



**CREATE!**

Center for Renewable Energy  
& Appropriate Technology  
for the Environment

# Annual Impact Report

2017





# Making an Impact

Dear Friends of *CREATE!*,

2018 marks the ninth year that *CREATE!* has been working in Senegal. Yet, each time we visit the field, we come away with something new from our experiences. This past year, both of us were thrilled to see the rapid progress of our new partner communities, and the continued success of the communities we have been working with over the last few years.

In 2017, we welcomed three new villages as *CREATE!* partners: Santhie, Dahra, and Mboss. With our new partnerships in Santhie and Dahra, *CREATE!* has expanded our programs to the Louga Region in northwestern Senegal. During Barry's visits in May and November 2017, he was impressed with the development of the new sites and their progress between his two trips. All of our communities have shown great initiative so far in working with our technicians to establish their garden sites and cooperative groups.

During her recent trip to Senegal, Louise enjoyed visiting all of *CREATE!*'s thriving partner communities



*CREATE! Executive Director Louise Ruhr spent January-March 2018 in Senegal visiting and appreciating partner communities and the work of the staff and cooperative members, as seen here in Thienaba.*

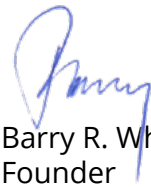


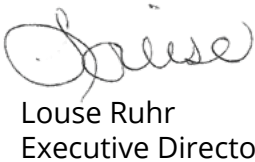
*CREATE! Founder Barry Wheeler visited Senegal in November 2017 to work with the staff and partner communities, as well as host a visit from Vibrant Village Foundation Program Director Marième Daff.*

and was happy to be in Thieneba for the community's graduation ceremony in late February 2018. The ceremony honored the hard work of the Thienaba cooperative members who have helped the community reach self-sufficiency and sustainability over the past five years. Having known many of the cooperative members since they first joined the program, Louise appreciated being able to celebrate their accomplishments with them this year.

Thanks to our highly dedicated staff in Senegal and the support of our donors, we are grateful to be able to keep expanding our capacity in this important work. None of this would be possible without your ongoing commitment to *CREATE!*. As always, we invite you to join in the conversation and share with us your comments, stories, questions, and suggestions.

Best wishes,

  
Barry R. Wheeler  
Founder  
[barry@createaction.org](mailto:barry@createaction.org)

  
Louise Ruhr  
Executive Director  
[louise@createaction.org](mailto:louise@createaction.org)

# Snapshots from the Field



*CREATE!'s field technicians have built up great rapport with the women in our partner communities, boosting their confidence and empowering them to gain new skills.*



*Ndeye Fatou Thiam, Charlotte Diedhiou, Codou Gadjji, and Ndeye Fatou Sow are the four women on CREATE!'s field team, bringing an important dimension to our work, with their ability to relate to and inspire the women in our partner communities.*



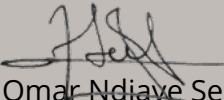
*Driver and Field Assistant Pape Ba is attentive to the maintenance of the solar arrays that power water pumping in all thirteen of CREATE!'s partner communities. He adjusts the tilt angle of the panels to maximize the solar energy harvested from the sun.*



“I am so proud to lead *CREATE!*'s growing team of technician trainers. In 2017, our technicians helped hundreds of women learn how to raise chickens, save and lend money, and grow, harvest, and market vegetables - all within their own communities. Each time our technicians work with our cooperative members, they demonstrate their knowledge, their years of experience, and their passion for *CREATE!*'s mission in Senegal.

Thanks to your donations and the dedication of our team, in the past year we expanded our partnerships to the hot, dry Louga Region of northern Senegal. There is so much need in Louga Region and our technicians were able to expertly adapt *CREATE!*'s training programs to address the challenges that these communities face.

With your continued generous support and the expertise of our technician trainers, *CREATE!* can continue to partner with more communities in rural Senegal. Thank you for being part of the *CREATE!* team!”

