

# Senegalese Red Cross Society

## Food insecurity programme 2012–2013

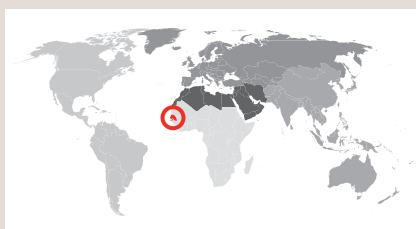
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January 2012 ■ Senegalese Red Cross Society food security assessment

May 2012 ■ Further in-depth assessments

October 2012 ■ Start cash disbursements and monitoring

December 2012 ■ Programme review

November 2012 – April 2013  On-going programming

## Project details

<b>National Society</b>	Senegalese Red Cross Society
<b>Appeal code</b>	MDRSN007
<b>Objective(s)</b>	Protect livelihoods, reinforce resilience, and reduce negative coping strategies of 1,000 drought affected farming households
<b>Duration</b>	April 2012 – April 2013
<b>Location</b>	Diourbel, Kaolack and Fatick regions
<b>Cost</b>	159,750 Swiss francs (CHF) (85,785,750 West African franc (CFA)) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Main sectors</b>	Immediate needs (food security)
<b>Number of households</b>	13,500 households planned 1,000 households reached <sup>2</sup> (Fewer households reached due to the programme not being fully funded)
<b>Selection criteria</b>	Households fulfilling all or most of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependant on agriculture</li> <li>• Female-headed households</li> <li>• At least three children under five-years</li> <li>• No formal income</li> <li>• Consuming only one meal a day</li> <li>• Persons living with disability or sick family members</li> <li>• Evidence of assets sold to meet needs</li> <li>• No food or seed reserves</li> <li>• Households not receiving outside support</li> <li>• Households with no livestock and no land</li> </ul>
<b>Main activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop households identification, targeting strategy and a registration system to deliver cash assistance</li> <li>• Assess and partner with relevant stakeholders to deliver the cash</li> <li>• Disburse cash grants to be encashed at a bank</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate</li> </ul>
<b>Key outcome(s)</b>	1,000 households meet their immediate needs for two months through cash transfer distributions
<b>Number of staff involved</b>	Total: 88 (Senegalese Red Cross Society: Staff 13, volunteers 75)
<b>Other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support: IFRC</li> <li>• Funding: ECHO and British Red Cross</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment information used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEWSNet and UN sources</li> <li>• Food security assessment by Senegalese Red Cross Society</li> </ul>

1. Average exchange rate over the project period: CHF 1 = CFA 537 ([www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com))

2. Equivalent to 7,000 individuals. The beneficiary to household count in this emergency appeal was based on seven persons per family.

## Project description

### Context

As in other countries of the Sahel, the 2011 rain deficit resulted in food insecurity in parts of central and northern Senegal that were already facing chronic drought, particularly affecting the households that were dependant on livestock and agriculture.

In March 2012, the Senegalese Red Cross Society requested support for food security and nutrition for 258,000 people through activities including food, improved seeds, tools and fertilizer distributions; malnutrition screenings and referrals; the construction of seed banks and cash transfers for households to meet their immediate food needs. In response to this request, the IFRC launched an emergency appeal.

### Assessment and programme design

During January and February 2012, other humanitarian organizations had restricted

mobility due to the pre-electoral violence in the country and because of the government's lack of recognition of the food crisis. However, the Senegalese Red Cross Society was able to conduct food security assessments in six affected departments across three regions. By May 2012, the National Society completed several in-depth food security and nutrition assessments to establish the magnitude of the problem and to recommend the appropriate intervention.

Based on these assessments, the Senegalese Red Cross Society planned a cash transfer programme to meet the needs of 13,500 households in the region of Saint Louis for three months. The programme was to provide agriculture dependent, drought affected families with three unconditional cash grants as part of a food security programme. Volunteers distributed the cash grant beneficiary cards during the lean period. The households could then claim cash against the beneficiary cards at a partner bank.



Volunteers of the Senegalese Red Cross Society distributes cash grant beneficiary cards to support livelihoods of 13,500 households in the region of Saint Louis.

## Household selection

The Senegalese Red Cross Society selected the most vulnerable geographical areas and identified communities. A project committee consisting of different community representatives (e.g. local administration, head of the village, women, youth and religious group) and members of the local Senegalese Red Cross Society branch was created in each of the selected communities. These committees ensured community participation, developed and approved vulnerability criteria and subsequent household selection, supported programme implementations and addressed any grievances.

The Senegalese Red Cross Society requested that the selection criteria focus on agriculture dependent, drought affected households with limited livelihoods assets and labour opportunities and a high dependency ratio within the household. Each local committee proposed a list of households based on the criteria defined and their knowledge of the community. Subse-

quently, the Senegalese Red Cross Society volunteers verified these lists through household surveys since community involvement in the targeting and identification process ensured acceptance of the programme. The project committee had to approve the final list of targeted households.

