



AFRICAN HUMAN CAPITAL

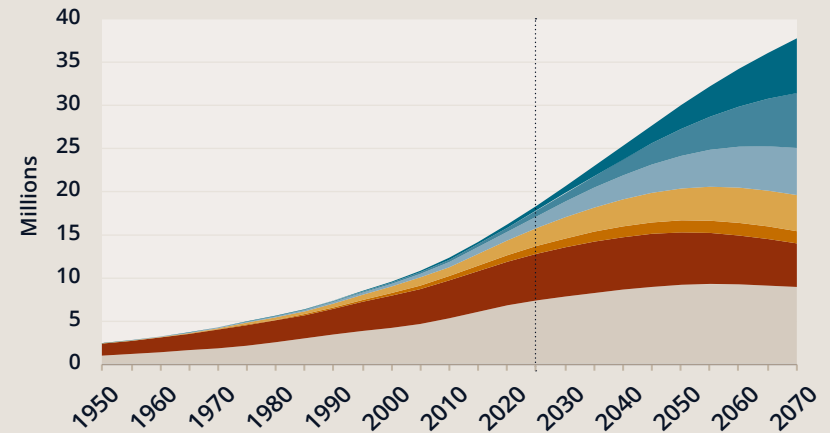
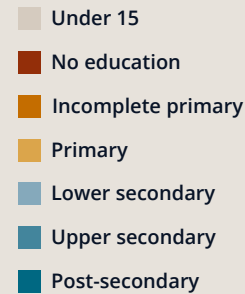
DATA SHEET 2026

SENEGAL

Country Profile

Education drives demographic dividend

Population by educational attainment 1950–2070, Further Progress



Source: KC et al. (2024)

Senegal population and human capital trends

	Population (in millions)	Mean Years of Schooling (20–64)			Skills-in-Literacy Adjusted Mean Years of Schooling (SLAMYS) ¹ (20–64)			Educational Attainment Distribution % (20–64)			Total Fertility Rate (children per woman) by education			Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	
		Both	Female	Male	Both	Female	Male	None or incomplete primary	Primary or lower secondary	Upper secondary or above	Total	No education	Post-secondary	Female	Male
1950	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.4	-	-	-	98	2	0.2	6.8	-	-	37.2	37.2
1975	5.2	1.1	0.6	1.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	89	8	3	7.3	-	-	47	45.2
2000	10.0	2.5	1.8	3.3	0.6	0.3	1.0	76	18	6	5.3	-	-	59.5	57.2
2025	18.9	4.5	4.1	5.0	1.5	1.1	2.0	60	26	14	3.9	4.8	2.6	71.8	67.2
Further Progress															
2050	30.0	8.1	7.8	8.4	-	-	-	36	30	35	2.6	3.2	2.0	77.1	72.8
2075	39.2	11.2	11.0	11.4	-	-	-	17	26	57	1.9	2.2	1.5	80.6	76.4
Stalled Progress															
2050	33.7	6.1	5.8	6.4	-	-	-	48	31	21	3.7	3.9	2.5	72.3	68
2075	50.8	6.4	6.2	6.7	-	-	-	46	32	22	3.1	2.8	1.9	73.2	69.1

¹ The Skills-in-Literacy Adjusted Mean Years of Schooling (SLAMYS) is an indicator of human capital that adjusts Mean Years of Schooling for the actual literacy skills of adults relative to OECD average. It provides a demographically consistent measure of both the quantity and quality of education in the working-age population.

