



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy
& Appropriate Technology
for the Environment



2024 Annual Impact Report

Letter from Co-Executive Directors

Dear donors,

First of all, allow us to express our sincere thanks to your generosity and commitment that has allowed the CREATE! program to evolve and flourish, despite many challenges. Your support has made our work not only possible, but deeply meaningful. So, with immense gratitude, we salute your invaluable contribution to the success of our organization.

At CREATE!, we are proud to work with a structure that values local cultures, respects social traditions and supports rural communities in all their diversity. Our approach is profoundly humanitarian. At the heart of our action, we place unity, respect and the involvement of villagers - fundamental values that guide our mission and guarantee its success. All our staff act with compassion, commitment and respect for the populations they serve. Thanks to a conscientious, available and committed team, we have earned the trust and esteem of the communities we serve.

CREATE!'s objective is clear: to reduce the inequalities between urban and rural areas by responding to people's basic needs in a sustainable and culturally appropriate way. We work to promote food and energy sovereignty, using simple, effective and environmentally-friendly techniques that are perfectly adapted to the rural context. We aim to bring about a genuine "green revolution" in the countryside, with concrete results: food security, energy autonomy, local and global environmental protection, improved living conditions, a dynamic rural economy, and the enhancement of local culture. To this end, we have partnered with communities for sustainable development.

In 2024, two new communities joined us, bringing the number of communities in which we operate to 23. The positive impact of our action is attracting growing interest, and requests to extend our program are increasingly numerous. In 2024, we also supported the emergence of numerous women entrepreneurs, dynamic players in local development. An effective community management system has been put in place, with the active involvement of the villagers. Agro-sylvo-pastoral activities have developed year-round, helping to preserve the environment and significantly reduce the rural exodus.

While our programs flourished in Senegal, on the US side, we were able to successfully fundraise to support those programs. Together with our very dedicated individual donors like you, we received support from numerous Foundations. Some of these Foundations have supported CREATE! for years and some are new; but all donors have helped us immensely in our partnership with rural Senegalese women and their communities.

We take pride and responsibility in our work and just like in 2024, we hope to expand our scope of action in 2025 in response to the many requests we receive. To do so, we will continue to count on your invaluable support.

On behalf of the entire CREATE! team, we would like to extend our warmest thanks and wish you happiness, health and success.

With all our gratitude,

Omar Ndiaye Seck and Paulomi Bhattacharyya

CREATE! Co-Executive Directors

2024 Program Recap By Field Coordinator Amadou Diouf



In 2024, two new sites (Keur Mandongo and Loumbeul) were successfully launched, reflecting the growing demand for our work across the region.

Despite continued requests from various communities, our current resources limit our ability to respond to all of them. On a positive note, beneficiaries of our income-generating activities have effectively mastered the techniques taught by our technicians. Staying true to our slogan, "Environmental protection is our credo," we have planted 30,000 trees this year.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who have supported our efforts and helped us assist those in genuine need.

Welcome to our new technician, Lamine Ndiaye

Lamine Ndiaye is a supervisor at the NGO CREATE!, responsible for skill transfer in agriculture, group management, tool preservation, data tracking, and maintaining clean, biodiverse workspaces. He oversees health and safety in production, manages pest and disease control using eco-friendly methods, and ensures compliance with environmental and quality standards.

Passionate about agro-ecology and sustainable farming, Lamine, originally from Kaolack, holds a BFEM and a Brevet de Technicien Horticole. His career was inspired by his internship at CREATE!, where he also gained experience in training households in agri-food processing and promoting teamwork and knowledge sharing.



2024 Program Highlights

Keur Mandongo: Well rehabilitation and gardening

Keur Mandongo village, located in the Kaolack region, Nioro department, was facing limited access to a vital resource: fresh water. The only existing well had become non-functional after the arrival of boreholes in the region. This situation particularly affected the women's group, who wanted to grow vegetables year round. After partnering with CREATE! in September 2024, the Keur Mandongo well was rehabilitated so that it could be used by the community as a source of perennial water. With a large recharge capacity, the well was equipped with a pumping kit that provides the community with sufficient quantity of water per day to farm at least one hectare of cropland with a variety of vegetables. The community started gardening in earnest by December 2024.



Ngaraff: VSLA Training

CREATE! continues to promote Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA), a local economic development tool that enables rural populations to access basic self-managed financial resources in an autonomous and sustainable way.

A training course was organized in 2024 in the village of Ngaraff. This initiative aims to strengthen financial inclusion, social cohesion and the economic autonomy of rural women. The aim is to encourage them to save regularly and safely within the village.



2024 Program Highlights

Loumbeul: MOU signing and well rehabilitation



In 2024, to strengthen the capacities of rural communities in the face of the effects of climate change and dwindling water resources, CREATE! rehabilitated the community well in the village of Loumbeul, our 23rd partner community located in the Linguère region.

