

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Senegal Monthly Briefing August 2025

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#### Senegal Summary 19 August 2025

*Prime minister Ousmane Sonko embarks on an official visit to Türkiye, focused on bolstering economic, diplomatic and military ties. Sonko on 1 August presents his new economic recovery plan for Senegal, which is intended to stabilise finances and address the fallout of the country's misreported debt. A new anti-corruption body is established. The 2014 asset declaration law is debated to include amendments broadening the scope of those who must declare their assets and lowering the threshold amount. Government confirms on 2 August that it will deploy new gendarmerie units to eastern Senegal, along the border with Mali, following a series of coordinated attacks by Al Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) in early July that targeted Malian towns close to the Senegalese border.*

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#### Senegal and Türkiye bolster ties

Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** embarked on an official visit to **Türkiye** from 6 to 11 August, meeting with Türkiye's President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** (2014-present) and other officials to discuss increasing cooperation. A key area that the two leader discussed, as [confirmed](#) by Erdoğan in a press conference on 7 August, was taking joint steps to increase ties in the defence sector and the fight against terrorism. To this point, Türkiye's defence minister, **Yaşar Güler**, and Senegal's armed forces minister, **Birame Diop**, signed an agreement to increase military and financial cooperation. Sonko, while briefing a press conference, expressed confidence in Türkiye's ability to help equip Senegalese defence forces. Sonko visited two defence firms, **Aselsan** and **Havelsan**, during his trip.

Erdoğan [noted](#) that he and Sonko had discussed their ambition to triple bilateral trade to \$1 billion, a feat which they believe is possible given the number of Turkish companies – nearly 100 – that operate in Senegal, with investments and projects worth \$3 billion active. Erdoğan thanked Sonko for Senegal's diplomatic cooperation, highlighting Senegal's shared support for the **Palestinian** cause. For his part, Sonko praised Türkiye as a model of economic success, calling the country a "big brother" to Senegal.

Sonko also attended the **Türkiye–Senegal Business Forum** and met with several Turkish business leaders to discuss increased investment. A key focus for the forum was Senegal's energy sector. Senegal's ambassador to Türkiye, **Moustapha Sokhna Diop**, [said](#) following the forum that Turkish investors had expressed interest in financing projects worth an estimated \$9 billion, either through direct investment or **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**. Sonko and economy, planning and cooperation minister **Abdourahmane Sarr** [also](#) met with Turkish state-owned bank, **Türk Eximbank**, to present Senegal's economic recovery plan (see below). Following the meeting, Sarr said the bank would be willing to finance structure projects without increasing public debt in a bid to pave the way for a new economic partnership.

#### Sonko presents economic recovery plan

Sonko on 1 August [presented](#) his new economic recovery plan for Senegal that is intended to stabilise finances and address the fallout of the country's misreported debt. **United States (US)**-headquartered credit rating agency **S&P Global** estimates that debt levels were 118% of GDP at the end of 2024, higher than its earlier estimates of 104% (see *ARC Briefing Senegal Jul 2025*). The previous administration had [declared](#) that debt was 74% of GDP. This comes after a **Cour des comptes** (court of auditors) report, published in February, revealed that Senegal's debt and budget deficit were far greater than initially reported, with debt forecast to be 99.67% of GDP at the end of 2023.

Sonko outlined that the recovery plan will be financed 90% through domestic resources in a bid to avoid incurring additional debt. Some of the plan's key measures [include](#):

- Merging and scaling down state institutions, estimated to help save 50 billion FCFA (\$89m);
- Eliminating tax exemptions for sectors such as gambling and mobile money, and increasing taxes on tobacco from 70% to 100%, estimated to generate 100 billion FCFA (\$178.16m);
- Regularisation of contracts at state-owned electricity company **Senelec**, estimated to help government recover 90 billion FCFA (\$160.35m) in lost revenue;
- Introducing visa fees for non-**African** visitors and other countries that require Senegalese citizens to acquire a visa, estimated to generate 60 billion FCFA (\$106.9m);
- Renegotiating contracts, mainly in the extractive sectors, estimated to raise 884 billion FCFA (\$1.57 billion).

Overall, the government plans to mobilise 4.6 trillion FCFA (\$8.19 billion) without increasing the state's debt. The plan will run until 2029 and aims to reduce the budget deficit from an estimated 14% of GDP to 3% by 2027, and to reduce unemployment and the poverty rate. Sonko noted that the decision to finance the plan predominantly through domestic sources is to [help](#) "restore the financial independence of the state".

The country's **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** \$1.8 billion programme was suspended following the revelations that the former administration had misreported data. Talks on a new programme have been slow as the IMF has been waiting for the government to outline its plans. However, it was confirmed on 19 August that an IMF mission is present in Senegal to start talks again, a potential indication that it is satisfied with Sonko's proposed plan.

### New anti-corruption body established

The **Conseil des ministres** (council of ministers) on 30 July [adopted](#) a bill dissolving the **Office national de Lutte contre la Fraude et la Corruption (OFNAC)** (national office for the fight against fraud and corruption) and establishing a new body, the **Office national de lutte contre la Corruption** (national office for fight against corruption), with the same acronym, OFNAC. While the mandate of OFNAC is largely the same, the new body has increased powers and will be comprised of 12 members who will be appointed for a five-year term, non-renewable after an application process. A key change is that OFNAC will be allowed to intervene in matters on its own initiative and will not require a referral from another authority.