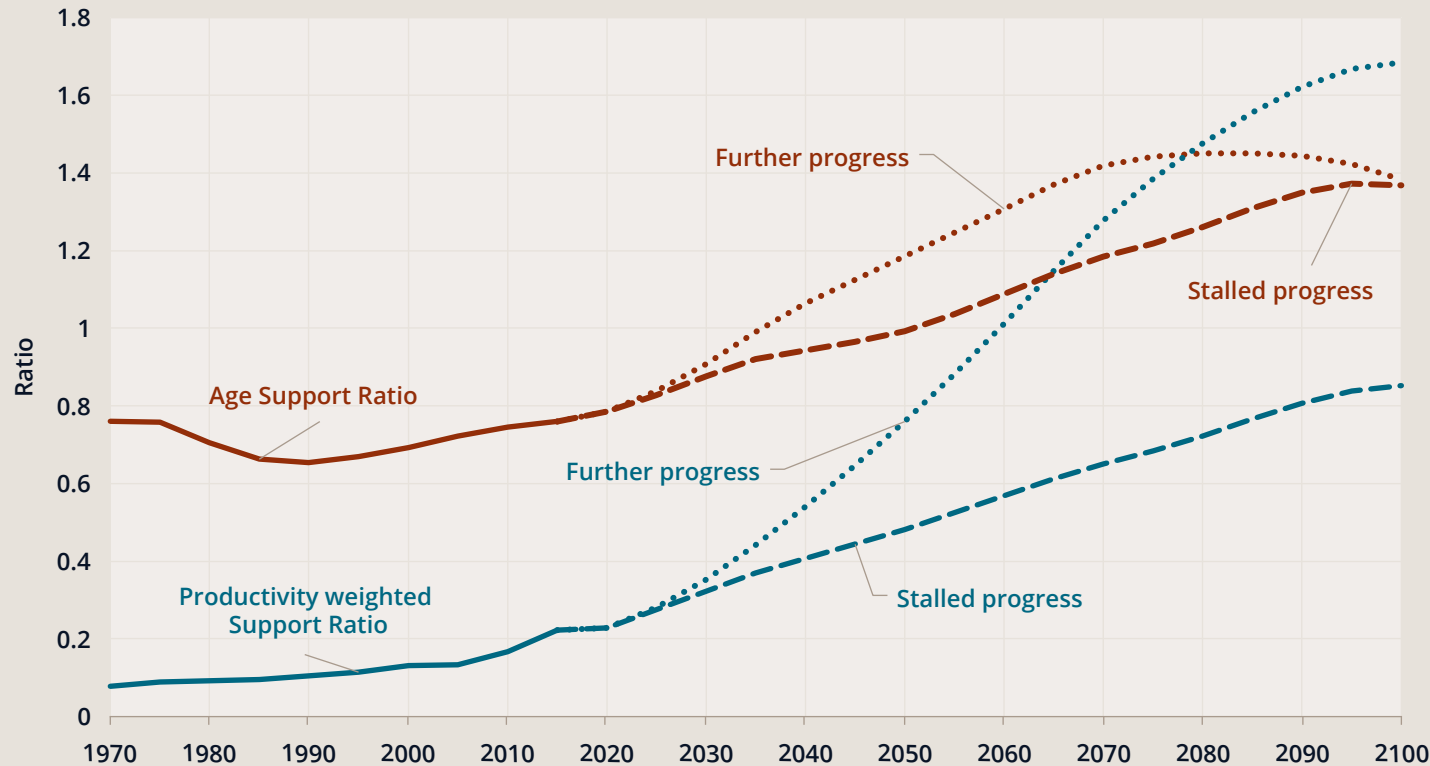
Source: KC et al. (2024); Potančoková et al. (2025); United Nations (2024)

Senegal's demographic transition



Education drives demographic dividend

Age- and Productivity-weighted Support Ratio, 1970–2100



Source: Marois et al. (2024) for PWSR; KC et al. (2024) for ASR

Age Support Ratio (ASR)

The Age Support Ratio compares the typical working-age population (20–64) to the number of children under 20 and adults 65+. A ratio of 1 means that there is one working-age person for each not of working age, indicating an equal number of assumed workers and dependents. A lower ratio means more people need support from fewer workers.

Productivity-weighted Support Ratio (PWSR)

The Productivity-weighted Support Ratio refines this measure by weighting the working-age population according to their education and skills. A value of 1 for the weighted working-age population corresponds to the productivity of a worker with the world average human capital in 2015.

If the PWSR is far below the ASR, it means the education and skills of the working-age population are low. Their productive capacity is therefore weaker, making the support burden heavier than the simple age structure suggests.

