Simplified Analysis of Senegal's 2026 Gender Budget

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About BudgIT Senegal

BudgIT Senegal is a civic organization committed to making public finance and government data understandable and accessible to citizens at all levels of literacy.

Through the use of creative technology, simplified analysis, data visualization, and citizen-friendly content, BudgIT Senegal works to strengthen public participation, budget transparency, and accountability in governance.

The organization also bridges the gap between citizens and public institutions by translating complex budget information into accessible insights that help citizens better understand, monitor, and engage with public investments and their impact on communities.

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Publication Date: June 2026

Sources:

Ministry of Finance and Budget
Budget Programming Directorate
Gender Budget Document 2026
RGPH-5 (National Agency of Statistics and Demography – ANSD)

Introduction

The 2026 Gender Budget is being implemented amid a particularly complex economic situation for Senegal, marked by a persistent high public deficit and growing pressure on state resources. However, despite the rigorous implementation of the Economic and Social Recovery Plan (PRES), the government reaffirms its determination to uphold its commitments to social inclusion and the reduction of gender disparities.

Discussions about gender in public policy are often framed in terms of social protection or inclusion. Yet, several international studies show that reducing gender inequalities can also have broader economic effects. According to an analysis by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in countries with the widest gender gaps in the labor market, reducing these disparities could increase economic output by up to 35% on average.

In the Senegalese context, where women already play a central role in agriculture, trade, processing, community activities, and household resilience strategies, the issue is no longer solely about their participation in the economy, but rather about the measures put in place to remove the barriers that limit their potential.

This report is intended as a practical tool for citizens, civil society organizations, journalists, and public policymakers to facilitate understanding of the 2026 Gender Budget and its concrete implications. More than a mere review of budget allocations, this analysis seeks to determine whether the announced investments are likely to produce visible changes in the lives of women and communities and to identify the challenges that may limit their actual impact.

Understanding the 2026 Gender Budget: Methodological Framework and Investment Structure

Methodological Framework and Investment Structure

The 2026 Gender Budget is based on a gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) approach integrated into the program-based budgeting system and the "Planning–Programming–Budgeting–Monitoring–Evaluation" (PPBME) cycle. Through this mechanism, the government seeks to identify public investments that can reduce gender inequalities and improve vulnerable groups' access to public services and economic opportunities.

To assess the level of gender integration in public investments, the government uses a classification system inspired by the OECD's gender marker. Projects classified as G-2 have gender as their primary objective and directly target the reduction of inequalities. G-1 projects address gender issues in a secondary or cross-cutting manner, while G-0 projects do not include any explicit gender dimension.

This distinction is important because it allows for differentiating between investments designed to directly address gender inequalities and those where gender appears only indirectly. Data from the 2026 Gender Budget show that 32.3% of the overall public investment budget for 2026 is identified as gender-sensitive. Within this budget, investments intended to directly address gender-related disparities (G-2) account for only 3.9% of the total investment amount, while projects where gender is an important but secondary objective (G-1) account for 28.4%. Conversely, the majority of public investments, 67.7% of the total budget, remain classified as G-0, with no explicit gender dimension.

The 2026 DBG also introduces an important distinction between Commitment Authorizations (CA) and Payment Appropriations (PA). Commitment Authorizations (CA) correspond to the amounts that can be committed to a project, while Payment Appropriations (PA) represent the resources actually allocated for payments during the fiscal year. This distinction is essential in analyzing gender-responsive investments, as significant gaps between CA and PA can affect the actual capacity to implement announced projects.

The institutional framework for gender-responsive budgeting continues to strengthen gradually. The decree regulating Public Investment Management now incorporates gender criteria into the selection of public projects, with specific weighting given to this dimension. However, budget data show that this integration remains uneven across sectors and is largely driven by a cross-cutting approach rather than by investments explicitly focused on reducing inequalities. This distribution raises an important issue of public accountability, as it becomes more difficult for citizens to identify projects genuinely aimed at reducing inequalities and to assess the results achieved.