  
Omar Ndiaye Seck  
*CREATE!* Country Director  
[seck@createaction.org](mailto:seck@createaction.org)



# 2017 Impacts

## Water



**2,500**  
People gained access to clean, abundant, affordable water from rehabilitated wells up to 200 feet deep

**4,000-6,000**  
Gallons of water pumped per village per day, on average

**26-65**  
Gallons of water collected by women for household use each day

*"What I like best about CREATE! is the water sector, because I no longer have to buy water like before. We encounter very few limitations now, because there is bountiful water in the village. With water, we can do anything."*  
- Ngoné Mar, Fass Kane

In Senegal, the dry season lasts for nine months, yet 90% of the country's agriculture is reliant on rainfall during the short, three-month rainy period. By rehabilitating old abandoned wells and installing solar-powered pumps and gravity-fed irrigation systems, *CREATE!*'s field technicians are able to help rural communities gain access to the water they need to grow food year round in the desert.

## Cooperative Community Gardens



**200%**  
increase in amount of vegetables consumed in *CREATE!* partner communities

**873**  
Men and women participating in garden cooperatives

**55,000+**  
pounds of fresh vegetables harvested

*"Before we partnered with CREATE!, our village was in drought. Now, with the garden site and the tree planting campaign, we have many trees and fresh fruits and vegetables in our village. CREATE! has helped us transform a great desert into a green place for the whole community."*  
- Dié Sene, Darou Diadji

With training from *CREATE!*'s field technicians, and access to water from rehabilitated wells, partner communities are able to grow their own food all year long. Cooperative members learn to grow the vegetables they like to eat, and consistently grow enough to not only feed their own families, but also to sell the surplus in local markets, supplementing their income.

# 2017 Impacts

## Renewable Energy

*"Almost every woman in our community cooks with improved cookstoves now. We no longer need to walk many miles to collect wood. And our kitchens are cleaner because the cookstoves produce little smoke."* - Awa Diouf, Thienaba

*CREATE!*'s renewable energy projects include teaching women how to build improved cookstoves, implementing tree planting campaigns, and installing solar arrays to pump water from village wells. The improved cookstoves consume 50-70% less firewood than traditional three-stone open fires and produce less smoke. The tree planting campaigns help to replenish the wood that people harvest, provide shade, and produce fruits and nuts to fortify their diets. And the solar energy systems pump thousands of gallons of clean water each day, saving time and improving health and sanitation, using the renewable energy of the sun.

**3-4**  
hours of work saved per woman every day by cooking on an improved cookstove

**600+**  
households using improved cookstoves

**25,000+**  
tree seedlings planted throughout *CREATE!* partner communities



## Income Generation

*"Thanks to the Voluntary Savings and Lending Association [VSLA] we are always able to get funds for satisfying our needs. Women are participating in commerce now that they're managing their finances through the VSLA."*  
- Asta Ndiaye, Fass Koffe

Thirty percent of Senegal's population lives on less than \$1.25 per day. In addition, the daily work that women do to support their families in rural villages is demanding and time-consuming, from sunrise to sunset. This includes domestic labor, such as child rearing; caring for relatives; gathering firewood; collecting water; preparing meals; and managing households. *CREATE!* empowers women to have more control of their finances and to save more by investing their profits from their vegetable and poultry sales into VSLAs, managed by the women and for the women in their own communities.

**3,000+**  
chickens raised and sold in partner communities

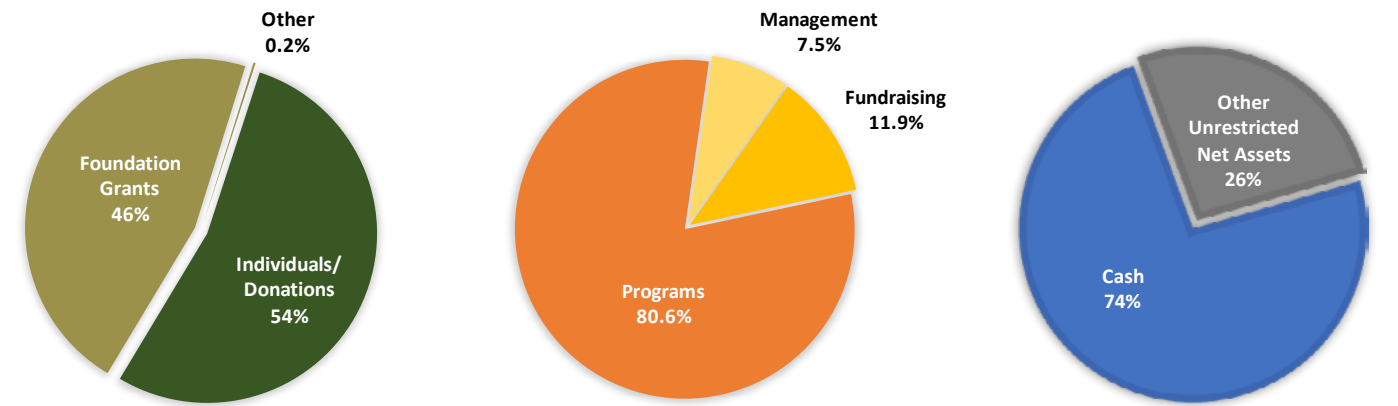
**481**  
Men and women participating in VSLA groups

