Senegal

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the crucial nature of oxygen availability and accessibility in Senegal and the importance of strengthening oxygen systems across the country.

As of 2019, the Senegal Ministry of Health, with support from PATH and other partners, carried out multiple initiatives to improve reliable oxygen supply, including:

+ Conducted a biomedical equipment survey in 29 designated COVID-19 treatment centers across 13 regions:
  » The results indicated that intensive care unit bed capacity was a key constraining factor to oxygen therapy, and there was significant scarcity of oxygen delivery equipment across Senegal, with available oxygen equipment often totaling far less than the number of reported beds.

+ With support from PATH and other country partners, assessed the pilot of an online maintenance management software at 37 health facilities to explore how staff were trained to use the software, its benefits, and requirements for a national rollout.

+ Currently developing a maintenance strategic plan to create a framework for the country that ensures the functionality and longevity of essential health care equipment.

+ In collaboration with country partners, currently developing a national Oxygen Scale up Roadmap to guide the development of oxygen infrastructure, equipment, and maintenance.

+ With support from PATH and Unitaid, procured equipment to be distributed to numerous health facilities across the country:

  175 oxygen concentrators
  250 pulse oximeters
  1,000 oxygen masks
  2,100 oxygen therapy accessories

+ Developed and carried out training sessions for 267 medical professionals and social workers on the standard operating procedures for COVID-19 response management.

With strong collaboration between the Ministry of Health, universities, and technical and financial partners, Senegal is well positioned to scale up oxygen across all levels of the health system.

Enhancing capacity to maintain and administer oxygen delivery, strengthening equipment management systems, and harmonizing quality assurance and legal requirements for oxygen management will be critical priorities to sustain this progress.