



Kids of Kadiogne, Inc.

P.O. Box 18983, Philadelphia, PA 19119 ❖ 1.844.KADIOGNE ❖ www.kidsofkadiogne.org

December 12, 2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Mamadou Sow
Co-Chair

Phyllis B. Taylor, RN
Co-Chair

Kathy Lopez

Karen O'Neill

Josh Skinner

Eileen Smith

STAFF

Luke Klein
Executive Director (unpaid)

Oumar Salif Baba Sow
Program Coordinator
in Senegal

Dear Supporters,

I love Senegal. I love the art, the music, the language, the food, the clothing, the stories, the laughter, the people, my friends. And that is why I have chosen to dedicate myself to working in Senegal. There are people there in need, and that is why you have all supported our efforts to help them over the years.

A Beacon for a Stable Africa

There is also a case to be made for the importance of Senegal from the perspective of global peace and stability. Senegal is located in a region plagued by socioeconomic and political crises and, in some countries, by violent, fanatical movements. If the world can help to nurture this quiet, stable democracy toward further development, it will ensure Senegal's continued stability, and allow it to shine even brighter as a beacon for other countries in the region.

A Fragile Stability in an Unstable Region

- Senegal is a progressive, majority Sufi Muslim country with a long history as a stable and peaceful democracy.
- There are peaceful relations between Christians and Muslims, as well as all smaller minority religions, with a tradition of interfaith families.
- There is a long history of peaceful relations among ethnic groups, with a tradition of interethnic marriage.
- The National Assembly of Senegal is made up of 43% female representatives (and they have had more than one female Prime Minister); this places them sixth in the world for highest female representation (the US is ranked 100th in the world, with only 18%).
- Finding itself on the border of the recent Ebola outbreak, Senegal's response was unparalleled. The government mobilized the entire country in prevention efforts, and Senegal was the first country to be cleared by the WHO as free of Ebola.
- Senegal has more modern transportation and communication infrastructures than most countries in the region.
- As the world has recently seen in the global response to the Ebola outbreak, Senegal's seaport and airport are the doorway to the region.
- Senegal has a disciplined and well-trained army that is frequently called upon to assist with peacekeeping missions in other countries in this troubled region.
- The US government has long recognized the importance of Senegal in maintaining regional stability, and it has formed close ties and partnerships with the country.

Although Senegal has many of the ingredients necessary for future success, its stability is fragile. The poverty of the country leaves it vulnerable to destabilizing forces. Some of the indicators of the current problems are as follows: (*over*)

'Making a significant difference in the life of a child'

Poverty and the Need for Further Development

- Senegal is among the poorest countries in the world, with a median income of \$1.10 per person per day. (See '*How Far Does \$1.10 Go in Senegal?*' below for more on this.)
- The vast majority of Senegalese are engaged in the informal sector of the economy, and measurement is difficult, but available figures show very high unemployment rates.
- Literacy rates are improving, but they still hover around 50%, and only a third of children graduate from secondary school.
- More than 50,000 children spend their days begging on the streets of Senegal's cities and receive no formal education.
- Senegal suffers from very high rates of infectious disease, including malaria, bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, dengue fever, yellow fever, schistosomiasis, and meningococcal meningitis.
- A quarter of the population does not have access to clean drinking water, and half of the population does not have access to sanitation facilities.

Helping Those in Need, While Supporting Regional Stability

Our programs are aimed both at addressing immediate needs and at encouraging the education and health of the next generation. We are playing a small but effective role in contributing to the stability of a strategically important country. Through your generous continuing support, you are touching the lives of thousands of people in Senegal, and you are contributing to increased regional stability. Thank you!

With best wishes for you and your families in the new year,

Luke Klein
Executive Director (unpaid)

Phyllis B. Taylor
Co-Chair

How Far Does \$1.10 Go in Senegal?

The median income in Senegal is \$7.73 per week. In the US, it's \$297.69 per week.

This is clearly a big difference, but I am sometimes asked about what it means in real terms on the ground?

Well, let's try buying a basic subsistence-level weekly food basket that is culturally neutral between the US and Senegal (bread, rice, eggs, chicken, fruits, and vegetables).

In the US, our food basket will cost us about \$31. So, with our median \$297.69 per week, we'll still have \$267 left over for other expenses that week.

In Senegal, our same basic food basket will cost us \$18. Which means we'll have to work for more than two weeks at our median \$7.73 per week in order to buy one week's worth of groceries!

The important point here is that the \$1.10 per day median income in Senegal is really, really low. And it feels really, really low to people in Senegal.