



Context

Senegal occupies the position 153 of a total of 179, according to the World Human Development Index, meaning that they live in extreme poverty. Their scarce facilities and its economy, which depends completely on the agriculture, make it a particularly vulnerable State.

Senegal has 370 rural community groups led by chiefs. The population that live there are mainly women and children because men usually emigrate looking for a job. However, the unemployment rate is higher than 40 % and almost 60 % of the population is illiterate. That's why in Plan International we are trying to change these figures. This development project in the country, funded by the contributions of Plan International Spain's partners, is focused on the education of the children and particularly of the girls in the country; so that they have a bright future and are able to fight against the current unemployment and school dropout figures.

Objectives and beneficiaries

The Plan International's project in Senegal grants 1000 scholarships to girls from nine different localities so that they initiate or continue their education in schools and high schools. The project will end in June 2015. With these scholarships we will help to improve the quality of the education of 1000 girls who are 10 to 16 years old and live in families with scarce resources. We will also sensitize the communities to the importance of the girls' education. With our partners' contributions we will be able to reduce the school dropout rate of the girls who are in a vulnerable situation (teenage mothers; pregnant, married or disabled girls, etc.). This rate is 15 % and we will be able to reduce it to 10 % in 2015. Our objective is to improve their educational achievement and the participation of the girls in their schools and communities.

Organization

In order to implement the project, some Senegalese coordinators and workers have been trained and the activities for the girls will be organized by them. Some teachers have provided educational support to the girls through tutoring. "Gender clubs", made up of boys and girls who are beneficiaries of the scholarships, have been created. A School Management Committee (made up of fathers, mothers, teachers, students and communities) has also been established. This institution plays a key role in the sustainability of the project.



Activities

In 2013 and 2014 meetings with the mothers, fathers, women groups, chiefs of the rural community groups and young leaders were carried out. The objectives, the activities that will be carried out with the scholarships, and the tutoring that particularly the girls will receive have been discussed in the meeting. They were also informed of the participants' responsibilities to end the project successfully. In all the meetings the importance of the education of the girls in the country has been highlighted and the population has been sensitized. More than 200 people (many of them were men) have been involved in the project in order to raise population's awareness of the need for reach gender equity in the country.

The project of the 1000 scholarships in Senegal is still under way, so more meetings, trainings and campaigns in favor of the girl's education have been already organized for next year. Some radio programs presented by girls will also be carried out. In Plan International we have established that in Senegal there is not enough support to the increase of the educational level of the girls who are in vulnerable situations, so we will still work to ensure that more teachers get involved. To see their students making progress and achieving their goals motivate them more than anything else. We will also fight to try that more institutions, fathers, mothers and communities joint to our working line.