Scenarios

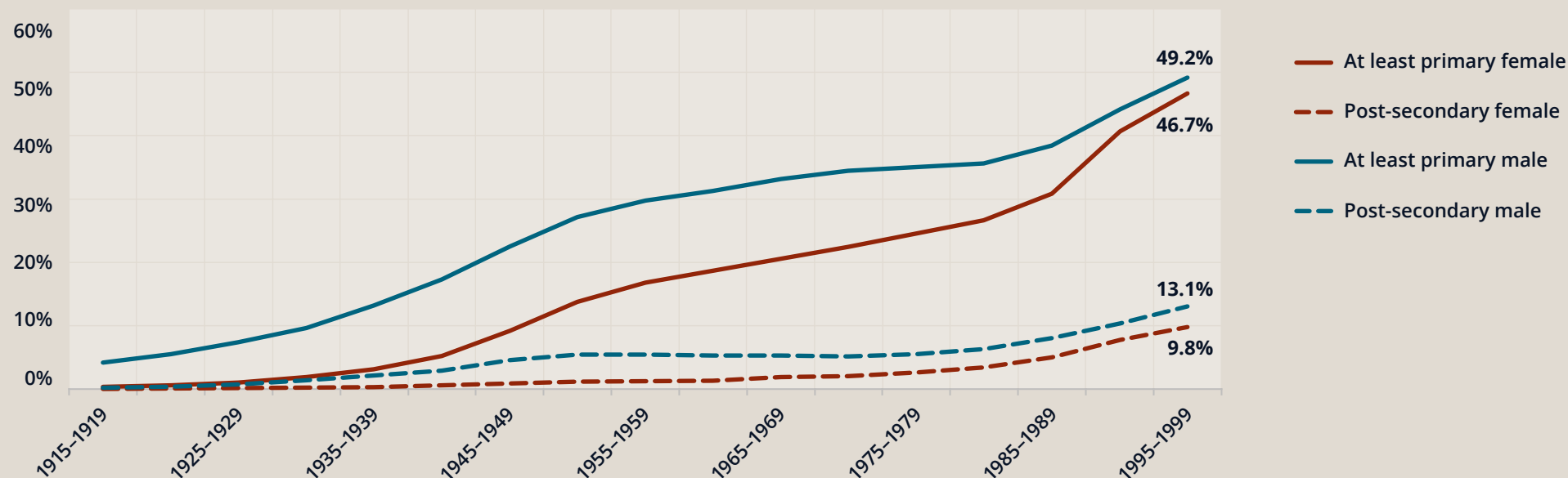
Further Progress: This scenario represents a continuation of global historical trends without major disruptions or breakthroughs. Fertility continues to decline gradually, mortality improves steadily, and education expansion continues along the global trend. This scenario corresponds to SSP2 under the SSP Approach (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways as widely used in the Climate Change Research Community, KC et al., 2024). Given that past education expansions in Senegal have been slower than on the global average, this implies rather optimistic assumptions of progress in Senegal. Under this scenario, the Total Fertility Rate declines from 3.9 children per woman in 2025 to 1.9 in 2075. Life Expectancy at Birth increases from 69.5 to 75.0 years. Mean Years of Schooling for the population aged 20 to 64 rise from 4.5 to 11.2 years.

Stalled Progress: This scenario assumes fragmented development (SSP3), as well as stalled social and economic progress. Fertility remains relatively high in many low- and middle-income countries associated with much slower educational progress and limited access to family planning, while mortality improvements are also slower. Under this scenario, the Total Fertility Rate declines from 3.9 children per woman in 2025 to 3.1 in 2075. Life Expectancy at Birth increases only slightly, from 69.5 to 71.2 years. Mean Years of Schooling for the population aged 20 to 64 rise from 4.5 to 6.4 years. Adult attainment still increases due to the momentum of past expansions among young cohorts but stalls for subsequent cohorts.

All specific numerical assumptions for these scenarios are given in KC et al. (2024) and can also be found for all countries and years on the website of the Wittgenstein Centre Human Capital Data Explorer (2024).

Senegal's education transition

Estimated and projected proportions having at least primary and post-secondary education by gender and cohort



Source: KC et al. (2024)

Notes and Acknowledgments

References:

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