



Why do social and health systems fail? A PERSPECTIVE FROM SENEGAL

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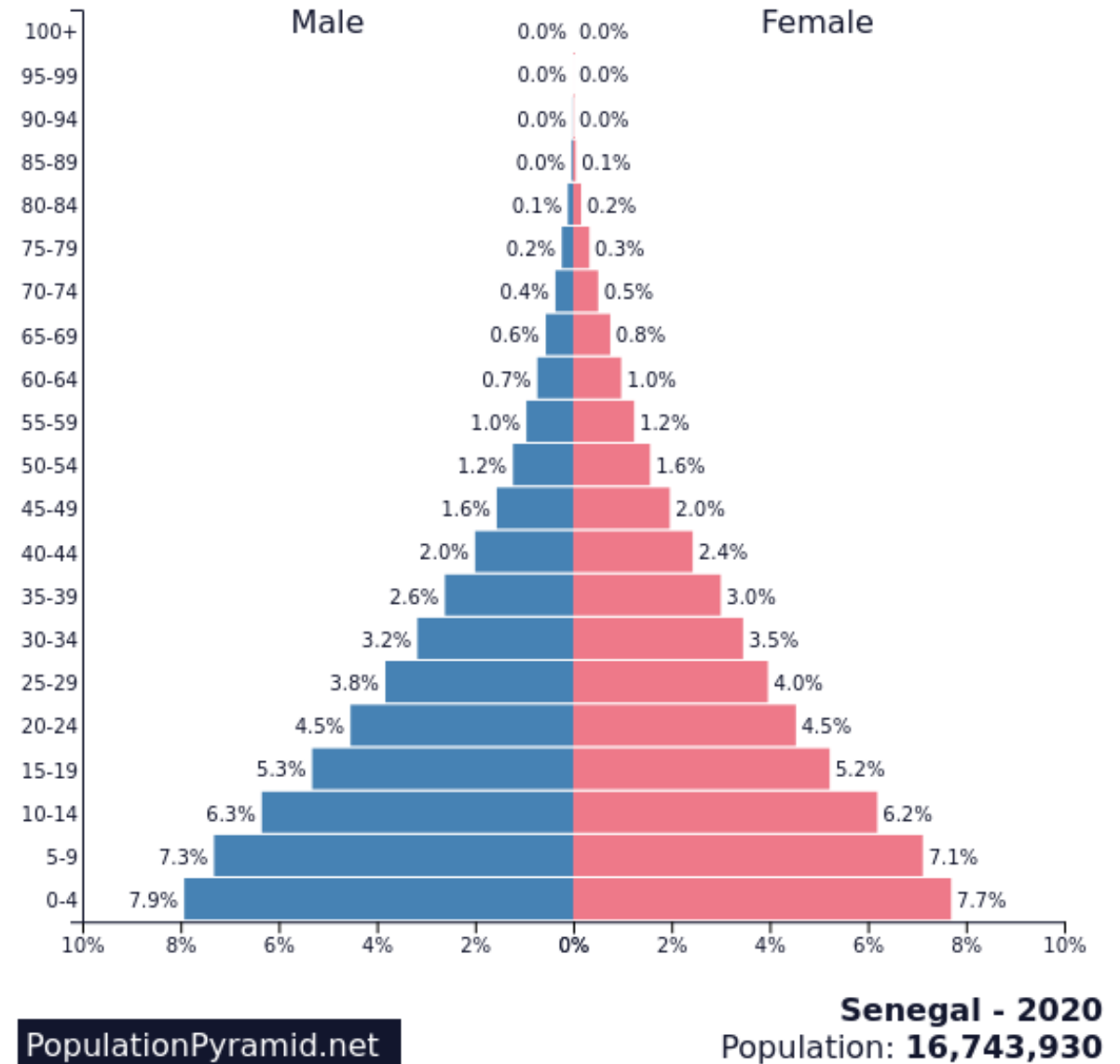
OUTLINE

1. Brief presentation of the evolution of the pandemic in Senegal
2. Why the health system is failing?
3. Why the social system is failing?
4. Why the socio-sanitary system is failing?
5. Conclusion

UPDATE ON THE PANDEMIC IN SENEGAL

- Country's population:
16,743,930 people

As of October 14, there are:
15,571 cases;
13,571 healed
316 deaths
1443 under treatment



MANAGEMENT OF THE PANDEMIC

Senegal's management of pandemic is referred to as exemplary due to:

- Strong consensus between political leaders, religious leaders and scientists;
- Scientists have been guiding the decision-making process;
- Strong testing and research capabilities.

PANDEMIC CONTROL STRATEGY IN TWO PHASES

First phase:

- **Administrative measures:**

- Food distribution, semi confinement, prohibition of large gatherings, shutting down mosques, churches and schools, travel restrictions, imposing mask in public transportation and public services.

- **Health measures:**

- Contact tracing, quarantine of contacts in hotels and contact testing.
- Quarantine of contacts in hotel was not sustainable.



Pandemic control strategy in two phases

Second phase: “Learning how to live with the virus”:

- Lift of all restrictions.
- Adoption of Homebase care for non severe cases.
- Only groups at risk are hospitalized.
- Targeted testing.



WHY THE HEALTH SYSTEM IS FAILING?

Structural factors

- Health system unable to sustain high influx of patients.
- Diagnostic and treatment capabilities.
- Cost of treatment.

Strategic approach

- No utilization of the community health infrastructure.
- Inadequate communication strategies.
- Skewed community engagement approach.

WHY THE HEALTH SYSTEM IS FAILING?

Representations

- Lack of trust to the health system

WHY THE SOCIAL SYSTEM IS FAILING?

- Emergent diseases are always challenging to handle for the social system
- Difficulty to access/implement prevention measures, masks, water and soap,
- social distancing is contrary to the foundational principles of social interactions.
- Social representations, myths: denial, resistance, stratagems, violence, stigmatization of COVID 19 patients, hiding sick people.
- Handling burial of deceased COVID 19 people

FAILURE OF THE SOCIO SANITARY SYSTEM

- The upstream river metaphor of public health: fixing problems at the social level before they get into the health system.
 - Not taking into account community level factors;
- The two systems that work in opposition rather than in synergy;
- The opposition between disease and sickness reinforces resistance to treatment.

CONCLUSION

Need to take into account **community level factors** to gain community engagement that is key to the success for the pandemic control:

- Geographic communities are not the best units to assess or leverage community level factors;
- Need to identify the social units functioning as communities (where there is a sense of community);
- Importance of identifying the true community leaders (different from official leaders) who can influence community engagement and who serve as catalysts for the smooth functioning of social system.

