



# Senegal

## Introduction

Enoch Randy Aikins

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## Introduction

Chart 1: Political map of Senegal

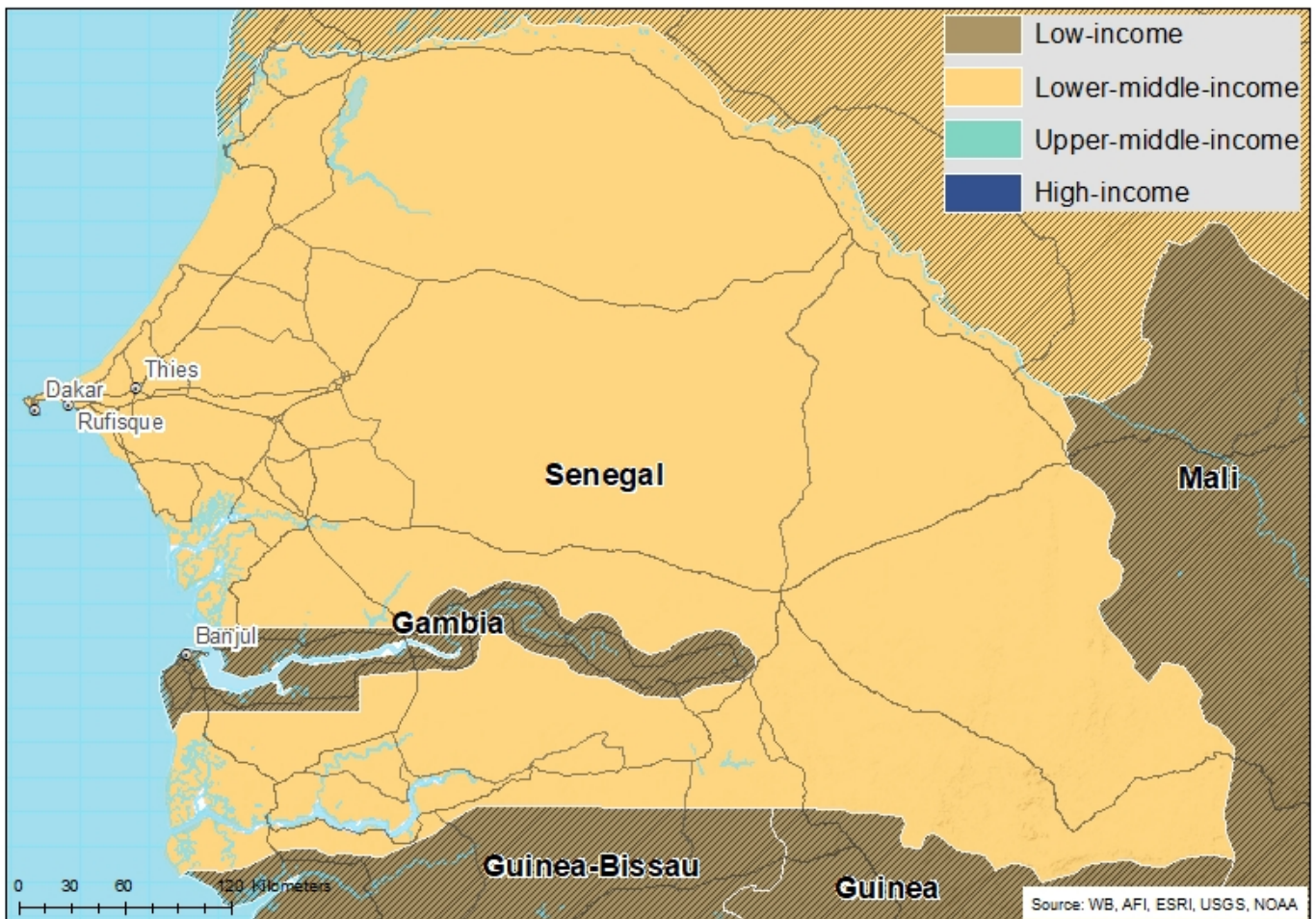


Chart 1 is a political map of Senegal.

Senegal is classified as a lower-middle-income country, located in West Africa and bordered to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, to the north by Mauritania, to the east by Mali and to the south by Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. In addition, Senegal almost enclaves The Gambia, except along its Atlantic western coast. Senegal is a French-speaking country and a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU/UEMOA). It has the fourth largest economy in ECOWAS after Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

Senegal is a flat country that lies in the depression known as the Senegal-Mauritania Basin. The country has a dry, tropical climate with two seasons: a dry season from November to June and a rainy season from July to October. It also has huge mineral deposits including gold, phosphate, iron, uranium, lithium, tin and molybdenum.

In 1958, the Senegalese electorate voted in favour of joining the French Community, and Senegal became an independent state within the French Community in 1960. Since its independence in 1960, the *Parti Socialiste* (Socialist Party of Senegal, PSS) which was founded by the country's first president, Léopold Senghor, ruled the country for 40 years. It initially ruled the country as a one-party state until 1976, where the state authorised the existence of three political parties. As a result, the Democratic Senegalese Party (Parti Démocratique Sénégalais, PDS) became the main opposition party in the country. President Senghor ruled the country for two decades until he voluntarily stepped down in 1980. This led to the full

liberalisation of the political party system in Senegal. He was succeeded by President Abdou Diouf from the same PSS party, who ruled the country for another two decades.

The year 2000 marked a significant turning point in the political history of Senegal after a peaceful political transition from the incumbent President Diouf to the longstanding opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade from the PDS, who won the presidential election. This consolidated the country's democracy and positioned it as a shining example in the West Africa region. In 2008, Macky Sall, who was prime minister of the President Wade administration (2004 to 2007), was dismissed after establishing his own political party, the Alliance for the Republic (APR). He subsequently defeated President Wade in the 2012 presidential elections thereby leading to another peaceful political transition and bringing an end to the 12-year reign of President Wade. In 2019, President Sall's mandate was renewed by another 5 years after it secured 58% of the total votes in the first round of the elections.

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## About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021 as a Researcher. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra in charge of local governance reforms, poverty and inequality and public sector reforms. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. Enoch is a Young African Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute in Florence and has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

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