Djibouti (HAN) March 4th, 2014 - The African Water Facility (AWF) participated, January 29, 2014, at the launching ceremony of the construction of infrastructure to mobilize the water for domestic and agricultural to Saday. At the end of the project, more than 100,000 people will have better access to water resources.

In addition to its technical support, AWF was granted in January 2008, a donation of €2 million to the Government of the Republic of Djibouti to support this project. This grant was funded studies on the quantity and availability of water resources of the country, to build structures for extracting groundwater, and other organizations dedicated to retain surface water.

This infrastructure project now launched will enhance water security of pastoral communities, which are faced in recent years, in conditions of extreme aridity, exacerbated by climate change. Access to larger amounts of water over longer periods should help to develop and diversify their agricultural activities, which are their only source of income which they depend.

First for Djibouti, construction of a dam on the Oued Saday in Obock region is one of the
key works of the project. The dam will have socio-economic impacts of scale, allowing among others – to irrigate over 225 hectares of land. These new irrigated land should help the settlement of 1000-1200 agro-pastoralists, who will be able to increase the size of their herds and develop agriculture in the long term. In addition, the dam should also promote groundwater recharge, thereby reducing costs and the effort of drilling and pumping to access groundwater.

“The water, food and economic agro-pastoral communities safety depends entirely on the success of this operation, which is a first in Djibouti and should pave the way for other works to mobilize water, whose country much needed,” said Akissa Bahri, Coordinator of the AWF. And promise: “We will spare no effort to support this work should be completed by the end of 2014.”

The launching ceremony of the work was chaired by Mohamed Kamil Abdoulkader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Djibouti in the presence of many government officials, regional and local authorities, and members of the beneficiary communities.

This project signs first experience of co AWF and the Saudi Development Fund.


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