Information session | Wednesday 11 November 2026

West Africa Insight Tour

Benin, Togo and Senegal

April 2027



What we'll cover

About AIDN, Segal and our Insight Tours	Emily & Julie (AIDN)
Why West Africa	Eve (Local Leaders Fund, AIDN Advisory Council)
The tour: route, itinerary and what to expect	Patricia (Segal Family Foundation)
Getting there, cost and preparing to travel	Patricia (Segal Family Foundation)
Your questions	Emily (AIDN)

About the Australian International Development Network

Our mission is to drive more and better international giving from Australians.

We are a neutral platform that shines a light on the incredible work being done across the international development sector.

About Segal Family Foundation

Segal Family Foundation is a social impact funder and advisor.

We back local African leaders with huge potential to transform society and help progressive donors do the same.

We have a network of over 350+ organizations across 23 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This includes a recent expansion in 2025 into Francophone West Africa in partnership with Partners for Equity and a consortium of other funders.

AIDN's Insight Tours

Designed to get funders on the road and into the field! We offer engaged funders an in-depth insight into the work and operating context of a variety of not-for-profits.

So far:

- **Uganda and Rwanda**
- **Tanzania and Kenya**
- **Cambodia**
- **Malawi and Zimbabwe**
- **Timor-Leste**



Why an Insight Tour?

See it

Meet leaders, see locally led initiatives in action, and explore how philanthropy can play a catalytic role.

Understand it

Gain a deeper understanding of each country's trajectory and build trust-based relationships.

Act on it

Identify opportunities to support long-term, meaningful change.

Why West Africa?

West Africa is in an exciting period of growth and innovation, but Benin, Togo and Senegal continue to face significant development challenges.

Benin

173rd

on the Human Development Index

27.2%

living at or below US$3.00 a day

Togo

161st

on the Human Development Index

34.7%

living at or below US$3.00 a day

Senegal

169th

on the Human Development Index

17.9%

living at or below US$3.00 a day

Out of 193 countries and territories. UNDP Human Development Report 2025. Poverty line in 2021 PPP.

The issues behind the numbers

Maternal health

518 per 100,000

live births end in a mother's death in Benin. The global average is 197. In Australia it is 3.

Child nutrition

93%

of young children in Senegal do not receive a minimum acceptable diet.

Climate change

9.4% of GDP

could be lost each year in Senegal by 2050 without action. Flooding, heat and drought threaten food and livelihoods.

Infrastructure and investment

Growth is not yet inclusive

Governments are investing in industry, transport, energy and digital. Turning that into inclusive development remains the challenge.

Sources: WHO 2023 and 2025 (maternal mortality); World Bank 2024 (nutrition, climate).

A region overlooked by funders

5 to 10%

of the foreign funding East Africa receives is the estimated flow into West Africa.

2x

Under-five and maternal death rates are roughly double those in East Africa.

“Money in Africa often speaks English.”

Many organisations in the region work entirely in French and few have also reached the US$1 million benchmark in revenue that many funders look for before investing. Together, these elements have led to a dearth in foreign philanthropic funding in West Africa.

Source: Angus Grinham’s site visits to SII organisations in Senegal, Partners for Equity, May 2026. Estimates

We believe there is a real opportunity for funders to contribute to sustainable and locally led development in the region.

This Insight Tour is your invitation to do just that.

The tour at a glance

10 days

Sunday 11 to Tuesday 20 April 2027

3 countries

Benin, Togo and Senegal

Wed 21 April

Departure day, from Dakar

About 10

NGO site visits, plus time with NGO teams

2 Showcase Days

In Benin and Senegal, meeting more NGO leaders

14 to 20

Global funders travelling together

From Cotonou to Dakar



1. Cotonou, Benin

Sun 11 to Wed 14 April.
Site visits and the Benin and Togo Showcase Day.

About 3 hours by road

2. Lomé, Togo

Wed 14 to Fri 16 April.
Site visits and an ecosystem dinner.

Direct flight, included

3. Dakar, Senegal

Fri 16 to Wed 21 April.
Showcase Day, site visits.

