



# CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy  
& Appropriate Technology  
for the Environment



## Celebrating 10 Years

### Annual Impact Report 2020



# Letter from Executive Director, Michael Carson

Dear friends,

2020 was a tumultuous and turbulent year for Senegal, our women's groups and community partners. The COVID-19 pandemic upended our work and forced us to work virtually from March to June. Despite these challenges, our farmers were able to continue carrying out their vegetable gardening, poultry raising and income generation activities. We launched a COVID-19 response which comprised of fabricating and furnishing 18 villages with handwashing stations and procuring 650 masks. Our women's groups transformed their gardens into point-of-sale markets to sell their crops



Michael Carson (left), Community Garden President Ndeye Diop (center), CREATE! Agriculture Technician Ousmane Diallo (right).

During our 10th anniversary year, despite the government-mandated lockdown and curfews, three more villages, Gagnick Mack, Walo and Darou Diadji graduated from our five-year women's empowerment program at the end of December, bringing the total number of women's groups that have successfully completed our program to eight. This is a major accomplishment and emblematic of the partnership between CREATE! and the women and leaders of these villages throughout our ten years of service and cooperation with Senegal.

Sincerely,

**Michael Carson**  
CREATE! Executive Director

## Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary and Looking Ahead

When CREATE! first started 10 years ago, we never imagined the kind of challenges that Senegal and the world would be facing today in 2020. However, our programs acted as a blueprint of success for our partner communities to build resilience during one of the most challenging years yet. The solar-powered water pumping systems that provide clean water for drinking and gardening now support sanitation practices as well. During the initial phase of the restrictions that closed the regional markets, our partner communities gardens served as a makeshift market for the neighboring villages.

**We see 2021 as an opportunity to continue to put into action the lessons learned from the challenges in 2020. We would like to take this time to reflect upon some of the successes and lessons learned from this year made possible thanks to your generosity and our team's dedication to CREATE!'s mission.**

We owe a great deal of gratitude to our supporters both long-term and new. Over the last 10 years, your donations have propelled us to expand programs, reach greater heights, challenge and develop our model, and more. With your support, we are looking ahead to successful decades at CREATE!. To show our appreciation, we created 10 celebratory activities for our donors to join in. These 10th-anniversary activities will continue into 2021 and you're invited to celebrate with us!



# 2020 Program Accomplishments

## CREATE! Hosted an Improved Cookstove Training in The Gambia

In January 2020, our team traveled to The Gambia to host CREATE!'s first improved cookstove training outside of Senegal. Thanks to CREATE! Board Member Mary-Kay Miller, CREATE! was connected with a Gambian NGO called Future for Farato. Mary-Kay had previously been introduced to one of Future for Farato's Founders, Ellen McGill. A few years later, CREATE! and Future for Farato reconnected and decided to host an improved cookstove training in The Gambia. The training was a huge success! "The stove is a brilliant idea – easy, free and effective," Ellen told us. "We were at Mama Janko's house two days after your [CREATE!'s] visit. She had used the stove for the first time the night before and was beyond delighted with the small amount of wood she had burned for dinner. **All the women plan to build a stove, may the word spread to the whole area!**"

## Rotary Club Visited Senegal

During the first week of March, Rotarians Fred Auch and David Laub were welcomed to Senegal by the community of Mbossedji! For the community members led by President Diop, this was a proud moment, a moment for them to share their success story with Rotary. Rotary International, Bellevue Rotary Club, Washington, USA and the Rotary Club Dakar Millénium, Senegal, have been consistently supporting and sponsoring CREATE!'s projects with Mbossedji. Both Fred and David were inspired by the enthusiasm and the initiative of the women who now have the hope to realize their vision for self-development. **"Seeing the evolution of the self-confidence of the women from when a village starts on the program, to when it graduates 5 years later is impressive,"** Fred Auch states.



From left to right: Rotarian Fred Auch, Charlotte Odille Diedhiou (CREATE! Agricultural Technician), Amadou Diouf (CREATE! Field Coordinator) Rotarian David Laub, Ndeye Diop (Mbossedji Community Garden President), Ousmane Diallo (CREATE! Agricultural Technician), and Omar Ndiaye Seck (CREATE! Country Director).



CREATE! technician, Georges Nesta Mancabo, demonstrates how to use the sanitation station.

## Moving Forward During a Global Pandemic

Since March 2020, our partner communities have been fighting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their health and livelihoods. With places such as the weekly market being shut down, **CREATE!'s partner communities now, more than ever, depend on programs such as community gardening to put food on the table for their families.** They also depend on projects such as solar-powered water pumping systems to access clean water for drinking, gardening, and now especially, sanitation practices.

CREATE! held awareness training on all safety measures and provided the community members with masks, set up handwashing and sanitation stations in community garden sites, and trained members on essential hygiene routines like washing hands often and to disinfect.





# 2020 Impacts: Water

**3**

new drip irrigation  
systems were  
established.

**380,000+**

liters of water pumped  
everyday on average  
from 18 communities.

**2,000-3,000**

liters of clean water  
collected per village  
everyday for household  
use.

**1,300**

more people gained  
access to clean,  
abundant water from  
rehabilitated wells.

