

Remarks
Charge d'Affaires a.i
Self-Help Grant Signing Ceremony
Seascape Conference Room, U.S. Embassy, Dakar
Thursday, September 11, 3:00 p.m.

Dear 2014 Self-Help Grant Recipients,

It is my honor to welcome you here today to the Ambassador's Special Self Help Program annual award ceremony. I thank you for coming. I understand that most of you have traveled far to attend this ceremony.

This year's awards cover various projects including market gardening, irrigation system installation, health center equipment, purchase of millet machines and soap manufacturing equipment, and purchase of a grinding machine for baobab fruit and shea nuts.

By providing funding to small community-based projects, the U.S. Government aims to enable economic autonomy and social well-being. In 2014, eight out of Senegal's 14 regions will benefit from Self-Help funds.

I would like to recognize that USAID is offering Fund recipients help in strengthening your groups' organizational capacity. Also, I would like to thank Peace Corps Volunteers who have assessed many projects when we could not physically go to the project sites.

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Senegal, I would like to thank each recipient for the time dedicated towards developing your communities. Best wishes in implementing your projects. I look forward to joyful inauguration ceremonies.

Jereujef, Diarama, Albarka!