purchase of fertilizers, seeds, food and cattle. More women (48%) than men (39%) invest solely in these types of inputs.
- The main income-generating activities are farming (42%) and trade (33%). Given that women have less land than men, they tend to opt for trade (40%), whereas men prefer farming (50%).

Recommendations

- Prioritize value-added projects, such as community gardens, multifunctional cattle farms or processing and marketing units.
- Consolidate action funds to enable young people and women from communities of origin to launch projects of greater scale than micro projects, which currently are not very lucrative.
- Launch credit lines to finance migrants' projects.
- Develop information awareness campaigns regarding government credit lines available through ministries such as the Ministry of Senegalese Youth or the Ministry of Senegalese Abroad.
- Improve coordination of the implementation of individual and collective projects in order to avoid competition, which is counterproductive.
- Review the role and organization of decentralized financial institutions (co-operatives, savings and loan associations, savings and credit banks), especially with regard to the interest rates applied to loans and the specific conditions for obtaining credit in order to trigger a sustainable increase in purchasing power.
- Strengthen State and/or NGO structures for receiving, supporting, advising and assisting migrants in order to encourage them, through information and awareness programmes, to devote a larger part of the funds transferred to productive projects.
- Create State services for in-house advice and training to help migrants launch business projects in their home country (coaching, guidance, formalization and development).
- Develop information, training and capacity building for the young entrepreneurs already in operation in the areas of departure.
- Work with local authorities and other partners to develop support infrastructure, which is essential to the success of companies in the migration source areas: roads, tracks, telecommunications, points of sale, etc.

