

# Community-based reproductive health/family planning services at health and reproductive service delivery points



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Senegal

**Duration:** March 2003 to June 2008

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNFPA

**Other Implementing Partners:** Population Council; Ministry of Health

**Budget:** \$709,779.18

**Key Words:** Access to health care; women; capacity-building

## BACKGROUND

The Senegalese regions of Tambacounda, in the southeast, and Kolda, in the south, are rural and poor. As of 2002, the population of these regions had little access to health care services. For example, the district of Kedougou in the southeast of Tambacounda had one doctor for 74,656 inhabitants. They also lacked access to information regarding reproductive health (RH) and faced a high prevalence of endemic disease,

such as, malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections and iodine deficiency. At the same time, female genital mutilation was common (up to 90% in some villages) and modern contraceptives were rarely used. The combination of these factors resulted in high rates of maternal and infant mortality in the districts of Goudiry and Kedougou, in the region of Tambacounda, and the district of Velingara, in Kolda.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through a participatory approach, the project aimed to enhance the reproductive health and well-being of populations in the regions of Tambacounda and Kolda. More specifically, the project sought to (i) provide community-based RH services for women, men and adolescents, including family planning and awareness raising on safe motherhood, hygiene and HIV/AIDS; (ii)

increase access to RH information and counselling; (iii) improve the capacities of local entities to manage RH services in the target regions; and (iv) promote a behavioural change amongst men, women and adolescents that would contribute to safer reproductive and sexual health practices.

### BENEFICIARIES

By establishing community-based health monitoring systems in the participating districts, the project provided training to community health workers and was instrumental in strengthening the management of reproductive health issues at the community level. As a result of the project, more

than 4,300 people in 252 villages were referred to regional health clinics by newly trained community health workers for services such as pre-natal care, vaccinations, child infections, STI and HIV/AIDS information and family planning.