



SENEGAL STUDY TOUR

November 7 – 16, 2011





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WELCOME

Salut et bienvenu! Hello & welcome!

Thank you for joining Heifer International's Study Tour to Senegal. I'm honored to share this trip with you. It will be a journey that is sure to educate your mind, warm your heart, delight your senses and inspire you to action.

Our trip to the West African nation of Senegal will be an intensive educational experience in the world of sustainable community development, focusing especially on Heifer International's approach of providing livestock and training to developing communities. You will see, hear and touch Heifer's work through constant interaction with Heifer Senegal staff and through visits to a number of projects. You will also learn about the rich and diverse culture of the people of Senegal and the fascinating history of this nation.

Our tour will begin in Thies, the second largest city in Senegal and home to Heifer's country office. Pronounced "chess," Thies is approximately 35 miles east of the capital city, Dakar. Heifer's in-country staff will guide us through project visits and share their vast expertise with us throughout the tour. We'll witness Heifer's work in the field and the energy of Heifer's Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development in action. You will leave with a better understanding of the issues surrounding hunger, poverty and environmental degradation and Heifer's sustainable community development model that empowers communities to take action to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth.

As well as visiting some of the amazing families and communities working with Heifer, we will have the opportunity to enjoy wildlife such as giraffes, zebras, white rhinos, wart hogs, and monkeys at the Bandia Nature Reserve. We'll also visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gorée Island, departure point for many ships headed primarily to the West Indies and southern Louisiana during the slave trade.

Throughout our time together, we will have ample opportunities for processing and debriefing. It is my sincere hope that you will leave this tour committed to promoting Heifer's mission and inspired to take action in your own community. In the meantime, I will be in touch regularly as the tour nears, and I look forward to meeting all of you in November.

Sincerely,

Dorn Van Dommelen

Dorn Van Dommelen
Study Tour Leader & Heifer Volunteer

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL SENEGAL STUDY TOUR

Tentative Itinerary: November 7 – 16, 2011*

Date	Activity	Responsible Person	Additional Information
Monday Nov. 7, 2011 Day One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival at the Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport (DKR) in Dakar • Heifer Senegal staff and travel agency will pick up participants at the airport and take them to hotel in Thies • Dinner at the hotel (if accommodating flights are available) 	Maodo Malick, Fatou & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 1-2 hr. drive from airport to hotel Overnight at the Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel in Thies Website: www.aubergeduciel.com Tel: 00221339516659
Tuesday Nov. 8, 2011 Day Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel • Welcome and orientation at the Heifer Senegal country office; presentation on Serere culture, Heifer's history, community development model and Heifer's work in Senegal • Study Tour basics and Cornerstones Workshop • Lunch at local restaurant • Visit Bandia Park • Dinner at the hotel 	Francis, Maodo Malick, Fatou & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 25 min. drive to Bandia Park Overnight at the Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel
Wednesday Nov. 9, 2011 Day Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel • Visit <i>Fandène Diversified Production Initiative (DPI) Project</i> (#21-0702-01) in the Thies Region • Have lunch with the community • Free time to explore Thies • Debriefing/reflection time • Dinner at the hotel 	Maodo, Etienne & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 15 min. drive to project Overnight at the Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel
Thursday Nov. 10, 2011 Day Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel • Visit the <i>Baback Integrated Sheep and Crop Project</i> (#21-0703-01) • Lunch with the community • Visit the Baback Gardening Initiatives • Participate in the preparation of dinner and a campfire; share stories and interact with family members • Overnight with the community. Participants will be divided into small groups to have dinner & overnight with different host families 	Maodo, Gustave & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 45 min. drive to project from hotel Overnight with the Community in Baback Village (bring small overnight bag and leave luggage at Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel)

