

Senegal

Annex

July 2023

Scoping Report

CHALLENGE
FUND
FXR
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT

In an era marked by pressing environmental concerns and the shifting demands of the global market, Senegal is making strides toward green innovation and sustainable growth. A linchpin in this strategy is the PSE Vert, a green adaptation of the original [Plan Senegal Emergent](#). The PSE Vert is an ambitious roadmap designed to propel the nation's environmental sustainability while fostering job creation. It focuses on generating 150,000 jobs within the green sector by 2023, particularly targeting the youth and women, who are typically more vulnerable to unemployment.

Green jobs

Agriculture, which engages over 60% of Senegal's workforce, is at the heart of the PSE Vert. Given the growing global demand for products stemming from sustainable agriculture, this focus is timely and strategic. The plan encourages eco-friendly farming practices, including agroforestry and organic farming. These techniques not only contribute to environmental preservation but also open avenues for income generation for the country's youth and women.

Further, the PSE Vert targets other sectors ripe for green job creation, such as waste management, renewable energy, and green construction. Senegal's goal of sourcing 30% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2025 is expected to catalyse job growth within the renewable energy industry. This aspiration creates a pool of promising career opportunities for young people and women, helping to bridge the gender and age gap in employment.

The green revolution in Senegal has been supported by various technical and financial partners. These alliances have led to an increase in private-sector involvement, especially within the renewable energy sector. Initiatives like the Carbon Initiative for Development (CID) from the World Bank have been instrumental in facilitating financing and reducing energy costs for rural households. The CiD achieves this by purchasing carbon credits generated by solar rural electrification installations in Senegal under the supervision of the Senegalese Agency in charge of rural electrification (ASER).

Digital jobs

Parallel to these green initiatives, the SN2025 Plan reflects Senegal's digital ambitions. Recognising ICT as a key driver of socio-economic development, it envisages a society in which digital technology is integrated across all sectors of the economy.

A striking concern addressed in the SN2025 Plan is the gender digital divide. While women constitute 52% of the population, they only represent around 20% of the holders of digital jobs. To combat this disparity, the SN2025 Plan champions initiatives such as the Jiggen Ci TIC program. The program aims to train women in digital skills and enhance their representation in the digital sector, aspiring to create 10,000 jobs for women by 2025.

Youth empowerment is also central to the SN2025 Plan. By fostering a conducive environment for digital innovation and entrepreneurship, the government strives to unleash young tech entrepreneurs' potential. Initiatives have led to the establishment of numerous tech hubs and incubators, such as CTIC Dakar and Jokkolabs, which offer training, mentorship, and support to these young innovators. The French Embassy, in collaboration with DER/FJ, the Senegalese agency in charge of supporting entrepreneurship development, has financed the setup of Lionstech Invest, which offers an ecosystem where promising Senegalese startups can find partners and financing in Africa and Europe.

Looking ahead, the digital economy in Senegal is set to receive a substantial boost with the implementation of two data centres in the Dakar area—one in Diamniadio and another in Dakar. These investments reflect the changing perceptions among investors about the prospects offered by the digital economy in Senegal. An increasing number of promising startups are emerging, bolstering various sectors such as logistics, agribusiness, and financial services.

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Conclusion

In conclusion, through initiatives like PSE Vert and SN2025, Senegal is crafting a sustainable and inclusive future. By harnessing the power of green innovation and digital technology, the country is creating employment opportunities, empowering its youth and women, and responding to the increasing demand for sustainable products.

These initiatives align Senegal with the global shift towards a more sustainable and digitally connected world and form an integral part of the focus of CFYE's second Call for Solutions in Senegal.

