



The World Bank

Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project (P179449)

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Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 28-Nov-2023 | Report No: PIDA0079



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project Beneficiary(ies) WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Operation ID P179449	Operation Name Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project	
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Estimated Appraisal Date 15-Nov-2023	Estimated Approval Date 13-Feb-2024	Practice Area (Lead) Social Sustainability and Inclusion
Borrower(s) Ministry of Budget and Finance, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Implementing Agency Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The PDO is to improve access to regionally integrated, climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure and services in targeted border communities of the Senegal River Valley (Mauritania and Senegal).

Components

Investing in Community Resilience and Inclusion for Social Cohesion
Regionally Integrated Territorial Investments for Connectivity, LED and Economic Transformation
Project Management and Regional Knowledge Management and Dialogue Platform
Contingent Emergency Response (CERC)

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

Maximizing Finance for Development

Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)? No

Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)? No

SUMMARY

Total Operation Cost	195.00
Total Financing	195.00



of which IBRD/IDA	195.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	195.00
IDA Credit	195.00

Environmental And Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **The Senegal River Valley (SRV) is an alluvial plain framed by semi-desert regions and much of the length of the Senegal River marks the border between Mauritania and Senegal¹ (which is the geographical focus of this operation, see figure 1²).** While the SRV supplies most of the irrigated land in Mauritania (90%) and Senegal (80%), communities on both sides of the river remain largely poor and increasingly vulnerable - many of whom engage in sedentary agriculture (as subsistence or smallholder farmers), pastoral activities or fishing along the Senegal River. Most of the cities are also underequipped on both sides of the river.

2. **Mauritania and Senegal are amongst the poorest countries in the world, with 38 percent and 28 percent of the population in severe multidimensional poverty, with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of \$1,730 and \$1,540 respectively.** They also rank among the bottom 33 countries in the world according to the 2022 Human Development Index. While Senegal has a larger population of 16.9 million in 2021, Mauritania is more sparsely populated with only 4.6 million people (despite having five times the land size area of Senegal). Both countries have a large and growing youth population, with high total fertility rates close to 4 children per woman, and around 60 percent of the total population

¹ Stretching for more than 1,800 kilometers, the Senegal River flows from the Fouta Djallon highlands of Guinea, through Mali, then demarcating the Senegal-Mauritania border and reaching the Atlantic Ocean. This proposed operation will only cover the SRV area in Mauritania and Senegal in this first phase of the Series of Projects (SOP).

² Source: Map created by WB team based on geodata from Humdata.org, and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI).



under the age of 25. In addition to poverty and growing population pressures, people living in the SRV face the development challenges of poor/non-functioning basic services, widespread illiteracy, and limited employment opportunities, aggravated by existing challenges of low productivity and limited market connectivity.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

3. The Senegal River Valley is a social and economic zone, where people work and live across borders and where a regional approach is essential. While the Senegal river constitutes a natural border between Mauritanian and Senegalese communities, it is also an arbitrary one. In many locations, it divides populations that constitute a single community with a unique local culture, unified by trade but also by norms of solidarity and strong social/familial ties. Movement is also fluid, with migration (within or across borders) as a common strategy for vulnerable households in SRV to cope with climatic shocks. The growth of cities in the SRV has turned them into economic poles and people on both sides of the border engage in economic activities in these cities.

4. The SRV is highly vulnerable to climate change, exhibiting some of the most extreme climate variability in the world. The SRV is experiencing rising temperatures, increasingly erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, sea level rise, salinization of soils and waters, encroaching desertification, as well as degradation of arable land. Climate change is also disrupting the SRV economy centered on traditional agriculture and livestock production. The SRV is also exposed to non-climate geophysical hazards (mainly tsunamis and wildfires). Recurrent and consecutive floods and prolonged droughts³, often occurring in the same agricultural season, have led to chronic damage to productive assets, contribute to the degradation of livelihoods in the longer-run and are impacting the broader food security in the SRV, which is exacerbated for women and youth. It has also resulted in malnutrition, increased occurrence of water-borne diseases and epidemics, and forced displacement that continue to weaken communities. Natural hazards, like heat waves and flooding, have also damaged socio-economic infrastructure, roads, and private property in SRV that are not sufficiently climate proof; and affected access to markets and basic services. Rapid urbanization in the SRV in the last two decades can offer a huge potential to create jobs, foster innovation and creativity, attract investment, and raise incomes and the well-being of people in the SRV. Yet, cities and towns along the SRV are particularly vulnerable to flash floods caused by heavy rain or fluvial inundation, exacerbated by the lack of efficient drainage systems, dumping of waste into drainage systems and uncontrolled urban sprawl. The poor, especially women, youth and displaced persons are disproportionately affected with their limited access to resources (land, finance). In addition, regional insecurity aggravated by climate change-related fragilities can also affect communities in the SRV, particularly in the event of the arrival of migrants or displaced persons due to the prevailing insecurity in the broader region. The project supports the transformational goals under the World Bank's Western and Central Africa Region Priorities 2021-2025, particularly on rebuilding trust between citizens and the state to create a new social contract, empower women and boosting climate resilience. It is also aligned with the World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence 2020-2025, the Gender Strategy 2016-2023 and the Evolution Roadmap and associated updated vision of mission 'to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet'.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

