



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/article/paradox-water-senegal>

The Paradox of Water in Senegal

While visiting our compact work sites in Senegal last week, I was struck by the ways in which water can both take and support life. My first site visit took me to the village of Ndioum, where MCC is working with MCA-Senegal to build a 160 meter bridge over the Doué River. Now, to get from their homes to their fields, many of the residents must take either pirogues (small canoe-like boats) or a ferry which runs infrequently and is often under repair. Tragically, fatal accidents can occur when pirogues tip due to strong currents or poor weight distribution.

After surveying the work site, my colleagues and I struck up conversation with two village elders. The elders explained that they have been waiting for over 25 years for a bridge to be built. While we were speaking, a young boy named Masseur joined our conversation. He was excited for the bridge to be completed; he told us that his older brother had drowned while crossing the river, and he didn't want to lose another family member. We knew the river was dangerous, but Masseur's story reminded us of the urgency of completing construction of the Ndioum Bridge. It will not only save lives, but will improve access to the fertile lands across the river and help farmers get their crops to market.

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