*"Before the well rehabilitation, access to water was very difficult because everything was done by hand. Now, the well water makes our gardening easier. I take 20 liters home every day. Even surrounding villages come to get water."*

- Dieynaba Diouf, Boustane Lo

CREATE! ensures the availability of water in each of our partner communities with rehabilitated wells, solar powered pumps, gravity fed and drip irrigation systems. In 2020, amidst the pandemic, CREATE! partnered with one community, Ndiagne Kahone, that gained access to clean water by rehabilitating their existing well. Together with Ndiagne Kahone, the communities of Mboss and Santhie also established drip irrigation systems this year. All 18 partner communities are now able to sustainably produce nutritious vegetables





# 2020 Impacts: Cooperative Community Gardens

**900+**  
men and women  
participating in  
garden cooperatives.

**26,000+**  
pounds of fresh  
fruit and vegetables  
produced.

**100%**  
women in our partner  
communities achieved  
Minimum Dietary  
Diversity (MDD-W).

*"Since we began working with CREATE!'s technicians, we consume fresh and natural vegetables every day and it has improved our health. With the technicians help, we are able to use compost from our livestock in our garden."*

- Khady Mbaye, Diabel

CREATE!'s partner communities receive training in sustainable agricultural techniques and learn to grow vegetables, fruits, and nuts year-round as part of our cooperative community garden sector. With 72% of available garden space cultivated in 2020, each community produced more than three different varieties of fruits and vegetables on an average, thus improving their nutritional outcomes as measured by the MDD-W, a verifiable indicator of micro-nutrient adequacy. The baseline MDD-W data for the Group 7 communities (Mbosedji and Boustane Lo) was reported at 51% at the end of 2019. Those same communities at the end of 2020 have an MDD-W of 100%, demonstrating the importance of eating a diverse range of fresh fruits and vegetables.





# 2020 Impacts: Renewable Energy

**6**

hours of time saved  
per woman everyday  
through the use of  
improved cookstoves.

**670+**

improved cookstoves  
in all the communities.

**20,000**

tree seedlings planted  
throughout **CREATE!**  
partner communities.

*"Since I use the improved cookstove I no longer need to walk miles to collect firewood in the forest because one load of firewood can last many days. Now I gain time to do other activities in the house since I don't need to stay in the kitchen."*

- Oumy Dia, Wereyane

CREATE! addresses energy problems in Senegal through use of sustainably-designed and technologically appropriate improved cookstoves as well as solar powered water pumping systems. CREATE!'s improved cookstoves reduced firewood consumption by more than 80% in our partner communities in 2020. To positively affect the environment, CREATE! combines its renewable energy projects with an annual reforestation campaign. This campaign happens mainly during the rainy season during which communities' plant trees for shade, food and firewood in their cooperative gardens as well as areas around the village.





# 2020 Impacts: Income Generation

**92%**

average participation  
rate of cooperative  
members in VSLAs.

**\$23**

average savings per  
beneficiary.

**4770+**

chickens raised  
and sold in partner  
communities.

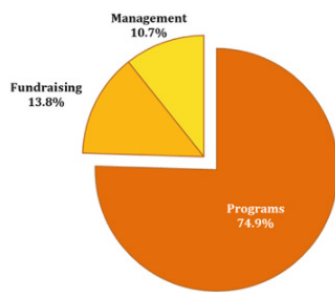
*"Thanks to the VSLA, women have the opportunity to save money and make loans for their own needs. With the VSLA, there is security and we have the possibility to save money for future events."*

- Marieme Seck, Santhie

CREATE!'s income generation programs integrate a number of activities to help rural women gain basic financial literacy skills and use these skills to manage their income from poultry and agricultural production programs as well as any other income generation activities. In 2020, two CREATE! communities, Mbossedji and Yougoure, started their poultry raising activities.

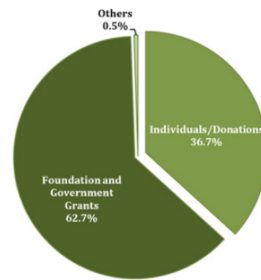


# 2020 Financial Summary



## Expenses

Programs	\$340,015
Fundraising	\$62,269
Management	\$48,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$450,482</b>



## Revenue

Individuals/Donations	\$164,740
Foundation Grants	\$281,208
Other	\$2,355
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$448,302</b>

## Partnership Spotlight: This year, we're featuring Addax & Oryx!



Ndiagne Kahone, November 2020



Ndiagne Kahone, December 2020

In April 2020, we were thrilled to announce that CREATE! received an Addax & Oryx grant! "As a small foundation, we aim to fund holistic, focused and high-impact projects led by passionate and committed organizations. CREATE!'s innovative model and dedicated staff are the key to our collaboration in the crucial journey of sustainably lifting vulnerable populations out of extreme poverty," says Belinda Hall, Addax & Oryx Foundation Managing Director.

Thanks to Addax & Oryx, we were able to partner with the community of Ndiagne Kahone this summer. As you can see in the photos above, in just a few short months that CREATE! has been working with Ndiagne Kahone, the village has already started undergoing a transformation. We are looking forward to where this partnership will take us!



# Thank You 2020 *CREATE!* Donors



## Individual Support

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Alison Yoder


## Foundation Grant Support


Acronis Cyber Foundation  
Addax & Oryx Foundation  
Bellevue Rotary Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation  
One Days Wages  
SpawGlass Foundation  
Vibrant Village Foundation


## Other

AmazonSmile Foundation  
Emge & Whyte CPA's  
Enviro-Pak  
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[www.createaction.org](http://www.createaction.org)

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# Thank you, Jerejef, Merci



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