**100%**  
VSLA member retention rate





# 2017 Financial Summary



## Revenue

Individuals/Donations	\$224,070
Foundation Grants	\$192,705
Other	\$776
Total	\$417,551


## Expenses

Programs	\$359,085
Fundraising	\$52,942
Management	\$33,349
Total	\$445,376

## Unrestricted Net Assets\*

Cash	\$66,738
Other Unrestricted Net Assets	\$23,601
Total	\$90,339

\*As of December 31, 2017



### “CREATE! has united us as a village”

Daba Séne, 45, of Keur Daouda, remembers when cooking the daily meal for her family of eight was a lengthy process. “When I used to cook with the traditional three-stone fire, the wood would burn up quickly and I’d have to keep adding more,” she says. “But now with the improved cookstove, I only use two loads of wood per year, instead of four to five loads.”

“There are also no more fire risks in the village,” says Daba. Built out of clay, sand, dry grass, and water, the cookstove contains the fire within its walls, absorbs its heat, and re-radiates it onto the pot.

In addition to saving time and money with her improved cookstove, Daba notes that the community garden has also had a big impact on her life. “Before *CREATE!* partnered with our community, we couldn’t eat fresh vegetables regularly, but now we grow a variety of vegetables in the village and sell them on the weekly market in Guinguineo,” she says. “My family now eats vegetables all week long.”

Daba can already see the value of her community’s accomplishments so far. “*CREATE!* has united us as a village, and has improved our living conditions,” she says.

# Thank You 2017 *CREATE!* Donors



- Brian Ahern  
Janice Leader and Terrence Ahern  
Miriam Aiken  
Patricia Andersson  
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Keith Wohlberg  
Susan Wyatt  
Xcel Energy Foundation  
Leslie and Tachi Yamada  
Ed and Betty Gayle Zickefoose

- ### In-Kind Support

Marjorie Bridges, MEB Accounting Services  
CBT Nuggets  
The Kiva Grocery  
Beverly McDonald  
Safeway  
Uplink Spyder, Inc.  
Emge & Whyte
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The International Foundation  
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One Day's Wages  
Spawglass Foundation  
The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation  
Vibrant Village Foundation

## Because of your generosity, *CREATE!*'s partner communities in rural Senegal continue to thrive. Thank you for your support!

"At each of the *CREATE!* sites I visited in Senegal in February 2018, women expressed deep gratitude for their partnership with *CREATE!* because, they said, they were learning skills they needed to make their lives better. They cited year-round access to vegetables they could grow themselves instead of having to buy them at the market, the savings groups that could provide access to funds in the village rather than having to go to a bank in town, and the cookstoves that require less wood to prepare family meals. They asked us to let all the people 'at home' who support *CREATE!* know how much they appreciate *CREATE!*'s help. Becoming emotional, the spokeswoman would say: 'We are so grateful to *CREATE!*... so grateful that we have no words... we have no words to express how we feel.'"

—Joyce E. Leader, *CREATE!* Board Member



***CREATE! Board Chair Ron Taylor enjoyed speaking with the field team about their recent well rehabilitations among other projects.***

***During his visit in November 2017, *CREATE!* Founder Barry Wheeler held refresher trainings and sustainability discussions with the field team and spent time in all of *CREATE!*'s partner communities, appreciating their progress and offering guidance and support.***



## Meet *CREATE!*'s Board of Directors

**Barry Wheeler, Founder**  
Eugene, OR

**Ron Taylor, Board Chair**  
Seattle, WA

**Susan M. Briggs, MD**  
Boston, MA

**Ambassador Joyce E. Leader**  
Eugene, OR

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