

»» Project Information

Implemented by:



Decentralisation and promoting peace – Senegal

For three decades, Senegal has been in the grip of an armed conflict, barely noticed by the world at large. The hot spot of the troubles is the southern province of Casamance with its abundance of resources. Despite a peace agreement concluded at the end of 2004, hope of an enduring peace in this impoverished region has, until the present day, not been realised. KfW Development Bank's goal is to assist in laying the foundations for peace by rehabilitating badly damaged infrastructure and strengthening local political structures.

Context

To date, civil war in Senegal has claimed around 3,500 lives since it broke out at the end of 1982, with the brutal suppression of a demonstration for the independence of the Casamance region, in the provincial capital of Ziguinchor. A total of 73,000 were forced to flee from their villages. Income per capita amounts to only USD 0.40/day.

A river and the land mass of The Gambia separate the Casamance region from the rest of Senegal, making the journey between the two parts of the country somewhat difficult. After a particularly tragic ferry accident in 2002, KfW Development Bank, on behalf of the German Federal Government financed a new, safe ferry in cooperation with the European Investment Bank, which now transports passengers from Ziguinchor to Dakar and back.

KfW Development Bank, on behalf of the German Federal Government, is supporting the setting up of municipal and regional infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable economic development in the Casamance region. This project is underway in the Casamance

region, as well as in the districts north of the Gambia River in the Sine Saloum region, the so-called "peanut basin", as agreed on by Germany and Senegal.

Project approach

In both the Casamance and Sine Saloum regions, schools, health centres, market places, bus stations

Project name	Decentralisation with special emphasis on the Casamance region Ferry connection Dakar-Ziguinchor
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Senegal / West Africa
Lead executing agency	Ministère d'Aménagement du Territoire et des Collectivités Locales (MATCL) Agence de l'Execution des Travaux d'Intérêt Public contre les Sous-emploi (AGETIP) Agence Régional de Développement (ARD)





Market halls promote local trade, and also help increase the districts' own income. Source: Michael P. Kirchesch

and power lines are being built in the villages with the involvement of local residents. As a result, municipal self-governance, as well as economic development, is being strengthened in the regions.

Inhabitants of the districts are involved in deciding which needs are to be met most urgently. Schools, markets or other buildings are constructed depending on what has been prioritised. The participation of citizens strengthens the self-confidence and accountability of districts, and they are supported in doing so by regional development agencies and the partially state-owned project partner AGETIP. The districts are responsible for operating and maintaining the newly built units, which increases their sense of responsibility towards their citizens.

Only a minority of children currently attend school in the Casamance region, largely because most of the school buildings have been destroyed. Schools, as well as dilapidated health units, are being renovated with KfW funds, always on condition that Senegal employs and pays the necessary teachers and doctors. Water supply systems are built if water committees or user groups assume responsibility for operating them. The districts also have to produce a plan for markets and bus stations showing how operations will be secured on a permanent basis.

Additionally, municipalities upgrade rural roads, espe-

cially in the Casamance region, together with residents and local building companies, supported by the AGETIP. Currently the roads are in such a poor state of repair that farmers struggle to bring their goods to market. For this reason, trade has literally come to a standstill. Germany is committed to repairing badly damaged dams that halt the salinisation of the soil and allow small irrigation systems to be built.

Impact

The Casamance region, with its 1.5 million inhabitants, shows potential for catching up economically. In contrast to the dry north of Senegal, the Casamance region boasts a wet, tropical climate with fertile soil. Thanks to the dams, the production of rice farmers is increasing by over 50 % and they are able to reach local markets more easily, due to the rehabilitated roads. The Casamance region is also linked more closely to the national economy.

Over the past few years, a number of refugees have returned. The region's improved municipal infrastructure plays a key role in easing the social and economic reintegration of returnees into local society. Community and youth centres, as well as local sport facilities, provide meeting places and promote a feeling of togetherness. Strengthened municipal self-governance which incorporates citizens into important decisions boosts the democratic legitimacy of district administrations and in doing so, contributes towards stabilising the situation in the Casamance region.



Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
West Africa Governance
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Phone +49 69 7431 9868
amelie_lara.hinz@kfw.de

KfW Office Dakar
109, Rue Carnot x El Hadj Mass Diokhané
B.P. 3869 Dakar
Sénégal
kfw.dakar@kfw.de