



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy and
Appropriate Technology for the Environment



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Celebrating Our Achievements In 2015

Dear Friends,

2015 was an exciting year for *CREATE!*'s programs in rural Senegal! We are pleased to share with you some of our recent accomplishments in our first annual report. In 2015, *CREATE!* field technicians worked with community volunteers to ensure access to clean, abundant, and affordable water for our new partner communities of Walo, Gagnick Mack, and Darou Diadji. These villages now have thriving cooperative gardens and will soon begin raising chickens! We are also thrilled that the communities of Fass Kane, Fass Koffe, and Diender have now officially "graduated" from *CREATE!*'s program of self-development and social mobilization. Congratulations to these communities!

In December, as part of the UN climate change negotiations in Paris, the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), an official civil society stakeholder group, chose *CREATE!* as a recipient of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award. The WGC recognized *CREATE!* for the effectiveness of our community-based climate change adaptation programs in rural Senegal. *CREATE!* programs train and empower rural women to reduce deforestation, promote alternative energy technologies, and adapt to the impacts of climate change in Senegal. *CREATE!* is honored to receive this world-recognized distinction and is committed to furthering this critical work in the years ahead!



For the past six years, *CREATE!* has collaborated with villagers in rural Senegal to help them build a sustainable future for their families as they cope with water, food, and fuel shortages resulting from the impacts of climate change on their communities. We partner with villages to develop methods and strategies of community self-development that are based on local knowledge, participation, and social mobilization to maximize self-reliance and self-sufficiency. And we have much work left to do – nearly 40 communities have approached *CREATE!* seeking training and support! These requests show the tremendous need for our programs in rural Senegal and the inspiring achievements of our current partner communities.

None of this important work would be possible without the support of our donors and the dedication of *CREATE!*'s hardworking field technicians. Your ongoing commitment is critical to *CREATE!*'s success! As always, I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, and suggestions.

Best regards,

Barry R. Wheeler
Founder & Executive Director
barry@createaction.org



Barry Wheeler provides ongoing technical training to build the capacity of our field technicians. In 2015, he worked with the field team to engineer a low-tech passive solar water heater for the Gagnick Mack health post.



Thank You For Your Commitment

Dear Donors,

Since the start of our programs in Senegal, *CREATE!*'s mission has been to assist rural populations and to improve their living conditions through the implementation of environmentally appropriate technologies and the use of community self-development strategies, accomplished by engaging the support of local authorities. Our training and support help improve the lives of rural populations, who deeply appreciate *CREATE!*'s partnership.

After five years of development and important achievements in the villages of Fass Koffe, Fass Kane, and Diender, we leave these communities with a heavy heart, but with a sense of having accomplished our task. These communities have achieved their intended goals,

by arriving at complete self-sufficiency. Fass Koffe, Fass Kane, and Diender no longer need *CREATE!*'s intervention because they have already acquired all the necessary skills they need to maintain project activities. From this point forward, they can fly on their own.

In order to accomplish these operations, our organization relies on logistical resources that are modern and appropriate, as well as on staff members who are young, skilled, professional, and who have accumulated vast experience in this field. The combination of speed and efficacy that *CREATE!* demonstrates in the execution of our projects has ensured that communities remain confident in our expertise.

On the strength of these achievements, we would like to continue to extend our village partnerships in order to respond to the numerous requests for training that we receive from communities throughout rural Senegal. We can continue to do so thanks to your ongoing support.

With gratitude for your commitment,



Omar Ndiaye Seck
CREATE! Country Representative



Our Mission: *CREATE!* collaborates with rural villagers in Senegal to help them build a sustainable future for their families as they cope with water, food, and fuel shortages resulting from the impacts of climate change on their communities.



2015 By The Numbers

Water

CREATE! ensures the availability of clean, abundant, and affordable water in our partner communities with improved wells, solar-powered pumps, and gravity-fed irrigation systems so that agricultural cooperatives are able to grow vegetables throughout the year.