³ Taïbi A.N., Kane A., Bourlet M., Lorin M., Ballouche A. (2023) The Senegal River, a Disturbed Lifeline in the Sahel.



The PDO is to improve access to regionally integrated, climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure and services in targeted border communities of the Senegal River Valley (Mauritania and Senegal).

Key Results

Achievement of the PDO will be measured with the following three PDO indicators:

- (a) People benefiting from regionally integrated, climate resilient, and inclusive infrastructure and services by the project in selected SRV regions (Number)
- (b) Level of completion of the joint action plan for regional cooperation and collaboration⁴ (percentage)
- (c) Local and regional plans in targeted communes and regions of the SRV with regionally integrated, climate resilient and inclusive planning processes (number)

D. Project Description

Component 1: Investing in Community Resilience and Inclusion for Social Cohesion (US\$ 85.5 million equivalent)

This component will finance local-level multi-sectoral regional investments and social cohesion activities to support regional integration, build community resilience, and promote inclusion in the SRV. Using a Community and Local Development (CLD) approach that promotes the inclusive representation of vulnerable groups in decision-making at the local level, investments will be identified and implemented by Local Government Units (LGUs) with communities and targeted groups who will have been trained under Component 3. Investments under this component will be regionally planned and coordinated through cross-border local co-operation platforms (*Groupements locaux de coopération transfrontalière - GCLT*). Only investments and activities with regional integration benefits will be eligible. This component includes the following 3 subcomponents: (a) Community Infrastructure Investments Driven by Climate Resilience; (b) Cross-border Youth Engagement and Social Cohesion Activities and (c) Institutional Strengthening for Local Resilience. This component targets border LGUs in each country, comprising 44 communes in Senegal and 17 communes in Mauritania.

Component 2: Regionally Integrated Territorial Investments for Connectivity, Local Economic Development and Economic Transformation (US\$ 83 million equivalent)

Component 2 will support larger regionally integrated territorial infrastructure investments to enhance connectivity to facilitate regional local economic activity and cross-border trade; and support an integrated Local Economic Development (LED) approach to boost economic opportunities and incomes of targeted communities. Bridging the infrastructure gap, through a spatial approach, the component will support cross-border job creation and economic development along the river corridor. Investments will be concentrated to boost the productivity, resilience and inclusion of select value chains in the SRV, through two complementary subcomponents: (a) Priority Infrastructure for Regional Integration; and (b) Livelihood and Economic Opportunities for Local Economic Development.

Component 3: Project Management and Regional Knowledge Management and Dialogue Platform (US\$ 26.5 million equivalent)

⁴ The regional action plan is adopted annually by the Committee for Regional Coordination and is sets out the key activities for regional collaboration and coordination across the project components.



This component includes the following 3 subcomponents: (a) Project Management and (b) Regional Knowledge Management and Dialogue Platform (KMDP).

