Based on international estimates reflecting the evolution of GDP per capita, the proportion of people living below the $ 1.9 PPP 2011 threshold is gradually declining from 38% in 2011 to 32.9 % in 2019. Poverty is expected to stagnate in 2020 due to COVID-19 and resume its fall only in 2021, reaching 30.3% by 2022 (assuming neutral distribution). The downward trend is due to good agricultural performance and pro-poor urban sectors, the roll out of the cash transfer programs and universal health coverage, and the strengthening of basic social services for the benefit of the mostly rural populations. Updated poverty estimates based on a new household survey will become available during 2020, while a high frequency survey to closely monitor the impacts of COVID-19 is planned for the forthcoming 12 months.
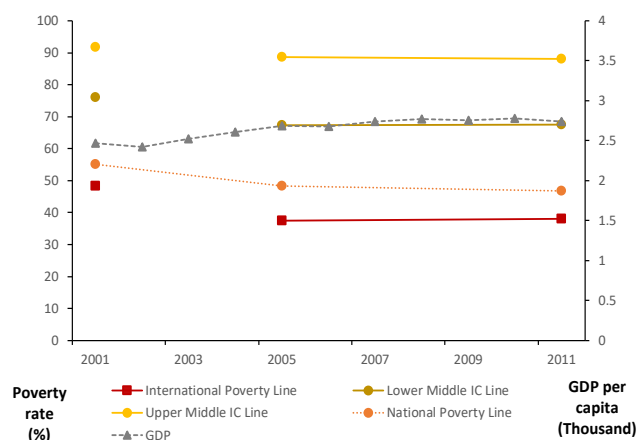
Despite this favorable trend in poverty rates, 460,000 poor people would be added in 2019 to the estimated 5 million poor people in 2011 (63,200 more between 2018 and 2019), due to rapid population growth which has outpaced per capita income growth. Remarkably, the marginal increase in the number of poor is slowing down, and, despite the setback caused by COVID-19, by 2021 the number of poor should start decreasing.

The consumption growth of the bottom 40 percent is less than the growth for the rest of the population. The shared prosperity premium, which is the difference between the growth rate of the bottom 40 percent and the average in the economy was negative between 2005 and 2011 (-0.54). Additional analysis of the consequences of the recent growth spell will become available after the 2018/19 data is released later in 2020.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	6.2	46.7	2011
International Poverty Line 469.5 in CFA franc (2011) or US$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	5.0	38.0	2011
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 790.8 in CFA franc (2011) or US$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	8.8	67.5	2011
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1359.2 in CFA franc (2011) or US$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	11.5	88.1	2011
Multidimentional Poverty Measure		46.7	2011
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		-0.28	2005-2011
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		40.3	2011
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		-0.54	2005-2011
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		0.35	2005-2011
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		0.27	2005-2011
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		-0.03	2005-2011

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of Feburary 2020, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.
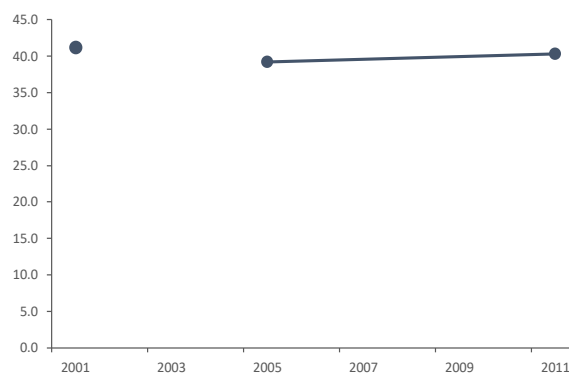
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2001-2011

Source: World Bank using ESPS-II/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2001-2011

Gini Index

Source: World Bank using ESPS-II/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2011	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)	
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60
Urban population	88	12	14	86
Rural population	42	58	60	40
Males	62	38	40	60
Females	62	38	40	60
0 to 14 years old	56	44	46	54
15 to 64 years old	67	33	35	65
65 and older	64	36	37	63
Without education (16+)	57	43	45	55
Primary education (16+)	77	23	24	76
Secondary education (16+)	82	18	20	80
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	96	4	5	95

Source: World Bank using ESPS-II/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

Multidimensional Poverty Measures (% of people):	2011
Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Daily consumption less than US$1.90 per person	38.0
Education	
At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	6.4
No adult has completed primary education	41.2
Access to basic infrastructure	
No access to limited-standard drinking water	18.2
No access to limited-standard sanitation	28.7
No access to electricity	47.0

Source: World Bank using ESPS-II/SSAPOV/GMD

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Poverty analysis is based on three household surveys—2011 ESPS2, 2005/06 ESPS I, and 2001/02 ESAM II. The three surveys are not strictly comparable because of changes made over the years—survey design (data collection period, list of consumption items, recall versus diary, and differences in price data sources) — that have the potential to bias the estimates in either direction. However, poverty trends across these three surveys are consistent with macroeconomic growth trends and the perceived changes in community-level poverty. The official poverty measurement methodology follows the Cost of Basic Needs approach. The welfare measure is consumption per adult equivalent. A poverty line is calculated that represents minimum food and non-food components. Separate poverty lines are then used for the three zones: Dakar, other urban, and rural areas. In 2011, the total poverty lines for "other urban" and rural areas were about 80 percent and 60 percent, respectively, of the Dakar poverty line, reflecting higher costs of living in the capital. Because a different non-food share was used for each of the poverty lines, these lines may reflect differences other than just price differences. International poverty estimates at the $1.90 a day poverty line are based on consumption per capita and use the consumer price index to adjust for inflation across surveys. Because of these differences, the resulting consumption growth and changes in poverty may differ between the national and the international measures. Finally, Senegal has completed a new household survey in 2019, like other WAEMU countries, and new poverty estimates should become available during 2020. Changes from previous surveys are considerable, as they involve a new methodology to measure poverty, both in terms of definition of the welfare aggregate and of the poverty line.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

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