

Irrigation and Water Resource Management Project (\$176 million)

The Irrigation and Water Resource Management Project was one of two projects implemented as part of the \$540 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact between the Governments of the United States and Senegal. Signed in 2009, the Compact's goal was to reduce poverty through economic growth unlocking the country's agricultural productivity and expanding access to markets and services. The Irrigation Project strategically invested in irrigation schemes and was designed to augment rural incomes and employment and improve food security in northern Senegal's rice production heartland, the Senegal River Valley. The Project aimed to safeguard and expand production on irrigated land in the Valley's Delta area and addressed long-standing land tenure constraints by formalizing farmers' land rights and enabling a secure legal framework to encourage continued investment. The Government of Senegal implemented the five-year MCC Compact via the Millennium Challenge Account-Senegal, and was completed on September 23, 2015.

The Delta Activity (\$155 million)

The Senegal River Valley benefits from a very favorable environment for intensive irrigation. However, low agricultural yields have been a persistent problem due to the poor quality of the existing irrigation and drainage infrastructure, insufficient delivery of available water to agricultural areas, and lack of an appropriate drainage system. MCC's investments in the Delta area addressed these constraints by upgrading and rehabilitating the main canal and drainage systems across 35,480 hectares in order to increase the volume of irrigable water, expand cropping intensity, and secure use of land currently at risk of abandonment due to soil salinization and insufficient water flows. MCC's rehabilitation or construction of over 221 kilometers of canals is expected to allow farmers to expand their rice, tomato, onion and other market vegetable cultivation in the Senegal River Valley.



MCC's irrigation investments are expected to increase the quantity and quality of irrigable land in the 42,000-hectare Delta region.

The Ngalenka Activity (\$5.9 million)

The Ngalenka activity aimed to increase agricultural production in a remote rural area through the construction of a new 450-hectare irrigated perimeter. The works included land leveling, construction of water pumping stations and a six kilometer protection dike, 24 kilometers of canals, and 34 kilometers of access paths. The perimeter was completed in April 2014 and the first rice growing season followed in July, which was cultivated by 53 water user groups comprised of more than 2,200 individuals, including 13 women's groups. Construction was also accompanied by training for the water user groups, resettlement support, a reforestation program and formalization of land rights to those working on the Ngalenka perimeter.

Land Tenure Security Activity and Program Sustainability (\$5.2 million)

The Land Tenure Security Activity was designed to assist project beneficiaries in receiving rights to their parcels, and to mitigate potential conflicts that often result from increased land values in irrigated areas. The Activity developed and implemented transparent, fair, and efficient processes for land allocation to ensure equitable and secure access to land in the irrigated perimeters, fully covering and extending beyond the Irrigation Project's intervention zones. Land rights were fully formalized on the Ngalenka perimeter by late 2014, providing vulnerable beneficiary groups, such as women and youth, with greater access to cultivable land. By the end of the Compact, 8,655 households in total received land use rights titles corresponding to 15,246 hectares.

MCC worked closely with SAED (*Société Nationale d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des Terres du Delta*), the agency providing irrigation water supply and drainage services in the Valley, to improve their financial sustainability and operational efficiency as it moves toward a performance-oriented maintenance management system. SAED serves seven water user communities in the Delta, who play a crucial role in water resource management. A result of the Project's collaboration with SAED is the application of a hydraulic model to more accurately define and target annual canal maintenance requirements. Overall, MCC's investments in irrigation are expected to benefit over 260,000 Senegalese, with a total estimated increase in household income of approximately \$345 million.