



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy
& Appropriate Technology
for the Environment



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Letter from Executive Director Michael Carson

Dear Friends,

2021 was a fruitful year for *CREATE!*, the 1,000 women and their families with whom we directly collaborate, and our staff who work tirelessly to carry our community empowerment work in Senegal. With the generous support of our partners in North America and Europe, we were able to start our 19th village partnership in the community of Keur Ndiouga outside Gossas, Senegal, and deepen our integrated climate-smart agriculture and income generating projects in eighteen other villages in Fatick, Kaolack and Louga regions of Senegal. In partnership with the [Acronis Cyber Foundation](#) of Switzerland and [Groundbreaker](#) of Germany we supported the Soupa Serere School in Fatick Region to equip a computer laboratory for sixty students and constructed two new classrooms for primary school students who were previously studying outdoors daily in 100°F plus heat.

Our Senegal team, led by Senegal Country Director Omar Ndiaye Seck and Training Coordinator Amadou Diouf, worked closely with the Senegal Forestry Department, our technicians, and women's groups to intensify our reforestation program from 10,000 trees planted in 2020 to 30,000 trees planted in 2021. Our solar powered, rehabilitated wells continued to provide clean, reliable water for irrigating our women's groups vegetable gardens. Our poultry projects continued to provide much-needed income for families of the women's group that we support. Our village-level savings and credit activities are empowering women to organize and mobilize capital for their income generating projects and family emergencies.

In 2022, we plan to continue partnering with Senegalese rural communities to provide sustainable development and improve their resilience through providing clean water, nutritious vegetables for household consumption and sale, small-scale poultry projects and VSLAs. We will introduce a poultry project in Keur Ndiouga Village, and begin a nutrition pilot project in Mbosseji Village, Guinguineo Department with the support of Rotary Clubs of Bellevue, Washington and Dakar Millennium. Our technicians will empower women to plant 50,000 trees in their vegetable gardens. We will complete an assessment of starting our 20th village in Linguere, Senegal. Once again, on behalf of *CREATE!*, I thank our Board of Directors, and all our supporters for your generous support to *CREATE!* and our sustainable development activities in Senegal.

Sincerely,

Michael Carson
CREATE! Executive Director



Program Highlights

CREATE! PLANTED 30,000 TREES

In 2021, *CREATE!* planted 30,000 trees in 18 rural Senegalese communities. Climate change and deforestation has contributed to Senegal losing 4.47kha of tree cover from 2001 to 2020, equivalent to an 11% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 856kt of CO₂ emissions. On average, one tree offsets 34.6 pounds of Carbon. *CREATE!*'s 30,000 trees thus offset 1,038,000 pounds of Carbon, regulating harmful impacts of fossil fuels. Together with offsetting Carbon, these trees also provided food, shade and fuel to the communities, improved soil conditions, and regulated temperatures. The trees that were planted include *Acacia olo*, *Acacia melifera*, Moringa, Papaya, Cashew, Lemon and Guava.



FOUR COMMUNITIES GAINED FINANCIAL LITERACY

In the first quarter of 2021, four new *CREATE!* communities were trained on microfinance techniques and started their own Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA). The communities of Diabel, Yougoure and Mbossedji were trained in January and started their VSLAs in March while Boustane Lo received training in March and started saving from May 2021. The training and the subsequent formation of their own VSLAs provides the women with a ready source of loans within their village leading to financial independence.



POULTRY IN BOUSTANE LO

The community of Boustane Lo constructed their poultry shed in the first quarter of 2021. Raising poultry is a very promising component of *CREATE!*'s program, providing the community members both a steady source of protein in their village and a source of income. The community members were trained on this activity after the shed was constructed and bought their first group of chickens in May 2021.



2021 Impacts

WATER



20,000-30,000
liters of water pumped per village everyday on an average.

2,000-3,000
liters of clean water collected per village every day for household use.

