

Poverty & Equity Brief

October 2025

SENEGAL

In 2025, rising economic activity and decreasing inflationary pressure are expected to reduce poverty to 36.9 percent, equivalent to 7.0 million people living below the lower middle income poverty line of \$4.20 per person per day (using 2021 PPP). While industrial growth has been driven by higher hydrocarbon production, only a small portion of the population is employed in extractives. However, sustained agricultural growth is expected to boost incomes, particularly among the poor. These developments indicate a decline in poverty since 2020 but continue to highlight significant obstacles to inclusive growth.

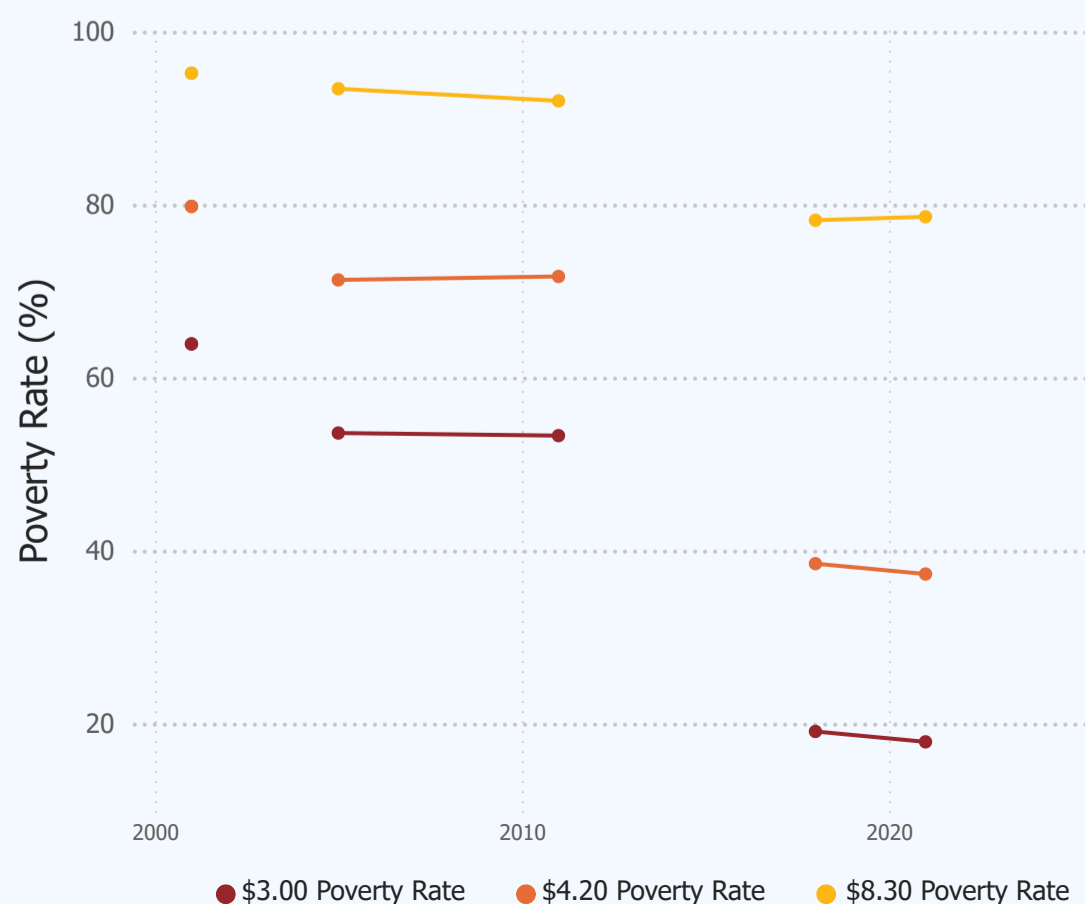
Poverty reduction still faces many challenges, including deficits in human capital, weak attachment to formal employment, and low labor productivity, especially in agriculture. High youth emigration, along with external shocks like climate change and regional instability, pose challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In addition, fiscal pressures reduce resources to support poor and vulnerable households through social transfers.

While household monetary inequality shows minimal variation over time, with a Gini index of 35.8 in 2025, inequality extends to differential access to services and opportunities. Spatial disparities are systematic, complex, and persistent, as monetary deprivation overlaps with lagging development outcomes. Stark regional disparities in development outcomes and living standards persist between the Dakar region and the rest of the country. However, the number of poor is highest in regions with relatively lower poverty rates, and a large share of the poor live in densely populated and peri-urban areas in Thies and Djourbel. Poverty rates are higher in rural areas (28.3 percent in 2025), where the poor typically work in the agricultural sector, while in urban areas (5.0 percent in 2025), the largest share of the poor participate in the informal service sector.