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Projects classified

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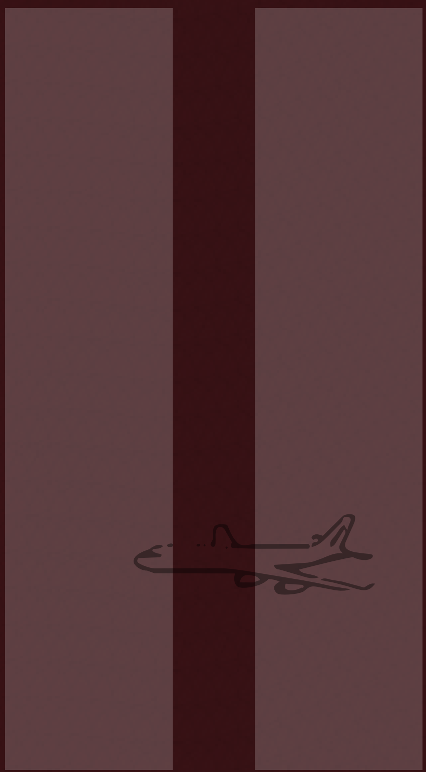
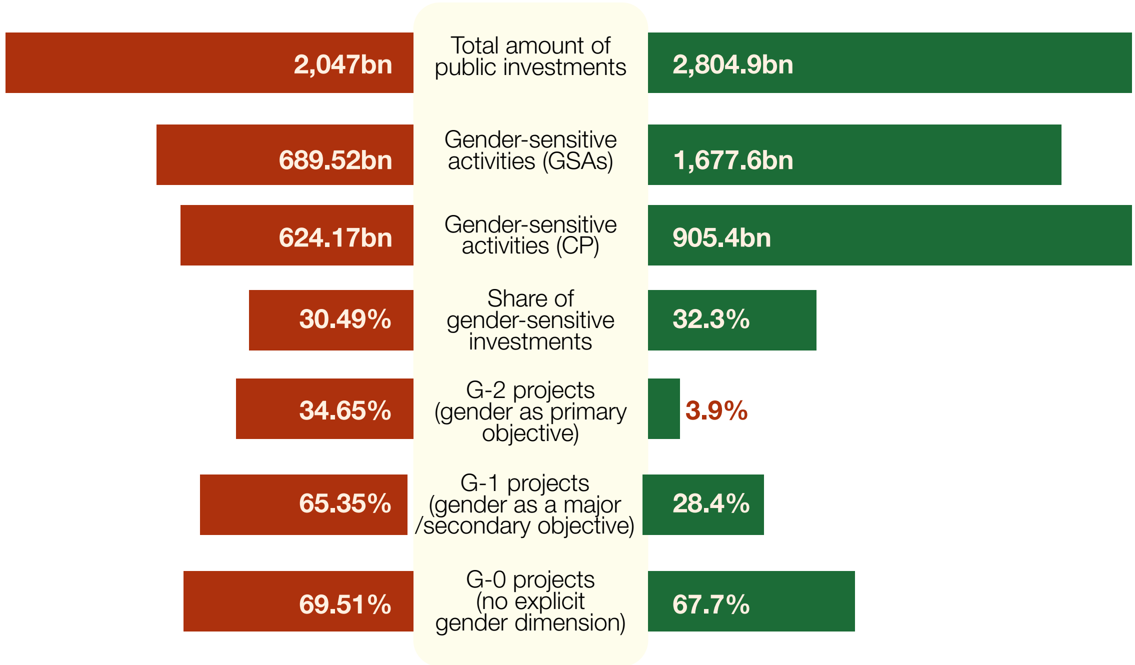
- G-0 projects do not include any explicit gender dimension.



Evolution of the Gender Budget between 2025 and 2026: What Trends?

Table 1: Comparison of the main allocations of the 2025–2026 Gender Budget



A comparative analysis of the 2025 and 2026 budgets shows a significant increase in resources allocated to public investment. The total amount allocated to investments rises from 2,047 billion CFA francs in 2025 to 2,804.9 billion CFA francs in 2026, representing an increase of approximately 758 billion CFA francs. This increase is also reflected in investments incorporating a gender dimension. The amounts allocated to gender-sensitive activities rise from 689.52 billion CFA francs in Commitment Authorizations (CA) in 2025 to 1,677.6 billion CFA francs in 2026, while Payment Appropriations (PA) increase from 624.17 billion CFA francs to 905.4 billion CFA francs. The share of gender-sensitive investments is also increasing, rising from 30.49% to 32.3% of the total investment budget.

At first glance, this trend could be interpreted as a significant strengthening of public commitment to gender equality. However, a closer look reveals that the increase in resources is not necessarily accompanied by a corresponding increase in investments directly aimed at addressing structural inequalities.

In 2025, investments with gender as a primary objective (G-2) accounted for 34.65% of gender-sensitive investments. In 2026, this proportion drops to 3.9%, while projects where gender is an important but secondary objective account for 28.4%. At the same time, 67.7% of the total investment budget remains classified as G-0, with no explicit gender dimension.