Date	Activity	Responsible Person	Additional Information
Friday Nov. 11, 2011 Day Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and eat breakfast with host families • Travel back to the hotel in Thies to freshen up • Debriefing/reflection session • Lunch at the hotel • Visit the Museum of Traditional Arts & Culture and the Thies Handicraft Centre • Dinner at the hotel 	Maodo, Gustave & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 45 min. drive from project to hotel Overnight at the Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel
Saturday Nov. 12, 2011 Day Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel • Visit the Wayenbam Dairy Farm, a private farm in Bambilor Village, to see what an intensive farm looks like • Have lunch at a local restaurant and tour Rose Lake • Travel back to Thies • Debriefing/reflection session • Dinner at the hotel with entertainment 	Maodo, Daouda & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 1 hr. drive to Bambilor from hotel Overnight at the Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel
Sunday Nov. 13, 2011 Day Seven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel • Attend local Mass/church service • Lunch at the hotel • Afternoon visit to Somone Beach for a boat ride and exploring the natural habitat • Travel back to Thies • Dinner at the hotel 	Gustave, Etienne & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 45 min. drive to Somone from hotel Overnight at the Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel
Monday Nov. 14, 2011 Day Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel • Visit the “Diarrere Integrated Production and Market Development” Project (#21-1701-01) • Have lunch with the community • Travel back to Thies • Debriefing/reflection time • Dinner at the hotel 	Daouda, Francis & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 1.5 hr. drive to Louga from hotel Overnight at Aux Berges du Ciel Hotel
Tuesday Nov. 15, 2011 Day Nine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel and check-out • Travel to Dakar • Check in to the Arch Hotel • Lunch at the hotel • Visit the Slave Castle of Gorée Island • City Tour of Dakar • Dinner at a local restaurant in Dakar 	Maodo, Fatou & Study Tour Leader	Approx. 2.5 hr. drive from Thies to Dakar Overnight at Arch Hotel in Dakar No website Tel: 22133 820 41 63
Wednesday Nov. 16, 2011 Day Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel (if flights allow) and check-out • Departure flights from Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport (DKR) in Dakar 	Maodo, Fatou & Study Tour Leader	

* Please Note: The itinerary is tentative and subject to change at any time, even once a trip commences.

STAFF JOINING THIS TOUR



Francis Yvon Bouba-Dalambaye
Heifer Senegal Project Manager

Francis joined Heifer as program manager to oversee Heifer's Program in Senegal, following Heifer's partnership with Mission Inter-Senegal (MIS), a local nonprofit organization based in Thiès. An agricultural engineer and livestock specialist, Francis worked at World Vision in Senegal for four years as program manager in the area of Integrated Development Projects, covering initiatives such as education, health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, hydraulic works, child sponsorship as well as micro-financing. Francis holds a Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Bangui in his home country of Central African Republic, and a Masters degree in Agronomy from École Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture in Thiès. In his spare time, Francis plays classical guitar, enjoys table tennis and entertains his family. Francis is fluent in both spoken and written French and has a working knowledge of Wolof and Serer. Francis is married to Nicole, and the couple has one son, Yedidia.



Dr. Dorn Van Dommelen

Dorn is husband to Diane and father to Lang, 21, Eve, 18, and Puck, 9. The family lives 'off-grid' in Bird Creek, Alaska, where Dorn occupies his time baking bread, brewing beer, and homesteading (cutting wood, hauling water and building and repairing cabins). As a Professor of Geography, Environmental Studies and International Studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Dorn teaches a variety of courses and especially enjoys teaching introductory surveys (with service-learning components) in global geography and environmental sciences. His academic specialties are historical geography and Canada. Dorn loves to walk, ski and, when time permits, backpack and backcountry ski.

MAP OF SENEGAL



BACKGROUND ON SENEGAL



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Republic of Senegal is a small country that lies farther west than any other nation on the African continent. Senegal's population is made up of numerous ethnic groups, predominantly the Wolof people. The republic gained independence from France in 1960, but the effects of French imperialism are still felt.

COUNTRY FACTS

- Official Language: French
- Population: 13,711,597 (2009 estimate)
- Currency: Franc
- Area: 76,000 square miles
- National Motto: "Un peuple, un but, une foi" (French, "One people, one goal, one faith")
- National Anthem: "Pincez Tous Vos Koras, Frappez les Balafons" (French, "Pluck Your Koras, Strike the Balafons")
- Capital: Dakar

PEOPLE & CULTURE

The Wolof, Fulani, Serer, Diola, Mandingo and Toucouleur are the major ethnic groups of Senegal. These ethnic groups in modern Senegal have lived in Western Africa for thousands of years. About five percent of Senegal's inhabitants are French, Lebanese or natives of other African countries. Dakar is divided into sections according to class. Outside the city, people live in areas according to family rather than economic status. Senegalese villages are arranged in family compounds of large groups of huts. The huts in these rural areas are generally made from dried mud and clay and have thatched or boarded roofs. Most Senegalese people speak Wolof more frequently than French. However, French remains the official language and the language of business, as it is more heavily used in the urban centers like Dakar. Religion is important to the people of Senegal. Senegalese society and politics are directly based on religious beliefs, primarily due to the influence of Muslim leaders called *marabouts*. The vast majority of Senegalese are Muslim, and their devotion to Islam is evident throughout the culture. Senegalese Muslims are divided into social factions called brotherhoods. The Mouride and the Tidjaniyya are the two brotherhoods with the most members. Among the non-Islamic population, Christianity is the most common religion, although several regional religions are also practiced.