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) (\$0 million)

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60	No
Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	

5. **Benefits and Risks.** The project will undoubtedly bring many positive benefits to communities in the Valley through job creation, improved livelihoods, improved accessibility to basic infrastructure, and enhanced social inclusion. It will enable communities to actively participate in their own development, leading to sustainable and inclusive outcomes. However, implementing project activities (e.g. civil works under subcomponent 1a (community investments for the construction, rehabilitation, upgrading, and/or equipment of existing community infrastructure) and subcomponent 2a (rehabilitation or upgrading of infrastructure to promote trade and connectivity at the regional level) could generate localized negative environmental and social (E&S) impacts/risks. These impacts/risks include: (i) nuisances such as dust and noise, (ii) poor management of construction waste and (iii) probably a slight loss of vegetation (iv) potential loss of land and livelihoods for the infrastructures in components 1a and 2a; (v) risks related to working conditions for workers mobilized by the project, especially community workers; (vi) large project areas (including border regions) and multi-sectoral activities will cause consultation and stakeholder engagement difficulties; (vii) discrimination or exclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including youth and women and (viii) gender-based violence risks due to labor influx. In addition, the project area is home to multiple ethnic groups and has a history of conflict and resentment, particularly regarding land management. Climate-related response in the SRV and land-related disputes could revive past legacies and potentially trigger tensions.

6. **E&S Risk Management Measures.** The overall environmental and social risks are rated **Substantial**. To mitigate the abovementioned risks, each country has developed: (a) an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP); (b) a draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); (c) a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); (d) a draft Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); (e) draft Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and (f) GBV prevention and response plans. Each instrument covers country-specific activities and regional activities. The project will leverage lessons learned from land grievances under the Sahel Irrigation Initiative Support Project operation and the ongoing urban operation (PADISAM). Consultation activities have been organized with different stakeholders in Senegal (January-May 2023) and Mauritania (June and July 2023), which contributed to project design, social and environmental impact assessment, and E&S document preparation. Specific E&S plan (ESMP, RAP) will be prepared (following the guidance set forth in the relevant frameworks, national regulations and the Bank's policies) when the potential risks and impacts of the proposed activities become known. All E&S instruments will be reviewed, cleared, and disclosed per the Bank's requirements.



E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

Senegal River Valley regional level. The project will form a Committee for Regional Coordination (CRC), composed of representatives of (Mauritania and Senegal to provide strategic decision-making and coordination of the overall project activities. The CRC will drive the regional dialogue, collaboration and knowledge sharing, including with other regional organizations operating in the SRV. During this first phase of the SOP, the two participating countries will take turns to chair the CRC. Mali will be invited to attend CRC events and KMDP activities and would join formally the CRC in the second phase of the SOP. The CRC will be supported by Joint Technical Commissions and local cross-border cooperation platforms.

National level. Each country will have a lead implementing ministry with the overall responsibility for project implementation. For Mauritania, the main implementing ministry will be the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (*Ministère de l'Economie et du Développement Durable, MEDD*) which has the convening power to mobilize the sectoral ministries. The Ministry has experience implementing ongoing and recently closed Bank projects. For Senegal, the lead implementing ministry will be the Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity of Senegal (*Ministre du Développement Communautaire, de l'Equité Sociale et Territoriale, MDCEST*), which has a clear coordinating role and mission to design and implement policies for social inclusion and cohesion. While it is a relatively newly established ministry (created in 2019) whose implementation capacity will require further strengthening; the ministry is accumulating experience through the ongoing implementation of an ongoing World Bank project . The Ministry also houses the Government's Emergency Program for the Modernization of Border Areas and Territories (Programme d'Urgence de Modernisation des Axes et Territoires Frontaliers, PUMA) which seeks to build resilience of border areas.

A National Steering Committee will be formed in each country, with representation from the relevant national ministries, to provide strategic direction for project implementation. The NSC will be supported by a National Technical Committee, with technical staff from the relevant ministries, departments, and agencies, to provide technical guidance and promote synergies amongst government agencies for the implementation of project components.

The project will set up PIUs within each implementing Ministry, which will be responsible for managing project implementation at the national level, including financial management, procurement, E&S risk management and M&E. The national PIUs may also create regional PIUs offices in the target areas to provide closer support and monitoring of the target areas. The PIUs will work closely with the regional and local governments and communities in the target areas, and engage firms, NGOs, CSOs, and consultants for effective project implementation.

Subnational and community levels. Consistent with the CLD approach, local governments units (LGUs) and communities will be in the driver's seat to identify and prioritize subprojects, in close coordination with regional authorities. At the LGU and regional levels, needs will be consolidated into their official LDPs and regional development plans (RDPs). Funds to execute Component 1a activities will be allocated to LGUs. These funds will be allocated in annual tranches and continued access to funds after the first allocation will be subject to satisfactory implementation of activities as set out in the LDPs and in accordance with procedures as defined in the PIM.

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APPROVAL

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