

**Remarks**  
**Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Sandra Clark**  
**Joint Annual Review of the**  
**USAID Portfolio with the Government of Senegal**  
**Dakar**  
**July 1, 2014**

*(As prepared)*

Mr. Minister,

Mr. Director DCEF,

Distinguished partners and employees of ministries and implementing agencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure to be here with representatives of the Government of Senegal this morning to review the portfolio of U.S. development assistance to Senegal provided by USAID.

I sincerely applaud the strong and sustained collaboration between USAID and the Government of Senegal that yielded measurable, meaningful development results during 2013.

USAID provided more than \$111 million, or 534 billion francs CFA, in assistance to Senegal in 2013.

This assistance covered Health, Economic Growth and Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Education, and Good Governance.

These resources are aligned with and contribute directly to Senegal’s development priorities.

In addition, in Senegal, as all across the world, USAID is helping countries improve their capacity to manage funds and deliver results.

USAID does this by channeling assistance directly to government agencies, local NGOs, and private sector organizations.

This past year, 22 percent of USAID’s funding was provided directly to government and local organizations.

I would like to say a few words about each of the areas of our engagement, and then turn to some issues requiring focus this year.

In the **Health** sector, the U.S. Global Health Initiative and President’s Malaria Initiative have continued to assist Senegal to meet the UN’s Millennium Development Goals for health and nutrition.

USAID is helping the Ministry of Health improve the quality and availability of health care services across the country.

These services have contributed to a 41 percent decrease in under-five child mortality since 2005 – one of the biggest drops in Africa.

Last year, USAID also helped train more than 11,400 community health workers and agents throughout the country.

These valuable workers contributed to an increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate from 12 percent in 2010 to 16 percent in 2013.

This increase helps improve the health and well-being of thousands of mothers and children.

U.S. support has enabled the National Malaria Control Program to implement comprehensive malaria prevention and treatment interventions.

This assistance is helping Senegal move closer to eliminating this deadly disease.

A recent study indicated that the combined efforts of Senegal's anti-malaria partners prevented more than 6,000 deaths from the disease between 2006 and 2010.

In addition, Senegal was able to maintain an HIV prevalence rate below one percent, among the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa.

A second area of collaboration is **Agriculture**. Agriculture is the engine of economic growth and poverty reduction for Senegal.

President Obama's global food security initiative, Feed the Future, promotes partnerships among governments, the private sector, and civil society.

Feed the Future aims to increase incomes from agriculture and improve the nutritional status of Senegalese, especially that of children.

In 2013, USAID's assistance to the rice, maize, millet and fisheries value chains helped

- create 5,300 new jobs,
- train more than 98,000 farmers affiliated with producers networks, and
- brought together 50 of these networks to ensure farmers access to the highest quality seed

– resulting in \$21 million in new revenues last year.

USAID has helped farmers to access credit through a loan guarantee mechanism that covers a portfolio valued at more than \$71 million.

Through our efforts, we have strengthened the governance of 334,000 hectares of biologically rich fishing zones.

Today there is collaboration among the 10,000 participants in the fishery sector to improve management of their fishing resources and adhere to regulations that protect fish populations.

These actions help improve Senegal's nutrition – fish make up 47 percent of the nation's protein consumption – and the overall economy.

Turning to a third area, **Education**, we are proud to be working with Senegal to increase access to a high quality education for all children.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, USAID is helping improve reading performance of more than two million primary school students in 8,500 schools nationwide.

Launched in 2013, this innovative partnership builds the capacity of the Senegalese education system to deliver basic education services.

It also improved reading instruction, curriculum, as well as teaching and learning aids.

We continued our partnership with Senegal to construct middle schools closer to communities. In 2013 we financed construction of 17 middle schools.

This adds to the more than 100 middle schools built nationwide with USAID assistance in the last decade. The new schools have helped thousands of additional youth, especially girls, continue their education.

Construction will begin this year on nine new schools in the Casamance and Kedougou.

The U.S. Government encourages innovative and durable solutions to education challenges by partnering with the private sector to create new approaches to development.

For example, USAID has leveraged the popularity of basketball in Senegal and the high profile of the National Basketball Association (or NBA) to forge a new partnership.

This partnership uses the sport as a platform to educate boys and girls in leadership and citizenship.

In partnership with government institutions and reform-oriented civil society organizations, USAID continues to promote **Democratic Governance** in the country and social stability, a fourth area of collaboration.

This work includes

- drafting of legislation such as the asset declaration and new decentralization laws;
- development of a national strategy for promoting good governance and the establishment of local units to guide its implementation; and
- helping Senegal qualify for membership in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

These and other reforms undertaken by the government have led to an impressive improvement of the country's ranking in governance by global institutions such as Transparency International.

In 2013, USAID has helped:

- 22 “communauté rurales” develop transparency and accountability mechanisms;
- enhance citizen participation in decision making; and
- local government mobilize their own resources within the law to fund community development projects.

This assistance is laying a solid foundation for the country's decentralization process.

USAID is among several American agencies actively promoting community dialogue and reconciliation in the Casamance.

In 2013, we reached a total of more than 50,000 men and women trained in reconciliation and local administration.

This training lays the foundation for a population more engaged and skilled in maintaining peace and stability in the restive region.

As we look back, we look to the future. **Challenges remain** for Senegal and its partners in development.

In Health, strong governance and definition of roles in the Ministry of Health are essential to ensure the success of Senegal's ambitious Universal Health Care program.

We applaud the government for resolving the health data reporting strike last year.

Still, health information statistics must be readily available to monitor the status of the health system and identify the areas of greatest need.

We congratulate Senegal on joining the New Alliance for Agriculture and Food Security last November.

The United States is collaborating with Senegal and donors under the leadership of Canada to strengthen agricultural policy.

However, as indicated in the *Plan Sénégal Émergent* -- and in line with New Alliance framework -- policy reforms necessary to increase investments in the agriculture sector.

These include reduction of subsidies, improving access to credit, tax incentives, and land tenure reform, must be accelerated.

In Education, we applaud the decentralization law which envisions more responsibility and authority at the local level.

We encourage the Ministry to improve capacity and provide the resources to make this vision a reality.

Ministry leadership and engagement is also critical to the success of the national rollout of reading activities and of the management of new schools. Such focus will institutionalize quality across the system.

We applaud the Ministry for its work in resolving the recent strike of inspectors will be resolved quickly. The strike has delayed implementation of our partnership to improve reading nationwide.

We appreciate the leadership of the Ministry of Economy and Finance in implementing the West African Economic and Monetary Union's transparency code.

As a result, Senegal's government has become more responsive and accountable.

At the same time, we urge Economy and Finance to work to ensure funds are made available to line ministries in a timely manner.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that The United States is committed to strengthening our collaboration to

- improve the health and food security of families, especially mothers and children,
- get more children to go to school and learn to read, and
- ensure more women and men have an avenue to earn a decent living and provide for their families.

Together, we can help develop a more vibrant economy and responsive social services to improve the quality of life so that all people can look forward to a brighter future.

Thank you for your kind attention.