



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy and
Appropriate Technology for the Environment



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CREATE! Accomplishments in 2016

Dear *CREATE!* Supporters,

As we prepare for the expansion of *CREATE!*'s programs in rural Senegal in 2017, we are pleased to share with you some news about organizational changes and the exciting work that we accomplished together in 2016.

In keeping with our goal of empowering our Senegalese field staff, we promoted Omar Ndiaye Seck to the position of Senegal Country Director. His promotion reflects our confidence in Seck's leadership, his commitment to *CREATE!* over the past five years, and his tireless dedication to improving the lives of men and women in rural Senegal.

CREATE! was excited to receive additional accolades in 2016, building on the recognition for our community-based climate change adaptation programs, which *CREATE!* received at the December 2015 UN climate change negotiations in Paris. In September, the Harvard Business School Social Enterprise Initiative featured *CREATE!* Executive Director Louise Ruhr as one of its "Alumni for Impact." *CREATE!* is honored to receive this distinction and to introduce *CREATE!*'s work to the influential alumni of Harvard Business School.



The success of our partner communities continues to generate intense interest for *CREATE!*'s programs throughout rural Senegal. Indeed, Seck reports that nearly 40 communities have approached *CREATE!* in the past year alone seeking training and support. Several of our foundation funders have recognized the growth and maturity of *CREATE!*'s programs by committing to multi-year funding. These grants will support *CREATE!*'s geographic reach through expansion to six new communities over the next three years.

Given the high demand for *CREATE!*'s training programs, in 2017 we are expanding our sustainable development programs to two new communities in Senegal's Louga Region, where we already have a pilot project in Ouarkhokh. There are few nonprofit organizations operating in Louga, and the region's harsh environmental and economic conditions means that communities are desperate for sustainable solutions to local challenges.

The key to our success is our dedicated staff in Senegal and the support of our donors. None of this important work would be possible without your ongoing commitment to *CREATE!* As always, we look forward to hearing your comments, questions, and suggestions.

Best regards,

Barry R. Wheeler
Founder
barry@createaction.org

Louise Ruhr
Executive Director
louise@createaction.org



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.

Thank You to *CREATE!* Donors

Dear Donors,

As *CREATE!*'s Senegal Country Director, my goal is to work with our field technicians and *CREATE!*'s leadership in the United States to ensure the success of our community-based sustainable development programs in Senegal. 2016 was an exciting year for *CREATE!*'s work in Senegal and I'm happy to share some of the past year's highlights with you.

In March 2016, I attended graduation ceremonies for the communities of Fass Koffe, Fass Kane, and Diender. Over five years, *CREATE!* field technicians worked with cooperative members in these villages to expand their skills and knowledge in sustainable agriculture, local reforestation, income generation, and community savings and lending strategies. Our field technicians visit these villages weekly to ensure that cooperative leaders continue to sustainably manage project activities. *CREATE!* field technicians are now working with cooperative leaders



In January 2017, reporters from Guinguineo Community Radio, a local Senegalese station, interviewed Seck and CREATE!'s field technicians about our agricultural training programs in the village of Darou Diadji.



in Thieneba and Ouarkhokh to lay the groundwork for their own graduations — likely at the end of 2017. We are thrilled to see in our graduated communities *CREATE!*'s goals of village self-sufficiency in action!

There is still great need for *CREATE!*'s interventions in rural Senegal. Rural villages all struggle with food insecurity, environmental degradation, and a lack of economic opportunities. Several communities that have approached *CREATE!* asking for support have already demonstrated their commitment to our philosophy of self-development by starting their own dry season gardens on land donated by community leaders.

In late 2016, *CREATE!* partnered with two of these communities, Back Samba Dior and Keur Daouda, to provide access to clean, abundant water and improved cookstoves, in addition to training in income generating activities and sustainable agriculture. Soon, garden cooperative members in these communities will be able to grow and harvest fresh, nutritious vegetables to feed their families.

With your continued support and the expertise of our field technicians, *CREATE!* can continue to partner with additional communities. You are an invaluable part of the *CREATE!* team. Thank you for your support!

With gratitude for your commitment,



Omar Ndiaye Seck
CREATE! Senegal Country Director



Achievements in 2016 By The Numbers

Water

2 solar-powered water systems installed

1,000 people gained access to clean, abundant, and affordable water from rehabilitated wells up to **180 feet deep**

“We are now drinking clean water from the well thanks to *CREATE!* There has been a great improvement in the health of many in our community, including myself.”

– Amy Sene, Fass Koffe



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 for the first time ever in desert-like conditions.

Cooperative Community Gardens

Over **60,000** pounds of fresh vegetables harvested

956 men and women participating in garden cooperatives

Over **100%** increase in amount of vegetables consumed in households in *CREATE!* partner communities

“Before *CREATE!*, my family was eating meals of plain rice because we didn’t have access to any fresh vegetables. Now, we eat vegetables every day.”

– Awa Leye, Darou Diadji



With access to water, cooperative members can grow vegetables, fruit, and nuts year-round (for the first time ever!) in their community garden sites. By selling their crops in local markets, cooperative members now have a reliable source of household income, in addition to sustainable access to nutritious vegetables.