What to expect

- Around 2 site visits on each visit day
- Dinners with local ecosystem actors on the context of francophone West Africa
- Showcase Days with NGOs from all three countries
- Time for history and culture, from Ganvié and Ouidah to Gorée Island
- Travel with funders from around the world, have time to connect and reflect together
- A pre-departure briefing, plus a due diligence and information pack

Draft itinerary

Itinerary at a glance

Date	Where	What's planned
Sat 10 Apr	Cotonou, Benin	Preferred arrival day
Sun 11 Apr	Cotonou, Benin	Cultural activities, welcome dinner with local ecosystem actors
Mon 12 Apr	Cotonou, Benin	Site visits
Tue 13 Apr	Cotonou, Benin	Showcase Day: Benin and Togo
Wed 14 Apr	Cotonou to Lomé	Site visit, drive to Lomé, ecosystem dinner
Thu 15 Apr	Lomé	Site visits
Fri 16 Apr	Lomé to Dakar	Morning cultural activities, flight, welcome dinner
Sat 17 Apr	Dakar	Showcase Day: Senegal
Sun 18 Apr	Dakar	Cultural day, including options such as Gorée Island
Mon 19 Apr	Dakar	Site visits
Tue 20 Apr	Dakar	Site visits, final group dinner
Wed 21 Apr	Dakar	Departures

Showcase Days

The chance to meet far more leaders than site visits allow, with funders in the room as listeners and critical friends. Activities will include ecosystem panels, sector conversations, funder hosted roundtables and other networking activities.

Cotonou

Tuesday 13 April

20 to 30 organisations from Benin and Togo

Dakar

Saturday 17 April

10 to 15 organisations from Senegal

Who you'll meet

Organisations in SFF and AIDNs network working across a broad range of sectors.

- **Health**
- **Job Creation & Skills Development**
- **Mental Health**
- **Gender Equity & Livelihoods**
- **Agriculture & Renewable Energy**
- **Education, Ed Tech & Inclusive Education**

Getting there

Each guest books and pays for their own travel to and from West Africa. Arrive in Cotonou by Sunday 11 April and fly home from Dakar on Wednesday 21 April.

Pairing it with Skoll in Oxford

from London via Paris

One idea: book a return flight to London, then a separate ticket from London to West Africa and back. You fly home from London at the end.

from London via Portugal & Morocco

from London via Ghana

London to Accra, then a regional connection to Cotonou. Returning to London at the end and onward to your final destination from London.

Coming straight to the Insight Tour

Wherever you're starting from, fly into Cotonou and home from Dakar.

Ask for multi-city ticket rather than a standard return.

Everything between Cotonou and Dakar is part of the Insight Tour, including the Lomé to Dakar flight.

What it costs

US$5,600 to US$7,000

per person, depending on group size (based on 14 to 20 people)

Included

- Accommodation in Cotonou, Lomé and Dakar
- Lunches and dinners, with breakfast at the hotels
- In-country transport and the Lomé to Dakar flight
- Showcase Days
- Cultural Activities

Not included

- International flights to Cotonou and from Dakar
- Visas
- Vaccinations
- Travel insurance

Questions?



“The AIDN Funder’s Trip was incredibly interesting, thought-provoking and a lot of fun…Travelling with like-minded folk with a wide range of experiences in the sector, offered a fabulous opportunity to reflect together and to learn from each other to improve our giving practices.”

Johanna de Burca, Co-founder and CEO, Just Peoples



“I loved being able to consistently discuss international development trends, evidence and models in an applied setting, which is crucial to learning.”

Katie Stanford, Former Director of Research and Business Intelligence, The Life You Can Save



“The AIDN trip to East Africa was nothing short of game changing for me personally. I’ve been involved with philanthropy for over 20 years, but I’ve never learned so much as I did on this trip. It was as much about our fellow travellers as it was the projects and partners that we met. The group were all so smart, passionate, empathetic and logical, that collectively they helped me change the way I think about philanthropy. Plus, it was a lot of fun too! Can’t recommend future AIDN trips highly enough.”

Darrell Wade, Co-founder and Chairman of Intrepid Travel, The Intrepid Foundation and The Dawn Wade Foundation

Interested?

Places are limited and reserved for funders, or those working within foundations or intermediaries.

Register your interest now via the QR code.

A deposit to hold your place on the tour will be due by January 2027, with final registration due by February.

Questions? Contact Emily at AIDN (emily@aidnetwork.org.au) or Patricia at Segal Family Foundation (patricia@segalfamilyfoundation.org).