400+
more people gained access to clean, abundant water from rehabilitated wells

"CREATE! has rehabilitated the old village well and since then I drink the well water every day and collect 20 liters for my family. Many other villages come to the well for collecting water too because they don't have the opportunity to get it easily like us."
– Fatou Diop, Yougoure

In Senegal, the dry season lasts for nine months, yet 90% of the country's agriculture is reliant on rainfall during the short rainy period. *CREATE!* ensures the availability of water in each of our partner communities by rehabilitating old abandoned wells and installing solar-powered pumps, and gravity-fed and drip irrigation systems. In 2021, *CREATE!* partnered with one new community, Keur Ndiouga, that gained access to clean water. With this water and the training from *CREATE!*'s technicians, all 19 partner communities are now able to sustainably produce nutritious vegetables year round.

COMMUNITY GARDENS



900+
women and men participating in garden cooperatives

55,600+
pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables produced.

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



*"We used to consume vegetables very rarely before the *CREATE!* site because it was expensive in the market and we couldn't go there every day. Now, with the cooperative garden, vegetables are always available in the site and we have the possibility to consume a large quantity. My daughter likes all vegetables I harvest from the garden and I usually cook rice and fish with those."* – Coura Diop, Wereyane

CREATE!'s partner communities receive training in sustainable agricultural techniques to grow food year-round as part of our cooperative community garden sector. Community members learn to not just grow the vegetables they like to eat, but also consistently grow enough to feed their own families and to sell the surplus in local markets, supplementing their income. The diverse range of fresh fruits and vegetables grown improves the nutritional outcomes of women in their reproductive years with 100% women achieving MDD-W, a verifiable indicator of micro-nutrient adequacy.

2021 Impacts

RENEWABLE ENERGY



700+
well-maintained improved cookstoves in all the communities

6 HOURS
of time saved per woman everyday through use of improved cookstoves

30,000
tree saplings planted throughout partner communities

"Since using the improved cookstove I've gained more time because it needs only two or three pieces of firewood for cooking lunch, so I don't need to spend much time collecting firewood. With the traditional fire, I used to use many pieces of firewood because it was exposed to the wind." – Seynabou Mbaye, Ndiagne Kahone

CREATE!'s renewable energy projects include teaching women how to build improved cookstoves, implementing tree planting campaigns, and installing solar powered water pumping systems in all communities. The improved cookstoves consume 70% less firewood than traditional three-stone open fires and produce less smoke. The annual tree planting campaigns help to replenish the wood that people harvest, provide shade, and produce fruits and nuts to fortify their diets, while the solar pumping system pumps thousands of gallons of clean water each day, saving time and improving health and sanitation.

INCOME GENERATION



660
women participating in VSLAs

\$21
average savings per beneficiary

3,226
chickens sold in partner communities



"I couldn't have credit easily before the VSLA and there are some of us who used to get loans from banks at an expensive interest rate. Now, I use money I get from the VSLA savings for doing small business and I can satisfy my needs." – Daba Fam, Gagnick Mack

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 2021, the community of Boustane Lo started their poultry raising activities.

CREATE! Partners with Keur Ndiouga Village, Fatick, Senegal

CREATE! started its climate action project in Keur Ndiouga in June 2021 by rehabilitating an existing borehole and equipping it with a solar-powered pump. Keur Ndiouga was different than many CREATE!-supported villages in that the village was part of a government-sponsored agriculture project, and had existing infrastructure like a shallow borehole and storeroom. However, no sustainability mechanisms like a savings and credit activity were built into the project. Therefore, the Keur Ndiouga women were not able to sustain their activities after government involvement ended.

After completing a cookstove training and demonstrating their commitment to collaborate with CREATE!, Keur Ndiouga signed a memorandum of understanding with CREATE! in May 2021. After rehabilitating a shallow borehole, CREATE!'s Senegal team, led by Technical Coordinator Amadou Diouf and Technician Georges Nesta Macabo quickly mobilized the Keur Ndiouga Village Women's Group members to restart their vegetable gardens with our technical specifications. The Keur Ndiouga women have intensified their agriculture production and diversified their crops to sell at weekly markets. In 2022, CREATE! has plans to renovate the groups activity shed, install a drainage gutter to create a rainwater harvesting tank and begin poultry activities. All of us at CREATE! are excited and honored to partner with Keur Ndiouga Village Women's Group and are looking forward to catalyzing the women to benefit economically from the sale of organic, nutritious vegetables and poultry.