Achievements in 2016 By The Numbers

Environment

Over **500** well-constructed improved cookstoves are used by cooperative members every day

“The improved cookstove is good for me. Instead of walking many miles to collect firewood, I can now cook lunch with just two small pieces of wood.”

– Teningue Faye, Gagnick Mack

Our field technicians teach women to construct and use fuel-efficient clay-sand cookstoves made from free, local materials and to establish tree nurseries that provide thousands of seedlings for food production, living fences, and local reforestation. Women and girls no longer need to walk long distances to collect firewood for cooking, thereby freeing time, reducing labor, and increasing the likelihood that girls will be able to remain in school.



Over **9,000** trees planted
Women save almost **4-1/2 hours** of work daily by cooking with an improved cookstove



Income Generation

“*CREATE!* gives us the possibility of working to support our families without leaving Diender. In particular, the Voluntary Savings and Lending Association helps us save money and make loans to support our businesses. I have participated in the VSLA for many years and my savings always help me solve household problems.”

– Maguette Diop, Diender

3 poultry sheds built

Nearly **5,000** chickens raised and sold

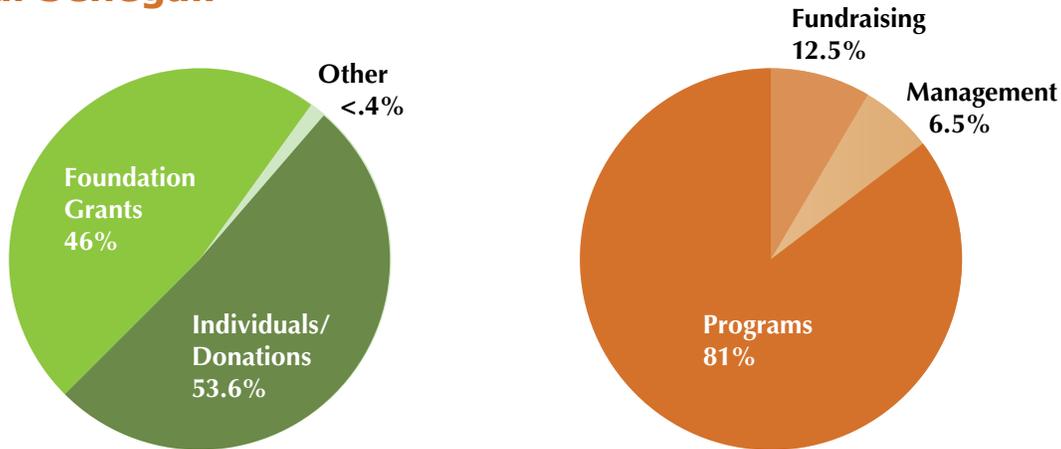
506 men and women participated in VSLAs



CREATE! field technicians also help residents begin to save profits from their cooperative community gardens through the establishment of VSLAs. Association members are able to use these groups to save a portion of the profits they earn from participating in *CREATE!*'s cooperative community garden programs and reinvest those savings into other income generating activities, including small poultry operations, to produce community-based, cooperative change.

2016 Financial Summary

81% of *CREATE!*'s budget directly supports our programs in rural Senegal.



Revenue

Individuals/Donations	\$225,314
Foundation Grants	\$193,711
Other	\$1,467
Total	\$420,492

Expenses

Programs	\$317,600
Management	\$25,460
Fundraising	\$49,782
Total	\$392,842

"We Will Be Self-Sufficient Forever"



Ndeye Amy Diop says, "CREATE!'s programs have changed my community because now we have the skills we need to be self-sufficient forever."

Ndeye Amy Diop, 21, lives with her in-laws in the small community of Walo while her husband is off working in Dakar. She started participating in *CREATE!* training programs about two years ago because she wanted to support her family. Ndeye says that before *CREATE!* started working in Walo, "the village didn't have a market and we couldn't find any vegetables. Now, we have created a small market where we sell vegetables that we grow in the garden site."

CREATE!'s partnership with Walo has improved access to healthy food and food security in the community. Ndeye says, "My family eats fresh vegetables that I grow myself and I no longer need to walk long distances to buy healthy food." She also appreciates the benefits of poultry raising in Walo. "Years ago it was very difficult to find chicken in the village but now thanks to our poultry shed we are able to eat chicken frequently."

Ndeye adds, "My life has changed thanks to *CREATE!* because now I'm able to work in my village and earn money to solve my problems."

Thank You 2016 *CREATE!* Donors

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

"I'm happy to support *CREATE!* as a donor and Board member because I appreciate our multi-faceted approach to working with rural villages in Senegal in their quest for food and economic security. It's so encouraging to see women and men empowered by their ever-increasing abilities to provide for their families through sustainable projects such as community market gardens and poultry production. I'm confident that our programs will continue to thrive and grow under the leadership of our very talented and professional Senegalese team."

– Mary-Kay Miller



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**Center for Renewable Energy and
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132 East Broadway, Suite 416
Eugene, Oregon 97401
www.createaction.org

BP 59
Quartier Diakhao
Gossas, Senegal