

# Basic infrastructure key to increased employment for rural youth in Senegal

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### Background

- About 60 percent of Senegal's population are under the age of 24 years.
- Youth involvement in economic activities remains relatively low, alongside a high rate of unemployment which has attracted significant interest among policy makers in the country.
- Despite the importance of youth employment in the economic development process, the country is yet to fully benefit from its high percentage of youth in the population.
- Studies in recent years have reflected a stagnation in formal employment.
- The informal sector is projected to supply between 80 to 97 percent of jobs, in areas like family-run businesses or farming, trade and urban-based services.
- Most rural youth have limited access to basic infrastructure needed to expand their economic activities.
- In fact, only 4 percent of rural youth live in communities with access to all-weather roads, and the proportion of rural youth living in communities with access to food markets does not exceed 6 percent.

### Statement

### Target

### Impediments in agribusiness engagement

- CARE targets two categories of young scholars:
  - Academics and professionals at research institutes

and universities in Africa; and

- Youth wishing to pursue Masters or PhD degrees.

### Approach

Using the Youth Researching Youth approach, the CARE project aims to provide fellowships for young African scholars, with a special emphasis on young female professionals and students.

### Activities

The project is organized into activities under four interrelated components, which are aligned with the specific objectives:

- Desk Review of Research and Projects on Youth in Agribusiness and Rural Economic Activities.
- Young scholars research capacity development
- Capacity development in production of research evidence for policy-making; and
- Communication, Advocacy, and Policy Dialogue.

### Results

- This will allow for the development of the leaders of tomorrow in social science research in Africa through:
- Youth entrepreneurs being trained for engagement in agribusiness.
- Increase the availability and use of research evidence for youth policies and decision-making related to youth participation in the rural sector.
- Strengthening the ability of key stakeholders to better use an evidence-based approach in youth economic empowerment in policy development.