Alongside the establishment of the new OFNAC, the government has debated its 2014 asset declaration law. The basis of the law is that individuals holding a mandate or function within public bodies must declare their assets. However, the council of ministers adopted key [amendments](#) to the law, including lowering the reporting threshold from 1 billion FCFA (\$1.78m) to 500m FCFA (\$890,839) and broadening the scope of those who must declare their assets, including senior civil servants, heads of public companies, elected officials and those involved in government functions such as members of audit and investigation bodies. Another provision is that these declarations must be made at both the start and the end of a term.

However, the bill has come under [scrutiny](#) as it allows for the president to declare his or her assets at the beginning of his or her term, but does not require him or her to declare them at the end of the presidential term, raising concerns over transparency. The **Assemblée nationale** (national assembly) began debating the bill on 18 August, with the outcome pending.

### Gendarmerie deploys to border with Mali

Government [confirmed](#) on 2 August that it would deploy new gendarmerie units to eastern Senegal, along the border with **Mali**, following a series of coordinated attacks by **Al Qaeda**-affiliated **Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM)** in early July that targeted Malian towns close to the Senegalese border. The closest attack was on **Diblo** (Mali), less than 500m from **Kidira** (Senegal). The attacks led authorities to [ban](#) night-time motorcycle traffic in the **Bakel** department from midnight to 6am,

effective 24 July until 24 August, for security reasons. Motorcycles are a common mode of transport used by jihadists.

The gendarmerie has opened three new units in **Tamba**, **Kédougou** and **Saraya**, towards the southeast of the country. Armed forces minister General Biram Diop oversaw the inauguration of the new units, emphasising a need for a “*climate of trust*” with the population to allow for collaboration when it comes to extremism.

JNIM has increased its presence in **West Africa**, most predominantly in Mali, **Burkina Faso** and **Niger**, and is seeking to expand into coastal countries such as Senegal, **Benin** and **Togo**. Dakar-based think tank **Timbuktu Institute** published a [report](#) in April noting that JNIM has used the **Kayes Region** in Mali as a base to launch activities in Senegal and **Mauritania**. While JNIM has not actively launched incursions in Senegal, it is seeking to gain a foothold through economic activities, especially cross-border economic activity. For example, JNIM fighters threaten traders with taxes on their goods, or seizing their goods, unless they provide information to them.

The expansion of JNIM presents a huge security risk to Senegal. While increasing the security presence in these regions is helpful, recruitment by groups such as JNIM is based on capitalising on populations’ social grievances. Ensuring economic development and providing opportunities, especially for young men, in the border regions is key to limiting this recruitment strategy. Addressing social issues is also key; in Senegal, the caste system is still used in [communities](#) to determine local leadership, land ownership and religious authority. This often leads to disputes and tensions among community members, which creates vulnerabilities that extremist groups can exploit for recruitment.

## Planner

19 – 26 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission**

30 Aug – 5 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) 19<sup>th</sup> African Food Systems Forum**

2027 **(Senegal) Yakaar-Teranga** gas project set to begin production;

## Chronology

19 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) Sika Finance. International Monetary Fund (IMF)** confirms a mission will be in Senegal from 19 to 26 August;

18 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) Le Soleil**. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** leaves Senegal for an official visit to **Japan** to participate in the **9<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9)**;

15 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) Energy Capital & Power**. **Canada**-headquartered **Fortuna Mining** announces its drilling project at the **Diamba Sud** gold project has confirmed new deposits;

8 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) Sika Finance**. Senegal raises 40 billion FCFA (\$70.83m) on the regional market, attracting sustained interest from regional investors;

8 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) APA News**. Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** meets with **Türkiye’s** President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** during an official visit to Turkey, signing several agreements focused on military, economic and diplomatic cooperation;

7 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) Bloomberg**. State-owned power utility **Senelec** partners with **France** and Dakar-based **Africa REN** to add battery storage to the national grid in a bid to stabilise electricity supply and avoid blackouts;

6 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal) Times Live**. Energy ministry confirms that the **Sangomar** oil field, operated by **Australia**-headquartered **Woodside Energy**, produced 3 million barrels in April, 3.1 million in May and 3 million in June, with forecasts that it will produce a total of 30.53 million barrels in 2025;

1 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Times Live*. Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** unveils a new economic recovery plan for Senegal, aiming to finance up to 90% of the plan through domestic resources in a bid to avoid additional debt;

30 Jul 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. Economy ministry forecasts growth of 8% in 2025 driven by the oil and gas sector coming online;

29 Jul 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Africanews*. Justice minister **Ousmane Diagne** sends a request to the attorney general for a formal investigation into the political violence that occurred between 2021 and 2024;

26 Jul 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Daily News*. **Egypt's** foreign minister, **Badr Abdelatty**, leads a business delegation to Senegal, during which he opens the **Egypt-Senegal Business Forum** and a new factory in a bid to deepen economic ties;

24 Jul 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Reuters*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** confirms it is planning a mission to Senegal in August to discuss the country's hidden debt and a new programme;

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