## Programme implementation

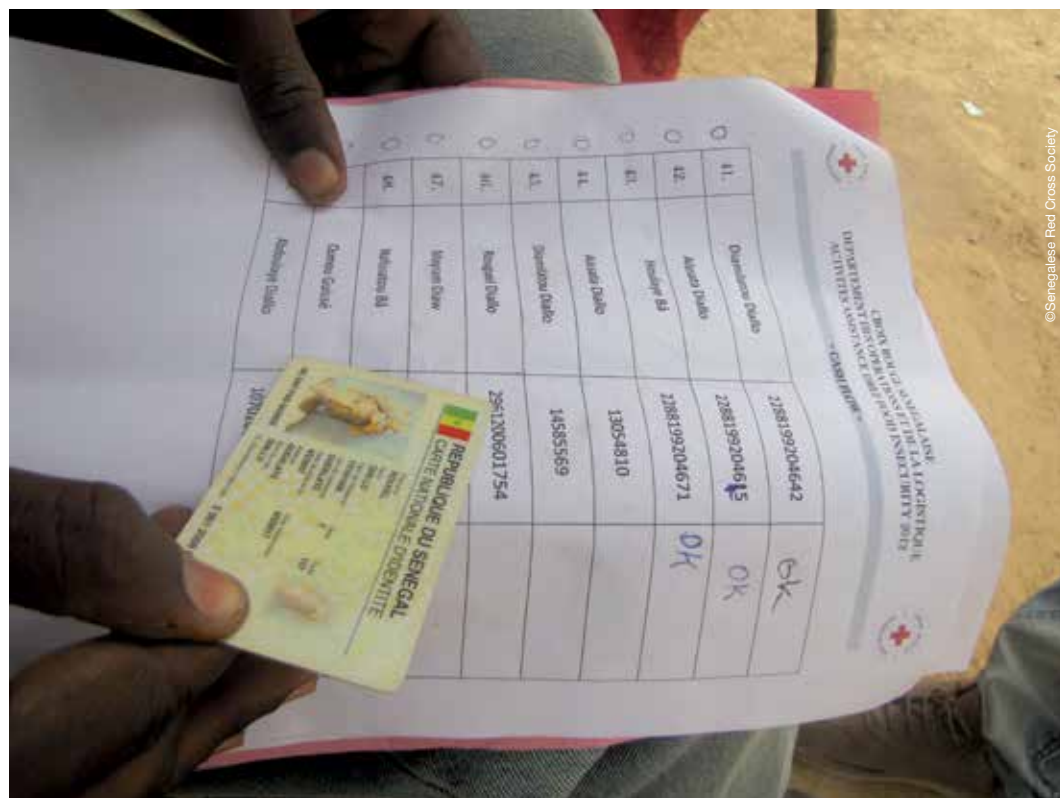
Since the IFRC emergency appeal coverage was low, the programme had to be significantly revised. After consultation with the Senegalese Red Cross Society branches and the local authorities, the support was redirected to 1,000 of the most vulnerable households in the regions of Diourbel, Fatick and Kaolack (reduced from the original 13,500 households for three months).<sup>3</sup>

The cash transfer amount of CFA 75,000 (CHF 150) was based on the official value established for the monthly food basket of CFA 55,000 (CHF 102) with a top up for additional priority household needs. The cash

## Cash-based programming facts

<b>Total transfer amount per household</b>	CFA 75,000 (CHF 150)
<b>Number of payments</b>	One instalment
<b>Value of cash transfers as percentage of total project cost</b>	93.6 per cent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational costs: 2.1 per cent</li> <li>• Service provision charges: 4.3 per cent</li> </ul>
<b>Modality</b>	Unconditional cash grant
<b>Payment mechanism</b>	Cash transfer through a third party (bank)
<b>Method of setting value of cash transfer</b>	Value of the cash grant was set according to the government official food basket for a month
<b>Partners/service providers</b>	<i>Crédit Mutuel du Sénégal</i>
<b>Service provision charges</b>	Bank handling fee of 4.5 per cent on the total disbursed amount

<sup>3</sup> Additional funding was sought from another donor, with a second transfer made in February 2013. For this fact sheet, only the first transfer is reviewed.



Households received their unconditional cash grants after verification.

transfer amount was seen as a valuable contribution to the households' immediate needs for the following two months.

In October 2012, the Senegalese Red Cross Society initiated the distribution of unconditional cash grants. Each household received CFA 75,000 (CHF 150) and was encouraged to use the money at local shops to promote the local markets. The Senegalese Red Cross Society and the community project committees jointly took care of the distribution of the beneficiary cards which included the corresponding cash grant entitlement and monitored their use. The partner banks created individual accounts for each household, which allowed them to either withdraw the full amount in one go or as instalments. Any accounts with zero funds could then be closed with no charge.

## Programme outcome

One thousand households in the three regions of Diourbel, Fatick and Kaolack received unconditional cash support for two months to increase their purchasing power during the recovery phase.

In December 2012, the Senegalese Red Cross Society conducted a post-distribution monitoring of the cash transfer programme to evaluate progress. The post distribution monitoring revealed that targeted households used the money to cover their basic needs. Most of the money was spent on food (65 per cent) and a substantial part was used to cover health expenses (25 per cent). The rest of the money was spent on education (5 per cent) and other needs (5 per cent).



## Reflecting on our learning...

The key learning points from this programme for the National Society can be summarized as follows:

1. The importance of including the community in the targeting process is key for programme success. This is true for all programmes, but perhaps more so for cash transfer programmes, where there is a greater risk of complaints linked to perceived or actual programme exclusion.
2. In the past, households' identification methodology was conducted at the village level which resulted in complaints from those who had been excluded. Dealing with these complaints to come up with a mutually beneficial resolution was time consuming. Through this programme, experience in community-based targeting processes has shown to be a much better way to target households. It is also much quicker which is important for relief operations. In the future, the Senegalese Red Cross Society will ensure continued use of community-based targeting processes with disaster affected communities, including those not selected for a response.
3. The experience of cash transfer assistance has proved to be a valuable support process for many communities in need. The Senegalese Red Cross Society is taking on increased measures to build its capacity to embed cash programming into its existing preparedness measures and contingency planning. This will enable a more timely response to an operation with a scalable cash transfer component.

*Cash has been used in Senegalese Red Cross [Society] since 2011, through seven cash transfer projects. This approach provides more choice and flexibility to households as well as privacy and dignity. Post distribution monitoring results show that most households prefer to receive cash or vouchers to other forms of assistance due to the flexibility to cover their specific priority needs.*

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