This trend becomes particularly significant when viewed in the context of the socioeconomic realities that women continue to face. Data from the RGPH-5 show that the labor force participation rate for women remains limited to 42.5%, compared to 62.4% for men. Among young people aged 15 to 30, the rate of those not in employment, education, or training (NEET) reaches 59.9%, compared to 37.9% for men, revealing a high risk of long-term economic exclusion. Women also have a higher prevalence of disability (7.76% compared to 6.68% among men), which can further exacerbate situations of vulnerability.

The Budget itself highlights several situations that illustrate these persistent challenges. For example, in Daharatou, nearly 1,700 women of childbearing age rely on a health center where a tricycle serves as an ambulance, while construction of a maternity ward has been at a standstill for several months.

These findings show that the issue is not solely about increasing budget allocations. An increase in public resources does not automatically indicate social progress. When disparities in access to employment, economic opportunities, and essential services remain significant, the challenge becomes one of targeting investments and ensuring they have the capacity to produce measurable changes.

Sectoral analysis: Do gender-sensitive investments address the most persistent needs?

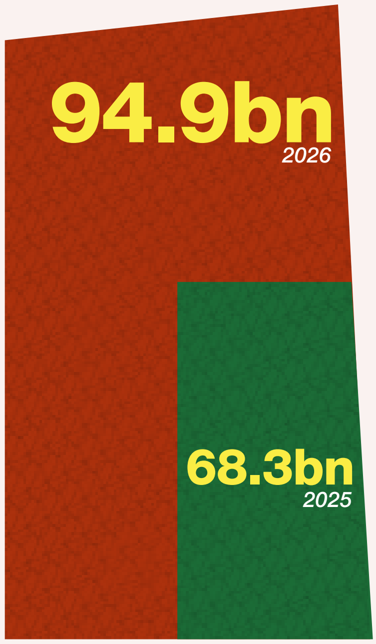
Sector	2025 (AE)	2026 (AE)	Change	Change	Expected impact on citizens
Agriculture and Entrepreneurship	104.8bn	347.1bn	+242.3bn	+231.2%	Strengthening food sovereignty, developing agricultural value chains, mechanization, and supporting entrepreneurship
Education and training	59.8bn	222.2bn	+162.4bn	+271.6%	Construction and equipping of schools, capacity building, and improving access to education
Health	68.3bn	94.9bn	+26.6bn	+38.9%	Strengthening health infrastructure, improving maternal and child health, and increasing access to care
Family and social protection	132.6bn	84.1bn	–48.5bn	–36.6%	Social protection, women's empowerment, and support for vulnerable households
Ministry of Water and Sanitation	32.2bn	68.1bn	+35.9bn	+111.4%	Improving access to drinking water, water infrastructure, and sanitation
Fisheries and natural resources	10.5bn	0.95bn	–9.55bn	–90.9%	Development of fisheries activities, support for income-generating activities, and improvement of value chains

3.1 Health

Gender-sensitive investments in the health sector will rise from 68.3 billion CFA francs in 2025 to 94.9 billion CFA francs in 2026, an increase of approximately 26.6 billion CFA francs. This increase is driven in particular by the reconstruction of Le Dantec Hospital, the rehabilitation of the Ahmad Sakhir Ndiéguène Regional Hospital in Thiès, and several projects aimed at strengthening the health system.

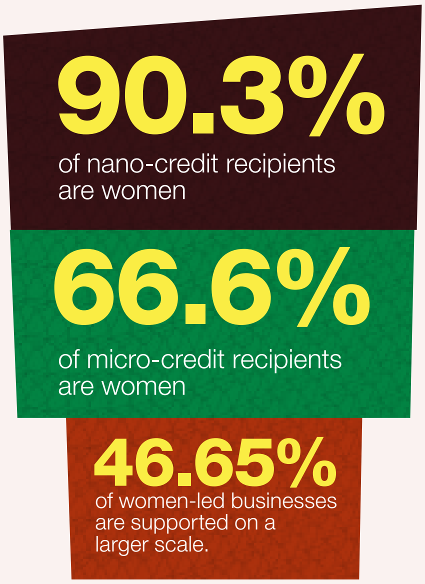
This increase occurs while several health challenges continue to affect women and children. The maternal mortality rate remains estimated at nearly 153 deaths per 100,000 live births, while neonatal mortality remains around 23 deaths per 1,000 live births. These figures show that, despite progress, access to quality maternal care remains a significant challenge.