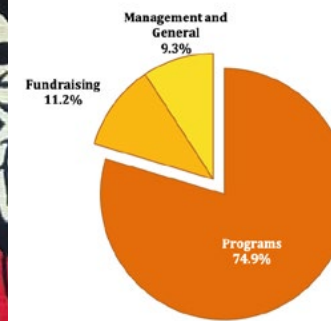


Keur Ndiouga, before



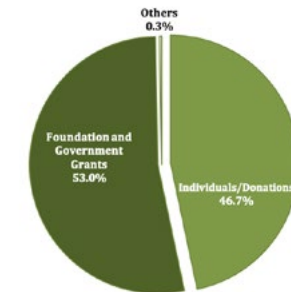
Keur Ndiouga, after

2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Expenses

Programs	\$373,427
Fundraising	\$52,660
Management and General	\$43,477
Total	\$469,564



Revenue

Individuals/Donations	\$222,378
Foundation and Government Grants	\$252,578
Others	\$1,462
Total	\$476,418

Partnership Spotlight: Rotary Club of Bellevue, Seattle, WA

The Rotary Club of Bellevue, Seattle, Washington, together with other partner clubs in the US and the Rotary Club Dakar Millennium, Senegal, have been supporting the sustainable growth of the community of Mbossedji since 2019. "The Bellevue Rotary Club's involvement with CREATE! in supporting the village of Mbossedji has been rewarding on many levels. Rotarians with our club and our partner clubs appreciate and are proud to support CREATE!'s excellent program to empower, enrich and train the women's cooperative group, which in turn raises the standard of living for the entire village," says Fred Auch from the Bellevue Rotary Club.

By the end of its second year of project activities in 2021, Mbossedji had already implemented all of CREATE!'s major program elements. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Rotary Clubs, the community is also on the verge of piloting a nutrition program in 2022 that will help improve the health of infants and kids aged 0-5 years in all the four villages that constitute the community of Mbossedji.

Thank you, Merci, Jerejef Rotary!



THANK YOU 2021 CREATE! DONORS

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A Note from Seck

Dear friends,

First of all, let me thank all you good people who made the *CREATE!* program a little more beautiful and a little easier for us, despite its share of trials. It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to write to you expressing our gratitude for your contributions to the success of our NGO. We are very proud to be a part of an organization that respects the social cultures and values of our different communities. Conscientious, available, responsive and civil, our team has been an exemplary partner with recipients who appreciate the work and have brought satisfaction to the organization.

The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) show that integrated, holistic approaches like those of *CREATE!* are seen as compelling alternatives to traditional interventions focused on a single aspect of community well-being. Since our start in 2010, we have partnered with 19 communities and are consistently receiving more and more partnership requests from villages across Senegal. With environmental protection as our credo, our reforestation campaign has grown every year. In the beginning, our tree production was 5,000 trees in 2010; in 2021 we are at 30,000, an increase of 600%, 54.5% per year. This demonstrates a positive impact for any rural population of the Sahel that experiences the devastating effects of environment degradation.

In 2021, we also assisted in the extension of a school located in Soupa Sérère, an isolated village in the Fatick region, which faced a serious lack of classrooms. With the support of partners such as [Groundbreaker](#), we managed and implemented the project effectively and efficiently, a first of its kind for *CREATE!*. The improvement of the educational environment increased the motivation of the pupils of the Soupa Sérère school because better classrooms put the teacher and the students at ease. In keeping with our mission to use renewable energy, we also installed a solar powered electrical system for the school's computer room with financing from the [Acronis Cyber Foundation](#). Lamps have been installed in all classrooms to allow students to do their lessons during the evening.

CREATE! gives us the roadmap to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They respond to the global challenges we face, related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice above all in the rural world. The objectives are interconnected and, to leave no one behind, it is important to achieve each of them, and each of their targets.

Alone we go fast, together we go further.

From the entire *CREATE!* team, Thank you!

Omar Ndiaye SECK
CREATE! Senegal Country Director



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