EDUCATION

Senegal is a largely illiterate nation. Very few adults have developed reading and writing skills in French, English or Wolof. Despite a law requiring children to attend school for a minimum of six years, most do not. The lack of compliance with this law and the failure of officials to enforce it contribute to the poor education of the Senegalese. Nearly half of the population attends elementary school, but very few continue their education at the secondary level. Higher education is not as common in Senegal as it is in some other African nations, and the University of Dakar is the only college-level school. Most of the schools were established by the French and are based on the Western system of education. Most Senegalese children are raised in a family learning environment that includes the teaching of basic life skills. Children are often expected to learn the family trade and agriculture, and they usually learn history and cultural traditions through folklore and music.



HEALTH CARE

There is a severe lack of medical facilities and doctors in Senegal. Many Senegalese die from viral and bacterial infections contracted from food, water and sexual activity. Parasitic worms and river blindness are two particular health problems that plague West Africa. Senegal has a low life expectancy; 57 years for men and 60 years for women.

FOOD

Families and communities in Senegal eat in groups and share large bowls of millet, a grain and the staple food. Meals are eaten by hand and rolled into bite-sized portions. Food in Senegal is commonly spiced and flavored with peanut sauce and herbs.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art is encouraged and promoted as an important part of Senegalese culture. The government often funds art projects and exhibitions because of their importance as vehicles for expression and social commentary. History and significance are regarded as the two most important factors in traditional art. Modern art forms such as film and pop music are also popular in Senegal, particularly in urban areas. Pop music is mainly dance music influenced by American and Caribbean beats. Senegalese pop musicians are known around the world for modernizing traditional African styles. Traditional Senegalese music is played on drums, such as the *tahmal*, and other percussion instruments, such as the *balafon*. Stringed music is often played on large gourd guitars called *koras*. Sports such as wrestling, cricket and basketball are commonly played in Senegal. However, no sport is as popular in any West African country as soccer. Many regions have professional teams that compete in the African Soccer Cup.

HOLIDAYS

As Senegal is a Muslim nation, all major Islamic holidays are observed. Most Senegalese fast during daylight for the month of Ramadan, which ends with the most important Muslim holiday in Senegal, Korite. During this holiday, it is important to wear new, fine clothing when celebrating with one's family. Rites of passage and coming-of-age ceremonies are important to Senegalese society. Traditional dances such as the *syniaka* are incorporated into these gatherings to mark the transition into adulthood.



ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

TOPOGRAPHY: Senegal is a generally flat country covered by sandy plains and low hills. Sand dunes characterize the coastal areas, including Dakar, which lies at the tip of Cap Vert. Gambia, a small, independent nation that occupies a strip of land running from the western shore and 124 miles up the Gambia River, is an important factor in Senegal's geography. Because of the location of Gambia, Senegal is divided into a northern and a southern region. The region in the south is called the Casamance. The southern coast surrounding Gambia has several inlets and bays, upon which several major cities are situated. The coastal region, the Senegal River Valley, the Ferlo, the eastern region and the Casamance are geographic areas, but because of social struggles with Gambia, the Casamance is a distinct political region as well. Senegal's three major rivers, the Gambia, the Casamance and the Senegal, all extend from the Atlantic Ocean into neighboring countries. Other topographical features include Lake Guiers in the north and the Fouta Djallon mountain range in the southeast.

NATURAL RESOURCES: West Africa has no natural coal or petroleum resources. For this reason, Senegal imports all of its major energy sources and has a limited rate of industrial development. However, Senegal's land is rich in lime, which is the primary mineral export.

PLANTS and ANIMALS: With high levels of hunting and the increasing development of urban areas, the majority of Senegal's native animal species have become endangered or extinct. The Senegalese populations of wild lions, buffalo, zebras and giraffes have been drastically depleted by hunting, but also because of diseases carried by the African tsetse fly. Wild elephants, chimpanzees and crocodiles continue to inhabit Senegal, but in fewer numbers than in the past. The antelope, which lives primarily in the southern forests, is a more common example of Senegal's wildlife. There have been many efforts to preserve the region's remaining endangered species. There is a great deal of rainfall in the Casamance, which allows for the growth of dense forests that are not typical in the drier northern areas. Rather, rubber trees, baobabs, oil palms, mahogany, and rosewood trees characterize the northern region. Many tropical fruits, such as mangoes, guavas, coconuts, oranges and tamarinds grow among the abundant elephant grass that covers this region.