The increase in planned investments for 2026 can help strengthen the capacity of health facilities, improve medical equipment, and facilitate access to care across several localities. However, the real question is not solely about the level of resources mobilized, but about their ability to translate into measurable improvements in health indicators.



Gender sensitive investments in the health sector 2025 & 2026

3.2 Agriculture and Entrepreneurship



The increase in investments in agriculture and entrepreneurship, rising from 104.8 billion CFA francs in 2025 to 347.1 billion CFA francs in 2026, reflects a commitment to strengthening productive sectors and economic inclusion.

However, data from the DER/FJ show a mixed picture: women account for 90.3% of nano-credit recipients and 66.6% of micro-credit recipients, but only 45.65% of businesses are supported on a larger scale. This trend suggests that women have greater access to small-scale financing but remain underrepresented in more structural investments that can support the growth of their businesses.

Yet, several studies show that the potential gains are significant. According to the FAO, if women had the same access as men to productive resources such as land, equipment, and agricultural inputs, yields could increase by 20 to 30%. Beyond access to financing, the challenge of the Gender Budget 2026 is therefore to create the conditions enabling women to develop more productive and sustainable activities.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

Gender-sensitive investments by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation will increase from 32.2 billion CFA francs in 2025 to 68.1 billion CFA francs in 2026, representing an increase of approximately 35.9 billion CFA francs (+111.4%). This increase is driven in particular by the Rural Water Supply Project Phase II (35.9 billion CFA francs), the DREVE Program (10 billion CFA francs), and the Sanitation Project for Ten Cities (8.25 billion CFA francs).

This trend comes at a time when challenges related to water and sanitation are becoming increasingly visible in Senegal. Flooding continues to affect several areas, including Keur Massar, Pikine, and Guédiawaye, with direct consequences for infrastructure, sanitation, and household economic activities. In several coastal areas, sea-level rise is also placing additional pressure on communities.

These issues also have a significant gender dimension. In many rural areas, women are often the first to be affected by difficulties in accessing drinking water. Improving water infrastructure can thus have effects that go beyond health issues: reducing the time spent on household water collection, improving living conditions, and allowing more time to be devoted to educational or economic activities.

However, the data also reveal a significant gap between Commitment Authorizations (68.1 billion CFA francs) and Payment Appropriations (34.1 billion CFA francs). This gap underscores the importance of monitoring project implementation to ensure that announced investments actually translate into concrete results.

3.4 Education and Training

222.2bn

Investment in education and training in 2026

59.8bn

Investment in education and training in 2025

Investment in education and training will rise from 59.8 billion CFA francs in 2025 to 222.2 billion CFA francs in 2026, an increase of approximately 162.4 billion CFA francs.

Several projects drive this increase by strengthening educational infrastructure and vocational training. These investments appear particularly significant in certain areas where educational challenges persist.

Data from the RGPH-5 show, in particular, that regions such as Tambacounda (30.7%) and Sédhiou (31.2%) continue to have relatively low levels of education and literacy.

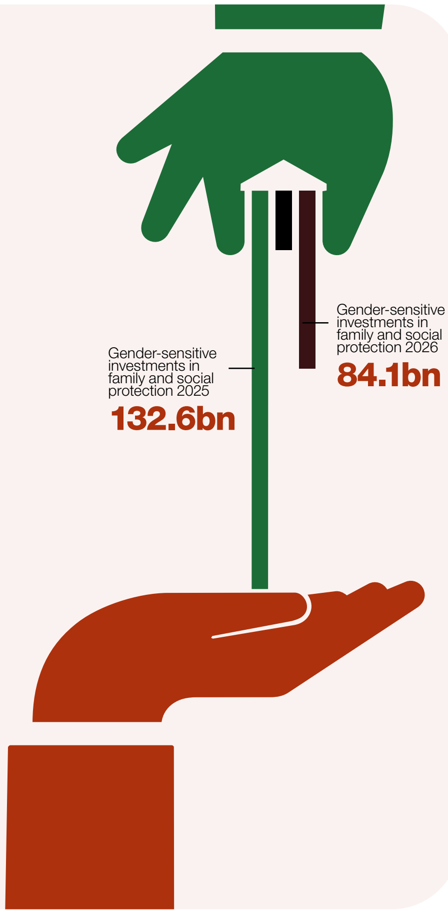
These investments can therefore help improve learning conditions and enhance access to educational opportunities if, and only if, the necessary rigor guides their implementation.

