

Facts about Senegal

- Sub-Saharan country with scarce resources
- Widening gap between rich and poor, and between rural and urban populations
- Surrounded by unstable nations (Mali, Mauritania, Guinea, Cote d' Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau)

USAID/Education Priorité Qualité (EPQ) Brief Overview

- **2010-2014**
- 4 components targeting middle school sector: Decentralization of teacher training; whole school approach; basic competencies in math and French; and youth employability
- Youth component pilot program 2010-2012

Youth Issues

- Increased unemployment (48%)
- Youth bulge: 43% of the population is 15 years or younger
- Disparity between skills needed and skills taught has negative impact on employment and investment
- High dropout rate in some areas
- Youth view emigration as solution to their problems

How to Address the Issues

- Identify some of the short-term solutions that could have major impact (pilot program just two years long)
- Identify zones where it could have greatest impact

Zones Casamance & Kédougou Politically volatile Mining industry Among poorest and most isolated in Senegal Allantic Senegal

Multipronged Approach

- Work with ministries at national level to address policies to promote youth employability
- Work with local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and local government entities, training them to better serve the youth population
- Mobilize communities to support the youth programs

National level

- Identified ministries involved: youth; education; civic service agency
- Carried out study of what currently was offered by Senegal government, and identified capacity-building needs and possible policy changes
- Held roundtables to discuss results and recommendations of study

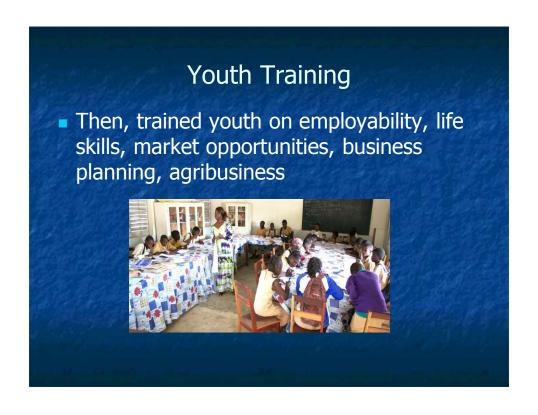
Regional and Local Levels

- Carried out youth training needs assessment (focus groups, surveys, interviews, etc.)
- Assessment showed youth wanted to be trained in: employability, agribusiness, business planning, market opportunities, and life skills

Designed Training Programs

- With local NGOs and government representatives, designed youth training programs
 - targeted to the Senegalese context; and
 - addressed youth training needs
- With government and NGOs, designed community mobilization activities (forums, radio messages)













Results

- Changed behavior of youth and trainers (reported fewer strikes and absences at school; greater interest in community development)
- Built capacity of local NGOs and local government partners to better serve youth
- Provided entrepreneurship opportunities
- Improved communities (more stable, greater local employment opportunities)

Keys to Success

- Consulted youth in designing program content
- Involved communities—radio, communityservice projects, community forums
- Provided real entrepreneurship opportunities—didn't remain just theoretical training

