

# REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHAREFAIR ON THE CARE AGENDA



Credit: UN Women



LOCAL AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO RECOGNIZE, REDUCE AND REDISTRIBUTE UNPAID  
CARE WORK IN SENEGAL

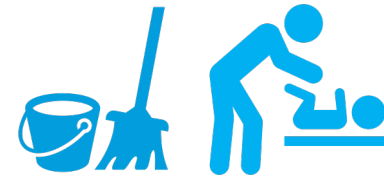
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(WCARO) UN Women

# Around the world, women do 3 times as much as unpaid care and domestic work than men

*In Senegal, women spend, on average, 4 hours 9 minutes on housework and childcare everyday, compared to 30 minutes*



**4h 9 min**



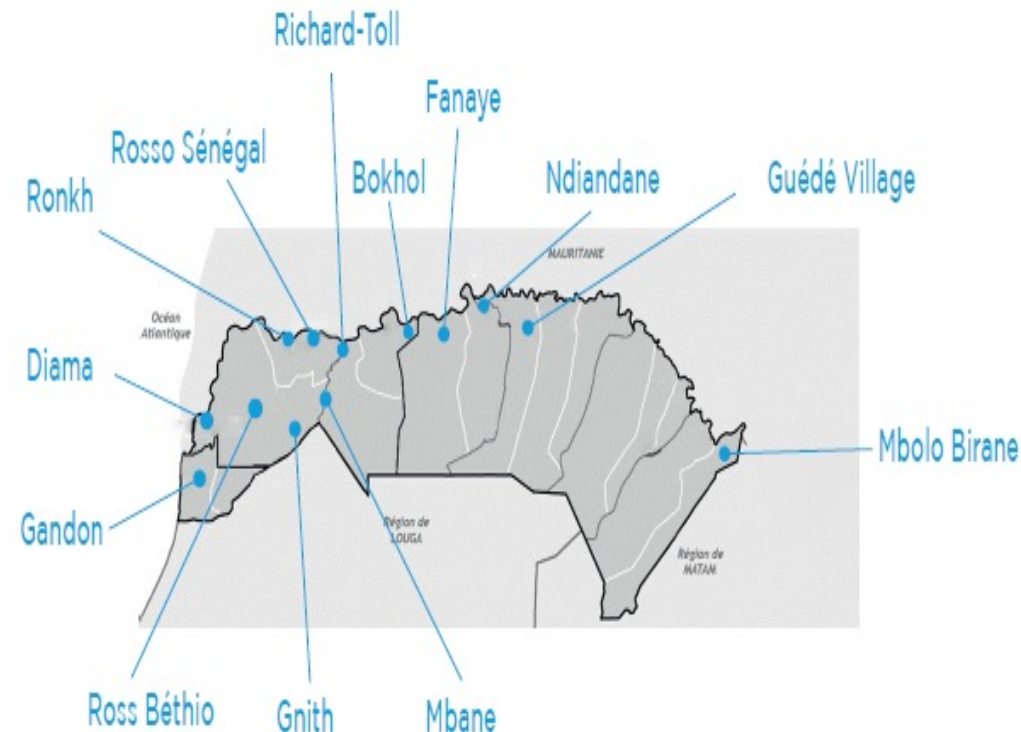
**30 min**

Source: Senegal Time Use  
Survey 2021

# TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES FOR RECOGNIZING, REDUCING, AND REDISTRIBUTING UNPAID CARE WORK IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN SENEGAL -3R PROGRAM

- **Project duration:** March 2021 – December 2022
- **Donors:** CANADA
- **Area of intervention:** Saint-Louis region (13 municipalities and 3 departments)
- **Beneficiaries:** REFAN (Network of Women Farmers in the Northern Senegal) with its 16000 members
- **Institutional Partner:** Ministry of Women, Family and Child Protection
- **Implementing Partner:** Saint Louis Regional Development Agency
- **Objectives:** Contribute to the removal of structural barriers to women's full and equal participation in the economy by recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work.

## Intervention areas



# A LOCAL AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH: 3 COMPONENTS

## 1. Community and local engagement

- Support the development/strengthening of local reforms that recognize and address the disproportionate share of unpaid care work performed by women and girls
- Provide transformative care infrastructures and services women's cooperatives in rural areas

## 2. Innovative local solutions

- Identify, design and pilot innovative solutions to mitigate and/or redistribute risks and shocks related to women's unpaid care work

## 3. National Policy dialogue and alliance for care

- Initiate, revitalize and support national dialogue around unpaid care reform in Senegal



# COMPONENT 1: COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

## RECOGNIZE

- Advocacy and capacity building of local actors (REFAN, technical services, local elected officials, etc.) about unpaid care needs of women in rural areas
- Support to 6 municipalities in mainstreaming reforms for unpaid care and domestic work solutions into their new Local Development Plans (PLC)
- Capacity building of local statistics agents to collect care-sensitive data to inform the local development plans

