



Dateline: DAKAR

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Modern fish processing fights poverty and boosts food security



Mission Director Susan Fine (left) and Minister of Fisheries Haidar El Ali (2nd left) get a demonstration at the new plant.

processors and improve distribution of processed fish inland to make the high-protein foodstuff more readily available to the population.

“This facility will encourage upgrading artisanal processing sites in Senegal for better use of fishery products, improved working conditions and increased profits for women working in the industry,” Mission Director Susan Fine said at the event.

The new center brings process control and modern technology – including improved hygiene, quality of fish products, better storage and packaging, and training for technicians – to the production of *ketchakh*, a popular dried and braised fish to Cayar, Senegal’s third largest fishing village.

As part of the training, for example, the processors refuse to buy immature specimens from suppliers, contributing to the protection of fish stocks under the principle of “less fish but greater value.”

Processing of fish products accounts for 40 percent of all fish commerce and is an excellent way to alleviate poverty among suppliers and processors while safeguarding food security.

Major processing techniques used by the women “transformers” include the drying, fermentation, and braising of flat sardines. But they remain under-represented in local governance of fishing bodies, a disparity that COMFISH is working to rectify.

USAID recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art fish processing facility in Cayar in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs that will improve Senegal’s food security and management of fisheries resources.

The upgrade is a key component of the USAID/COMFISH fisheries project that seeks to improve techniques for processing and storing of fisheries products. It also promises to improve incomes of Cayar’s women food

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Health Roundup

World Malaria Day

To mark World Malaria Day, USAID-supported community health workers across Senegal held events in support of the National Malaria Control Program’s plan to achieve malaria “pre-elimination” status in Senegal by 2015.

At the health hut in Kothiary, Tambacounda, workers conducted training on the importance of using a long-lasting, insecticide-treated

mosquito net nightly, conducted a demonstration on how the nets are properly used and mounted, and underscored the need for entire families to use nets, plus malaria’s greater threat to pregnant women.

Gender Integration

To support the Ministry of Health’s integration of gender into its Health policy, USAID organized a workshop with the coordinator of its new Gender Cell and the gender focal points in each



Toward ‘pre-elimination’ by 2015

of the Ministry’s divisions and services. *Continued on next page . . .*

Women parliamentarians meet their constituents



Members of Parliament Mbengué Lam (left) from Linguère and Anta Sarr (right) from Louga addressing constituents' questions.

Parliamentary and Civic Engagement (PACE) project.

Through rich debates, elected officials and government functionaries engaged women leaders in a free and frank discussion about critical concerns of women and girls in these three northern regions, such as access to healthcare and education, affordable housing and employment.

The deputies pledged to work to address these issues through policy reforms, and encouraged convening of additional such fora to deepen their knowledge and awareness of the peoples' expectations.

In its second component, parliamentary assistance, PACE project

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On May 8, USAID supported an interactive forum organized by the Réseau Siggil Jigéen (RSJ) in Saint-Louis that brought women parliamentarians from the Matam, Louga and Saint-Louis districts together with women leaders of civil society organizations and administrative authorities.

It was the third out of six such fora that RSJ will organize in partnership with USAID under the

partners have conducted additional workshops for parliamentarians and staff.

One partner Counterpart International trained deputies and their staff in social media and web diffusion for a better interaction with citizens, while the Gorée Institute conducted a workshop on democratic governance and institutional stability.

Health Roundup continued . . .

Participants produced a draft strategy for integrating gender-sensitive approaches into each of the services by 2017.

Key elements include reinforcing the gender capacities of health providers

HEALTH

(participants also de-

signed an audit tool for service providers to assess gender sensitivity in their approaches) and reducing incidence of gender inequalities in access to and receipt of health services by vulnerable groups.

New Intervention Reduces Post-partum Hemorrhage



Beneficiaries discuss the project's impact on their families.

Following a highly successful 15-month pilot, USAID's post-partum hemorrhage intervention is ready for a scale-up nationwide.

In April, USAID successfully advocated with the Minister of Health to add misoprostol, the anti-hemorrhagic drug recommended for scale-up by the pilot, to the list of essential medicines in Senegal, and it will now be available for use at the community level.

New guidelines for the management and administration of the drug have also been produced. The project will expand to seven new districts in July.

USAID Takes Rice Exhibition Success on the Road

On May 27, USAID through its Economic Growth Project (USAID/PCE) launched a Local Rice Promotion tour around Dakar to help increase the number of urban consumers who are aware of new, high quality strains of rice developed with USAID assistance and available from local vendors.

This year, rice-growing beneficiaries of the PCE project exhibited their wares at the annual International Agriculture and Animal Resources Fair (FIARA). The project partners managed to sell some 100 tons of rice valued at about \$65,000, a successful result due to the quality and the range of rice varieties

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proposed by PCE’s partners.

To build on this success, PCE replicated the 125-square meter stand designed to move around to strategic sites in Dakar and its suburbs to build awareness by urban consumers of the quality of the new local varieties.

The increased exposure will both reduce dependence on imported rice and boost economic opportunity for local growers.



Vendors sold 100 tons in two weeks.

Support for transparency in governance

In partnership with the Ministry of Good Governance, USAID recently supported a workshop on promotion of good governance mechanisms or policies. Bringing together representatives of key government institutions, donors and civil society, the workshop provided a forum to share and discuss mechanisms for promoting transparency in the context of Senegal’s new transparency code for the management of public finances.

With the support of USAID and other partners, Senegal adapted in late 2012 a national good governance strategy that has identified constraints in transparency such as implementation of new guidelines for managing public finances adopted by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UMEOA), and significant steps forward like the establishment of a National Office Against Corruption (OFNAC) and adoption by the National Assemblies of the law on declaration of assets.

“Recent advances in the transparency of government institutions in Senegal have been made possible

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USAID Democracy Officer Aliou Kebé (left) and Economist Seynabou Diallo (right) prepare to deliver an overview of the new transparency law at the workshop.

by greater involvement of civil society and the media,” Mission Director Susan Fine said at the event. “Transparent government is responsive government.”