CLIMATE: West Africa has a hot, dry climate. Its terrain is classified as grassland, and much of the landscape is covered with patchy vegetation and sand. Average temperatures are quite high, ranging from 71° F on the coast to about 84° F inland. Like many African nations, Senegal has no winter or summer season, only a dry season and a wet season. The wet season lasts for several months and produces about 20 inches of annual rainfall in the northern regions. In the Casamance, rainfall is substantially higher, with an average of 65 inches annually. Storms are infrequent but usually come in the form of violent rain and tornados.

ECONOMY

INDUSTRY: Senegal is a poor nation. As a developing country, the importance of agriculture to the economy is great. Dakar's activity as a trading port is also crucial to the country's economic health, as most of Senegal's exported and imported goods come through the capital city. France has long been the primary trading partner of Senegal, and because of this, Senegal's industrial sector has survived. Machinery and electrical equipment, in addition to coal and petroleum, are the country's chief imports. Most manufacturing jobs are related to agriculture, processing exported goods and refining imported oil. With an international airport and railroads, as well as radio, television, magazines and newspapers, Senegal's transportation and communication infrastructures are among some of the most advanced in Africa.

AGRICULTURE: The majority of Senegalese people living in rural areas are farmers. Peanuts are farmed throughout Senegal and provide the overwhelming majority of agricultural revenue. In fact, peanuts are the largest economic resource in Senegal. Senegalese farmers are generally self-sufficient and consume most of the rice, millet, cassava and vegetables they grow. Although agriculture is essentially the primary economic sector, the land in Senegal is not ideal for farming. The ground is sandy and rocky, and the only significant rainfall occurs in the southern region.

TOURISM: Over the years, tourist traffic has fluctuated in Senegal. Dakar and other parts of the coastal region remain the most popular spots for visitors. Despite government-funded immersion programs for tourists interested in seeing the rural areas of Senegal, political disputes in the Casamance have limited tourism to the coastal region.

GOVERNMENT

Senegal has a democratic system of government that includes a prime minister and a president as well as a representative cabinet. The president has broad powers and serves a seven-year term. Senegal's government includes a National Assembly of 120 members and several ministers appointed by the president and prime minister. The voting age in Senegal is 18. Senegal and Gambia have had a strained relationship throughout their history. From 1982 to 1989, there was an alliance between the two nations, called Senegambia, which eventually dissolved. Particularly in the Casamance region of Senegal, the Gambians and Senegalese have different ideas of independence. Some groups want Senegal and Gambia to be a united nation, while others want them to remain separate. Rebels who want the Casamance to be an independent nation cause most of the fighting. At the beginning of the 19th century, several European nations fought over territories in Africa, and France eventually took control of Senegal. The long-term effects of French imperialism are both positive and negative. In some ways, France helped Senegal become a developing nation, encouraging the country's political and economic independence. France also established the trading port of Saint-Louis, and has provided many resources as a trading partner. On the other hand, the French killed many Senegalese inhabitants and removed all tribal chiefs from power in order to establish their own system of government. Senegal has a constitution, which was rewritten in 2001. Although there is a unicameral legislature, there are several major political parties represented in the National Assembly, including a great number of active socialist groups and a democratic party.

Background information taken from Richard Means, "Our World: Senegal," Great Neck Publishing, 2010.

HISTORY OF HEIFER IN SENEGAL

Heifer International launched programs in Senegal in 2007 in partnership with Mission Inter Senegal (MIS). MIS is a local organization whose mission is “to promote a holistic ministry and to bring about development in all aspects (technical, organizational, educational, communication, financial and spiritual) for local communities.”



To reduce poverty and boost local development, the government has initiated a program in the Sokone area to improve and promote livestock production at the farmer level.

Several opportunities exist for Heifer in Senegal, as 70 percent of the labor force is involved in agriculture, 48 percent of the population is unemployed (40 percent of this is urban youth), and 54 percent of Senegalese live below the poverty line.

