



**Remarks**  
**Ambassador Lewis A. Lukens**  
**Self-Help Grant Signing Ceremony**  
**Seascope Conference Room, U.S. Embassy, Dakar**  
**Thursday, July 25, 11:00 a.m.**

*(As prepared)*

Dear 2013 Self-Help Grant Recipients,

I would like to begin by wishing you a *Ramadan Moubarack*. I hope that the season brings you many blessings and opportunities to be close with family and friends.

Thank you all for coming all the way to Dakar to take part in this signing ceremony. It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you today to the U.S. Embassy to the grant signing of the winning proposals to the Ambassador's Self-Help Fund. The Ambassador's Self-Help Funds aim to improve basic economic and social conditions at the grassroots level and support high-impact, quick-implementation activities that benefit a large number of people. I remain convinced that this funding from the U.S. Government will help your communities where the needs are greatest.

This year, the Department of State allocated \$50,000 to Senegal's Ambassador's Self Help Fund. Ten successful projects were selected from nine of the 14 regions, including Fatick, Kaffrine, Kaolack, Kedougou, Kolda, Matam, St-Louis, Thiès, and Ziguinchor. This year, the successful projects were in the sectors of environment, education, agriculture, and income-generating activities.

I wish you much success in implementing your projects and hope to see you again during their inauguration ceremonies.

*Jerre jeff!*