3
solar-powered water
systems installed

1,500
people who gained access
to clean, abundant, and
affordable water

8,000
gallons of water
pumped daily

“Before CREATE!, we had difficulty accessing affordable water. Now, we can easily obtain water from our community well.”

Binta Ndiaye, Darou Diadji

Cooperative Community Gardens

Over **34,000** pounds
of vegetables harvested

568
women and men participated in
garden cooperatives

4,500
people who now have access
to fresh vegetables

“When I lived in Ouarkhokh ten years ago, we ate vegetables very rarely. Now, my young children are able to eat vegetables every day.”

Djiby Top, Ouarkhokh

With reliable access to water, cooperative members can grow vegetables, fruit, and nuts year-round in their desert-like climate for the first time ever. By selling their crops in local markets, cooperative members now have a new source of household income, in addition to sustainable access to nutritious vegetables for their families.



2015 By The Numbers

Environment

After receiving training in the construction and maintenance of improved cookstoves, women are able to use 50 to 70 percent less firewood for cooking. *CREATE!*'s annual rainy season tree planting campaign also restores lost forest resources to our partner communities.

Over **500** cookstoves built

11,000 trees planted

60–100%

reduction in household spending on firewood after introduction of improved cookstoves

66%

reduction in distance traveled to collect firewood after introduction of improved cookstoves



“We now have many trees in our village, thanks to *CREATE!* The improved cookstoves have reduced deforestation in the community because we use less firewood to cook. Without trees, we would not have clean air.”

Awa Dieng, Darou Diadji

Income Generation

CREATE! staff trains community members in Voluntary Savings and Lending Association (VSLA) techniques, helping women save and invest their incomes, including money earned from selling vegetables. *CREATE!* technicians also help cooperatives establish small poultry operations, where women raise chickens to sell in local markets.

2

poultry sheds built

Nearly **3,000** chickens raised

611

women and men participated in VSLAs

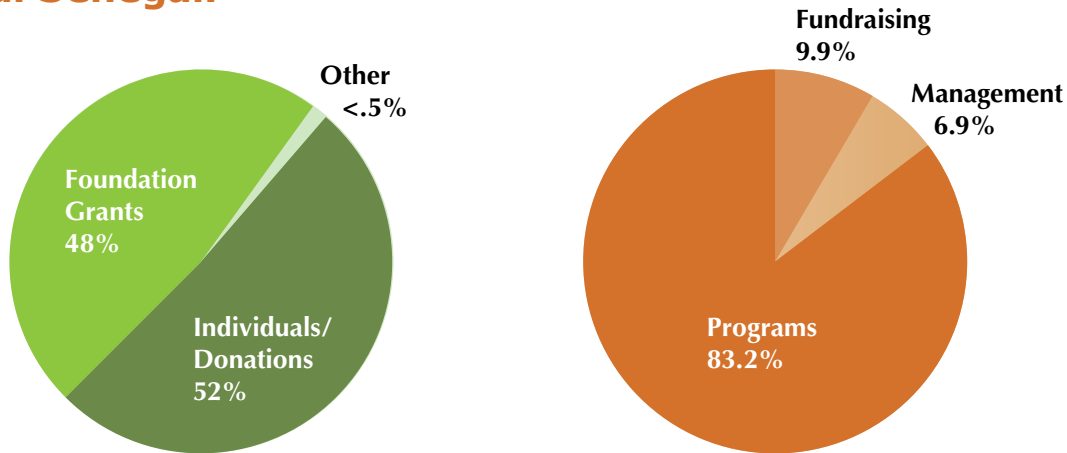


“With the VSLA we are able to save our money and make a loan when we need it. VSLAs serve as banks for our community. Through VSLA, women are now able to work together to help each other meet our needs.”

Seynabou Diouf,
Gagnick Mack

2015 Financial Summary

83% of **CREATE!**'s budget directly supports our programs in rural Senegal.