## REDUCE

- Labour, time-saving and climate-resistant infrastructures in the 13 targeted municipalities: (i) Solar equipment/materials (3 solar millet mills; 5,000 farmers equipped with improved stoves; 5 rice huskers)

## REDISTRIBUTE

- Equipment and rehabilitation of 22 community creches
- Working with male leaders (religious, cultural and political), Engaging with men and boys in the 13 municipalities toward changing social norm and behavior around unpaid care work

## COMPONENT 2: INNOVATIVE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

### Research phase: Analysis and identification of the needs of women farmers in terms of unpaid care work

- Key results:

- a. Low income, despite the fact that they carry out several income-generating activities in parallel, which are however organized around unpaid work**
- b. Rural women's in Saint-Louis perform 3 types of unpaid work :**
  - Type 1: Care work: Caring for husbands, school-going and young children, the elderly with limited mobility, sick or disabled relatives, in-laws
  - Type 2: Domestic work: Collecting water and firewood, preparing meals, doing laundry, etc.
  - Type 3: Community work: Volunteer activities for the municipality, the village or the religious community
- c. Most of the rural women surveyed carried out most of these tasks within the same day, with the total time spent on these activities often amounting to 12 hours per day.**

## COMPONENT 2: INNOVATIVE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

### Analysis and identification of the needs of women farmers in terms of unpaid care work

- Key results (cont'd):

- d. 45% of the women** need to take care of a **family member with a disability or chronic health problem**, which affects their activities, work time and income. **Health problems in the household** generate a loss of **income** and an increase of expenses for women.
- e. Digital inclusion:** Good penetration of digital technology (phones and smartphones) but its potential (financial services, e-learning, e-commerce) is **mostly untapped**;
- f. Financial inclusion**, which would help them address these risks and challenges, **is low**.
  - Credits and savings are rare and mostly informal. There is little access to formal services.  
Low awareness of insurance, but strong interest, especially in health insurance.
  - However, 90% of the women surveyed are aware of mobile money services, which they say is convenient and allows them to save time, despite some difficulties (network coverage, cost).

## COMPONENT 2: INNOVATIVE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

### Challenges and needs faced by the rural women surveyed

#### ❑ Challenges:

- Lack of accessible childcare facilities, which would allow them to better manage their income-generating activities
- Difficulty to access mechanisms to improve access to health care for themselves and their families
- Lack of financial support and capacity building to start an income-generating activity

#### ❑ Needs:

- Financial support to invest in storage and processing equipment and structures
- Education and financial inclusion to increase knowledge of available financial services, including savings and insurance
- Awareness of the usefulness of mobile technologies for accessing financial and non-financial services

## COMPONENT 2: INNOVATIVE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

### Research phase: Results of the mapping of existing solutions to address unpaid care work

- The research revealed that there are **no public or private solutions or mechanisms in Senegal that directly address the risks and shocks associated with unpaid care work.**
- However, it did identify **several innovative solutions and models that allow women to better cope with the loss of income related to their unpaid work** through:
  - Access to health care financing for women and their families, through health insurance
  - Women's access to savings and financing for their income-generating activities, their productive assets and agricultural inputs, notably through innovative models and digital technology
- The use of **innovative technological means** (mobile money, voice-guided mobile applications in local languages) are **levers for risk compensation**, due to their practical dimension and the possibility offered to women to save precious time and take advantage of innovation, even for the less educated.

## COMPONENT 2: INNOVATIVE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

### Implementation phase: innovative solutions to meet women's needs

- **Partnership with the National Agency for Universal Health Coverage (CMU)** to develop products and services tailored to the needs of rural women, enabling them to access an insurance system to mitigate the risk of loss of income due to illness in the household
- facilitating aggregation of REFAN women (group memberships), reduction of entry fees and easy access to services, lowering insurance premium fees based on the household's size of each member (the fees decrease with an increasing number of dependents (children/family members) enrolled).
- **Trainings (traditional and via mobile)**, to strengthen demand for existing services and build women's skills, while minimizing the impact of trainings on their schedules
- **Designing mechanisms to tailor the supply of services to the needs of rural women**, via incentive-based modalities and digital channels, to compensate for lost income in the event of illness
- **Design of sustainable mechanisms** to ensure the financing of these services and to facilitate the enrolment of rural women through groups through a partnership between CMU and REFAN

## COMPONENT 3: NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

### RECOGNIZE:

- Introduction of the unpaid care work as a key bottleneck for women's economic empowerment in the Senegal National Strategy for Women's Economic Empowerment
- Periodic technical meetings with the Ministry of Women's Affairs for knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening of staff to understand policy implications of unpaid care solutions
- Design of tools to design, implement, cost, and monitor gender-responsive care-sensitive policies in Senegal (Time-Use survey, childcare services costing, National gender responsive strategy) for local and national actors
- Establishment of a coalition of stakeholders to continue advocating for unpaid care reform in Senegal and in West Africa. Organized under the platform "Forum pour l'Autonomisation Economique de la Femme", with stakeholders including International Development Research Centre (IDRC), African Development Bank, WAEMU Commission, UNECA, UN Women.

**THANK YOU!**