3.5 Family and Social Protection

Gender-sensitive investments in family and social protection decreased from 132.6 billion CFA francs in 2025 to 84.1 billion CFA francs in 2026, a reduction of approximately 48.5 billion CFA francs, corresponding to a 36.6% decline. Despite this reduction, the 2026 Gender Budget continues to fund several key programs, including the National Family Safety Net Grant Program (PNBSF), SWEDD Senegal, and the Adaptive Social Protection Support Project (PAPSA).

This development comes amid a fiscal context marked by significant constraints. The 2026 Budget faces an estimated deficit of 1,245.1 billion CFA francs, while public debt is estimated at 130% of GDP. At the same time, the government is placing greater emphasis on mobilizing domestic resources, which now account for over 92% of general budget revenues, with a significant increase in tax revenues.

In this context, budgetary trade-offs are becoming more critical. Resources appear to be increasingly directed toward sectors considered to drive economic growth and to have direct effects on economic activity, notably agriculture, infrastructure, education, and vocational training, all of which are seeing significant increases in investment.



3.6 Fisheries and Natural Resources

The fisheries sector is one of Senegal's most important economic sectors. It contributes significantly to the national economy and represents a vital source of income and employment for several hundred thousand people through fishing, processing, preservation, and the marketing of fishery products. Women also play a significant role at several points in this value chain, particularly in artisanal processing and marketing activities.

However, an analysis of gender-sensitive allocations reveals a significant decline in investments in this sector. The allocated resources are set to drop from approximately 10.5 billion CFA francs in 2025 to nearly 950 million CFA francs in 2026, representing a decrease of about 9.55 billion CFA francs, or nearly 91%.

This trend appears particularly significant in a context where the government document itself highlights the potential consequences of hydrocarbon -related activities for women involved in fisheries value chains in Guet Ndar. Economic or environmental changes affecting fishery resources can have direct consequences on household incomes and the activities on which many women depend.

This situation raises an important question: while fisheries remain a strategic sector for the national economy and the livelihoods of many communities, could the decline in gender-sensitive investments limit the ability of public policies to support the populations most vulnerable to the sector's current transformations?

IV

Why should women follow the 2026 Gender Budget?

Why is this initiative important in 2026?

Gender-sensitive investments do not automatically produce results
Resources may be allocated in the budget without necessarily producing visible changes for the targeted populations. Delays in project execution, implementation challenges, or limitations in beneficiary targeting can reduce the actual impact of announced investments.

Women have a better understanding of certain local realities
Access to water, healthcare, markets, farmland, or economic activities directly affects the daily lives of many women. This proximity to local realities gives them a significant ability to identify priority needs and assess whether announced projects effectively meet community needs.

Experiences in Senegal show that when women are supported, the effects often extend beyond the direct beneficiaries

In Casamance: building the capacity of rural women to increase their economic autonomy
The “Nous Sommes la Solution (NSS)” movement, led by Mariama Sonko in Ziguinchor, has provided training in agroecology, land rights, and sustainable agricultural techniques to rural women. The movement now brings together more than 115,000 rural women in West Africa, including many in Senegal. Hundreds of women have been trained in activities such as agroforestry, vegetable farming, and seed management. The approach has also helped strengthen advocacy efforts regarding women’s access to land, one of the major constraints they continue to face.

In Popenguine: Local Investments Have Become a Community Economic Driver
Through the Collective of Women’s Groups for the Protection of Nature (COPRONAT), more than 1,500 women organized across eight villages have developed revolving credit mechanisms and income-generating activities linked to environmental protection. The initiative has supported alternative economic activities such as ecotourism, nurseries, and certain local agricultural production, while contributing to the restoration of approximately 100 km^2 of natural ecosystems.

In Saint-Louis: Strengthening the Value Chain for Fishery Products
In several fishing communities, improved access to processing equipment and markets has enabled women to better add value to fishery products and reduce certain post-harvest losses.

How can women get involved?

Women in Senegal do not need mobilization mechanisms created for them; they already have particularly strong social and community networks. Initiatives such as the Badiénou Gokh, women's empowerment groups, community associations, and women's networks have demonstrated for several years a strong capacity for organization, mobilization, and awareness-raising at the local level.

Stay informed
Identify the projects and programs planned in their localities and understand the available opportunities.

Monitor
Monitor the progress of announced projects in their communities and check their status.

Report
Document any delays, difficulties, or discrepancies observed during implementation.

Mobilize
Leverage existing networks, women's associations, Badiénou Gokh, community organizations, or young women's groups to strengthen civic participation and local consultations.