Currently Heifer International is involved in the following:

- Commercialization of agriculture and livestock supplies
- Opening of private veterinary clinics (the program has been training para-vets to help with vaccinations at the village level)
- Bovine and ovine feedlots
- Poultry production
- Construction of production and commercialization infrastructures
- Modular dairy plans
- Commercialization of cattle and meat

Nationwide, the Government of Senegal plans to increase protein consumption from 26 pounds to 40 pounds per individual and milk consumption from 7 gallons to 10.5 gallons per inhabitant per year by year 2020.

Senegal holds great opportunity for agriculture and community development.



PROJECTS TO BE VISITED

For the past 50 years, communities in Senegal have been exposed to numerous interventions from governments, non-governmental organizations and various donor-funded programs. The result is a rural population that has grown accustomed to free handouts that only temporarily combat vulnerability. Consequently, many rural communities have become dependent on these handouts or avoid projects that require taking ownership and responsibility. While Heifer's country program is in its infancy, Heifer Senegal is changing these entrenched attitudes. Study Tour participants will have a unique opportunity to visit all three projects in Senegal and will see how the Senegalese are paving their own way out of poverty.

All projects to be visited on this tour aim to enhance households' capacities to revive traditional values, and to improve productivity through diversified livestock and field cropping initiatives. The projects will achieve this goal by rebuilding the stock of improved breed animals and quality vegetable seeds and seedlings of selected tree and forage crops. The projects also provide technical support to enhance agricultural production and productivity by improving local capacities for environmentally sound resource management.

Fandène Diversified Production Initiative (DPI) Project (#21-0702-01):

Initially, this project will provide 59 reproductive age sheep (54 ewes and five rams) to 27 families in the village of Fandene. Each family will receive initial placements of two ewes; 22 pigs of reproductive age (18 sows and four hogs) will go to 18 families. By the fifth year, the project will pass on equal numbers of animals and inputs to reach a total of 275 families and their 2,944 dependents.

Baback Integrated Sheep and Crop Project (#21-0703-01):

This project will provide 53 reproductive age sheep (48 ewes and five rams) to 24 families in the village of Baback Ndiongore in the Bambey district. Each family will receive an initial placement of two ewes. The project will also initially provide 22 pounds of high-quality seeds to an additional 32 families. In all, 56 families will receive original placements, while 224 families will receive assistance through Heifer's strategy of Passing on the Gift, for a total of 280 families who will benefit through this project. By the fifth year, the project will successively pass on two animals of the same species to reach a total of 120 assisted families and 22 pounds of nationally certified seeds to 160 families, involving a total of 1,960 dependents.

Diarrere Integrated Production and Market Development Project (#21-1701-01):

Initially, the project will provide 85 reproductive age sheep (70 ewes and 10 rams) to 35 families (two ewes per family) in the village of Pethie Djeri in the rural community of Diarrere in the region of Fatick. The project will also initially provide 22 pounds of high-quality seeds to 32 families. By the fifth year, the project will pass on two animals of the same species to reach a total of 335 assisted families and 22 pounds of nationally certified seeds to 160 families. In total, 515 animals (including replacements) and more than 3,500 pounds of certified peanut seeds will be distributed through the life of the project.



RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

US Department of State Travel Information:

Senegal - http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html

CDC Website:

Senegal - <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/senegal.aspx>

Heifer.org articles:

“Assuring Crop Quality for Future Generations”

http://heifer.org/Divisions/Programs/Departments/Africa/West_Africa/Senegal/Project_Stories/2009-2010_Stories/Assuring_Crop_Quality.aspx?ht=

“Anne-Marie Tine: “A Bright Light in the Village of Fandene”

<http://.heifer.org/search/index.aspx?q=senegal&page=40>

Further Reading:

Lonely Planet: West Africa Travel Guide (Oct. 2009)

Lonely Planet: The Gambia & Senegal Travel Guide (Oct. 2009)

The Music in My Head by Mark Hudson (Feb. 1998)

Black, French and African by Janet G. Vaillant (Sept. 1990)

God's Bits of Wood by Sembene Ousmane (Feb. 1996)

All God's Children Need Travelling Shoes by Maya Angelou (1996)

Water Music by Thomas Coraghassen Boyle (July 1983)

Topics in West African History by Adu Boahen (1969)

A History of West Africa: 1000-1800 by Basil Davidson (July 1978)

West Africa since 1800: The Revolutionary Years by J.B. Webster (Feb. 1981)

Movies:

Maybe God Is III (2007)

Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love (2010)

Moolaadé (2008)

“Jom” (1982)