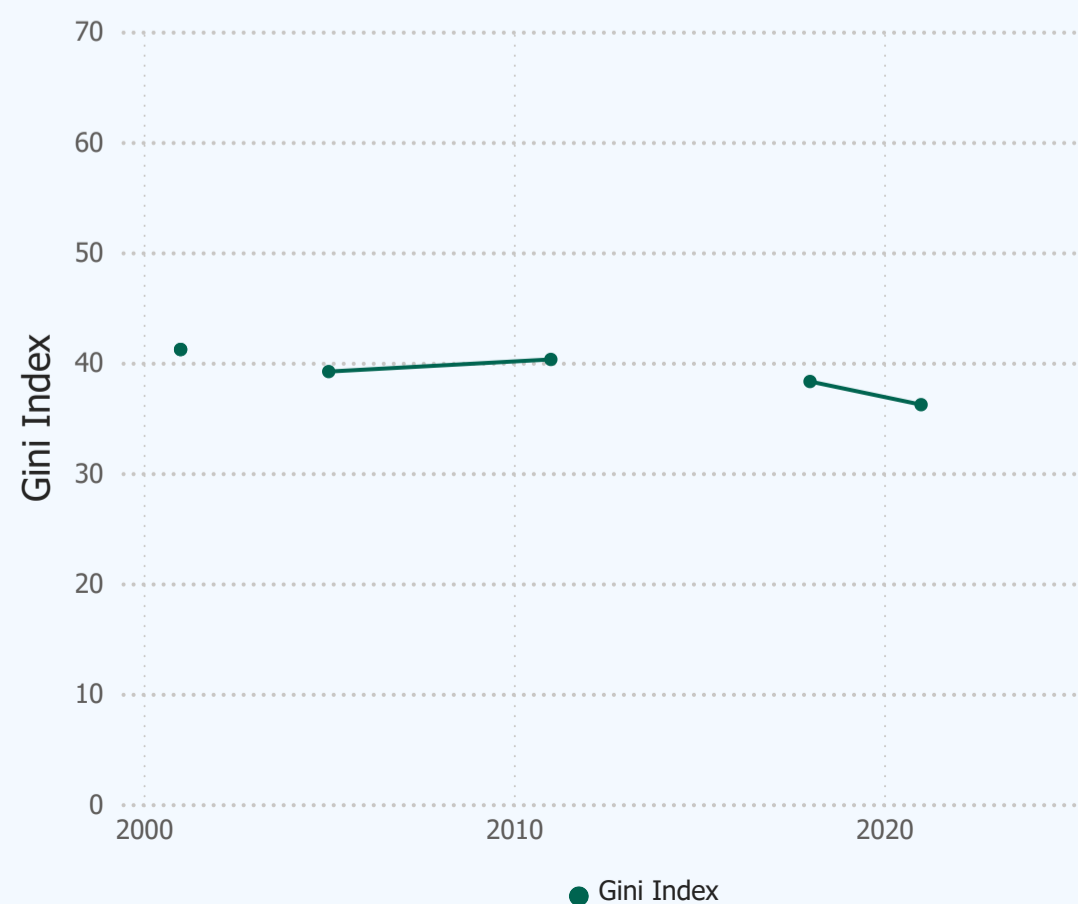
High poverty levels are closely linked to deficits in human capital accumulation and limited access to basic infrastructure. Senegal has made progress in improving access to basic services, particularly in water, sanitation, and healthcare, but challenges remain, especially in remote areas and for poor and vulnerable households. Between 1992 and 2017, access to improved drinking water sources increased from 52 to 81 percent, and improved sanitation from 22 to 51 percent. Over the same period, the share of women attending at least one antenatal care visit with a skilled provider rose from 76 to 97 percent. However, location remains a key determinant of better access to services, and relatively poorer households often fall behind. Rebalancing development strategies by investing in building the productive capacity of the poor, directing investments to secondary towns to create new economic hubs, promoting fair competition, and ensuring access to input and product markets would help ensure that the poor have access to productive, well-paying jobs.



Poverty Rate



Inequality



Poverty at Different Lines

Poverty Line	Number of Poor (Thousands)	Rate (%)	Year
National Poverty Line	6,553.0	37.5	2021
International Poverty Line (\$3.00/day)	3,080.4	17.9	2021
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$4.20/day)	6,427.4	37.3	2021
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$8.30/day)	13,533.3	78.6	2021
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		33.3	2021

Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	15.9	Daily income less than US\$3.00 per person	17.9
Rural population	56.7	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	32.8
Males	37.9	No adult has completed primary education	36.1
Females	36.8	No access to limited-standard drinking water	13.3
0 to 14 years old	44.6	No access to limited-standard sanitation	29.7
15 to 64 years old	32.5	No access to electricity	29.4
65 and older	30.3		
Without education (16+)	45.3		
Primary education (16+)	22.4		
Secondary education (16+)	19.2		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	4.2		

Note:

N/A denotes a missing/removed value, while N/A* refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.

The rates in the Poverty by Group table above are shown at the \$4.20 lower-middle income line.

Data for the Poverty by Group table is derived from a 2021 survey and data for the Multidimensional Poverty Components table is derived from a 2021 survey.

Poverty Data & Methodology

The official national poverty and inequality statistics for Senegal are derived from the Enquête Harmonisée sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages (EHCVM), a harmonized survey program across WAEMU countries, conducted by the Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD). The latest household survey was carried out between November 2021 and September 2022 (EHCVM 2021), and the data is comparable to the EHCVM 2018. The EHCVM is a nationally representative survey of 7,100 households, which also represents the geopolitical zones at both urban and rural levels. Survey microdata is publicly available through the World Bank Microdata Library. The next round of the EHCVM is scheduled for 2025.

The welfare metric used to estimate poverty is consumption per capita. The food poverty line reflects the cost of consuming 2,100 kilocalories per person per day, while the total poverty line is estimated to cover the expenditure necessary to meet non-food needs. The cost-of-the-basic-needs poverty line, estimated using the EHCVM 2018, was CFA 519.8 per capita per day in current prices. This resulted in a national headcount rate of 37.5 percent in 2021. International poverty rates use consumption per capita, adjusted for temporal and spatial cost-of-living differences.

Harmonization

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.