

ENDING THE BOOK FAMINE IN SENEGAL

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THE GOAL OF THE MARRAKESH TREATY IS TO HELP END THE BOOK FAMINE – THE FACT THAT ONLY 7% OF PUBLISHED BOOKS ARE MADE AVAILABLE GLOBALLY IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS. IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WHERE MOST BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE LIVE, THE FIGURE IS LESS THAN 1%*

*This situation is caused in the first instance by barriers created by copyright law, barriers that the Marrakesh Treaty seeks to remove.



Senegal signs the Marrakesh Treaty following its adoption on 28 June 2013 © WIPO 2013. Photo: Emmanuel Berrod.

OBJECTIVES

- COBESS to lead the campaign for ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in Senegal in partnership with Amitiés des Aveugles du Sénégal (AAS), and Sightsavers West African Regional Office, Senegal
- Ensure that libraries play a key role in the development of implementing national copyright legislation
- Organize an advocacy campaign with partners to achieve the most favourable result for persons with print disabilities
- Meet policy-makers and government officials (primary target group), translate advocacy materials, obtain library-friendly legal advice, raise awareness in mass media and social media

RESULTS SO FAR

- Partner meeting held to plan activities and promotion
- Information meetings held with high level officials at the Senegalese Copyright Office (DG), Ministry of Culture & Communications to discuss the treaty implementation process
- Selection of an opinion leader e.g. Pape Niang, a blind jazzman or musician Youssou Ndour to support communication and advocacy efforts
- **Expected outcomes:** ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty is on the agenda of key Ministries and policy-makers. The library community is following the process and timetable for ratification
- Local copyright experts have knowledge of the Treaty's major provisions, and the interpretation that best supports public interest goals of access to knowledge

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