Revenue

Individuals/Donations	\$179,502
Foundation Grants	\$165,906
Other	\$2,001
Total	\$347,409

Expenses

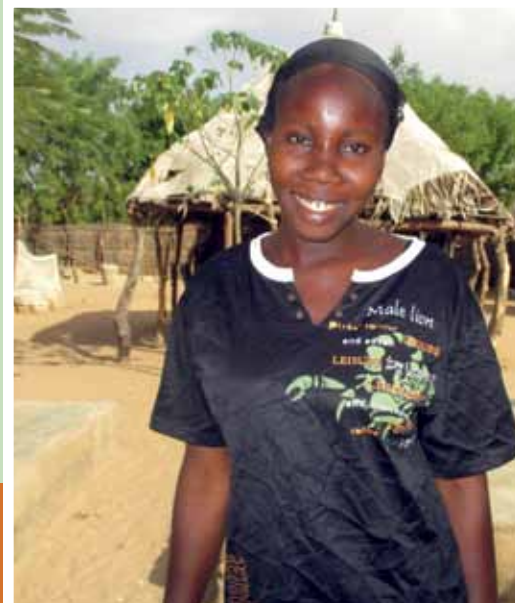
Programs	\$282,062
Management	\$23,446
Fundraising	\$34,445
Total	\$339,953

CREATE! Helps Diender Thrive

Fatou Thioye, 22, is a member of the agricultural cooperative in Diender. She says, "my life has changed for the better since **CREATE!** arrived in Diender. A few years ago, I wasn't able to work so I was not able to help my husband support our family. But now, with the money I earn by selling vegetables and chicken, I can support my husband and even pay for my children's school fees."

"Years ago," Fatou notes, "half of the women in Diender went to Dakar to look for work. Now, we all remain here because we have found employment through **CREATE!**'s programs." She adds, "Thanks to **CREATE!** we are able to grow a variety of vegetables. I'm sure that even after **CREATE!** retires from Diender, we will continue to work in the garden because we now have all of the knowledge and skills that we need to thrive."

Fatou has been active in Diender's agricultural cooperative for the past five years. She is proud that the community of Diender is now producing its own vegetables.



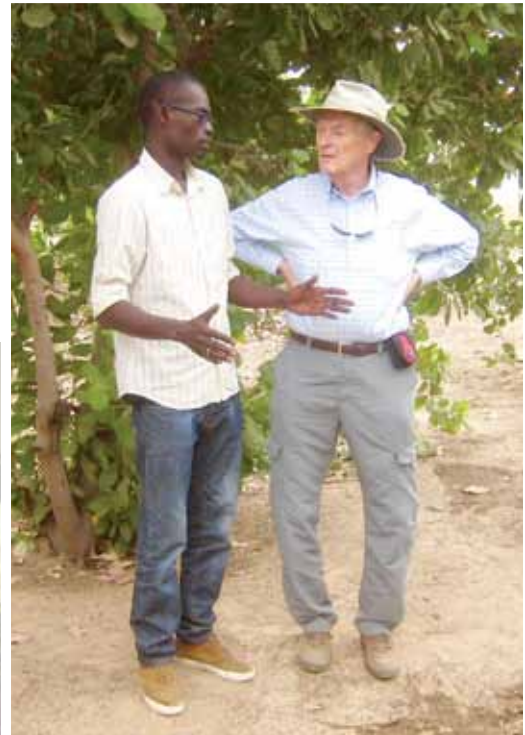
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“As a Board member and contributor to *CREATE!*, I believe in the mission of this organization and applaud its work in rural Senegal. *CREATE!*'s participatory approach and use of appropriate technology empowers participants with knowledge and skills to improve their lives. The recent “graduation” of three partner villages to self-sufficiency attests to the effectiveness of this approach.”

Joyce E. Leader, U.S. Ambassador, Retired



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Without you, the success of our partner communities in 2015 would not have been possible. On behalf of our staff and community members, thank you to all of our supporters.

Front cover photo by Patricia Andersson



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