

Senegal River Basin Multipurpose Water Resources Development Project – APL1

This complex IDA \$110 million Multi-sector Project (high on ECOWAS priority list) is part of a ten-year APL in two phases involving Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. It fulfills both the Shared Growth – increasing rural income pillar of the AAP, its Regional Integration focus as well as the West Africa RIAS objective of and the Mali, Niger and Senegal CASs ‘objectives.

The project’s objective are to (i) modernize the river basin institutions, (ii) facilitate regional water resources planning, management and development, (iii) expand regional multipurpose water resources infrastructure, (iv) mitigate the health impacts from the related multipurpose water infrastructure, and (v) foster economic growth through related water-sector development. A \$50 million malaria control ‘*boost*’ component is included in the project with a focus on 3 primary strategic areas: (i) control of the mosquito vector using insecticide-treated bednets, indoor-spraying, and environmental management, (ii) mitigating malaria infection risk related to population movements, (iii) partnership coordination and operational research/experience dissemination on malaria control.

The first and most direct benefit of the policy dialogue which accompanied the project preparation was the official return of Guinea to OMVS in May 2006. Its absence from OMVS had constrained its ability to develop its enormous hydropower potential which could potentially help (6000MW) address the energy crisis in the four member countries. The second phase of the project plans to add at least 20% additional megawatts to the hydroelectric capacity of the OMVS member countries.

Other expected water management related results include 35% increase of acreage under cultivation, 35% increase in crop yields in the targeted areas, at least 7% of targeted Basin communities applying improved agro-forestry practices as well as 80 km of drainage canals built and 50 km of irrigation canals.

Last but not least the project targets a 60% utilization of insecticide-treated bednets target among children under-five in the project areas as well as a wide coverage in Albendazole and Praziquantel (which incidentally will reduce the impact of bilharzias, a prevalent parasite in the sub-region).