The project's mission is to improve sustainable access to fresh water, an essential requirement for local development and food security. It was marked by the official signing of a memorandum of understanding, sealing the partnership between the NGO, the village and the local authorities.

Mbossedji graduation ceremony

After four years of partnership, the Mbossedji site graduated with a beautiful ceremony in early 2024.

Before graduation, the donors who funded the project (Rotary Bellevue Washington together with the Rotary Millenium Club of Dakar) felt it necessary to provide a new drip irrigation system and a borehole system equipped with a powerful solar pumping kit to increase vegetable yields in the two-hectare garden site. A new poultry shed with a capacity of 400 chickens was also built, together with a two room building equipped with a solar freezer, a peanut mill, a coffee grinder and a cereal smoker, all grouped together as a processing center worthy of the name.

"It was a very emotional moment for me, because I could see how far we've come as women, and the solidarity that unites us. The ceremony was also an opportunity to celebrate the group's success and thank all those who have contributed to its development".

Fama Thiam, Mbossedji



2024 Sustainable Impacts

Water



In Senegal, the dry season lasts for over nine months in a year and average annual rainfall is anywhere between 12-16 inches. To ensure that the rural population who partner with CREATE! can have access to clean water year-round, we rehabilitate existing wells and install solar powered pumping systems.

These, coupled with gravity fed and drip irrigation systems, help communities produce nutritious food, improving their lives and livelihoods.

In 2024, CREATE! welcomed two new partner communities—Keur Manongo and Loumbeul—helping them gain reliable access to perennial water. Today, 23 communities have the water they need to grow sustainable, year-round food.



16600+

liters of water pumped per village every day on average.

2000-4000

liters of clean water collected per village every day for household use on average

15000

people have access to clean, abundant water from rehabilitated wells, 4500 new people gained access to water resources



"CREATE! project gives us the opportunity to have fresh water for gardening and domestic consumption. Thanks to the installation of the solar pumping system, water is always available in the village ".

Daba Konte, Keur Ndiouga

2024 Sustainable Impacts



Renewable Energy

A key aspect of CREATE!'s renewable energy initiatives is the introduction of improved cookstoves. CREATE! technicians teach community members to construct these cookstoves using local materials such as clay, sand, dry grass, and water.

These stoves are designed to provide safer and more efficient cooking methods compared to traditional open fires, reducing firewood reliance by 60-70%. In 2024, CREATE! technicians conducted many such training sessions on cookstove construction.

Alongside cookstove training, CREATE! emphasizes reforestation. In 2024, CREATE! communities planted 30,000 new trees and cared for approximately 200,000 previously planted trees, sequestering over 500 tons of carbon. Additionally, CREATE! promotes the use of solar pumps instead of diesel-fueled ones, and in 2024, installed one solar pumping system in Keur Mandongo.



600+

well maintained improved cookstoves in all the communities

30,000

tree saplings planted throughout CREATE! partner communities

500+

tons of Carbon saved through reforestation efforts.



"The improved cookstove plays an important role in the rural community, improving the quality of life of the inhabitants and helping to protect the environment. Each beneficiary has a fireplace in their home and since then we no longer have to spend hours in the forest to collect firewood " .

Seynabou Diaw, Ndiagne Kahone

2024 Sustainable Impacts



Community Garden

Women in CREATE!'s partner communities receive training in sustainable agricultural techniques to cultivate vegetables, fruits, and nuts year-round in their community gardens.

Using water from wells and manual tools to minimize soil disturbance and maximize moisture retention, they emphasize environmentally friendly practices. Instead of chemical fertilizers, they use community-generated livestock compost, and recycled mosquito nets are utilized as a substitute for pesticides.

Cooperative members learn to grow a variety of vegetables they enjoy eating, consistently producing enough to feed their families and sell the surplus in local markets, thus supplementing their income.

This crop diversity leads to improved nutritional outcomes for the entire community, particularly benefiting women in their reproductive years.

The community of Keur Manongo started rehabilitating their wells in the fall of 2024 and prepared to get ready to harvest in 2025.



900+

women and men participating
in garden cooperatives

21,047+

pounds (~9,551 kg) of
fresh fruits and vegetables
produced

98%

women in our partner
communities achieved
Minimum Dietary Diversity
(MDD-W) which is 6% more
than the previous year.

"The gardening initiative has changed our situation. We learned how to cultivate a variety of vegetables, which not only improved our family's nutrition but also allowed us to sell extra in local markets."

Sano Faye, Diabel

2024 Sustainable Impacts

Income Generation



CREATE!'s income generation programs integrate several 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.

By having more control over their finances, the women feel empowered to make decisions, both in their family and in their cooperatives, helping sustain the program.

23 CREATE! partner communities are now raising poultry and have learned how to save their generated income through their Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs).



646+

women participating in VSLA

\$26

average savings per beneficiary
per month

936+

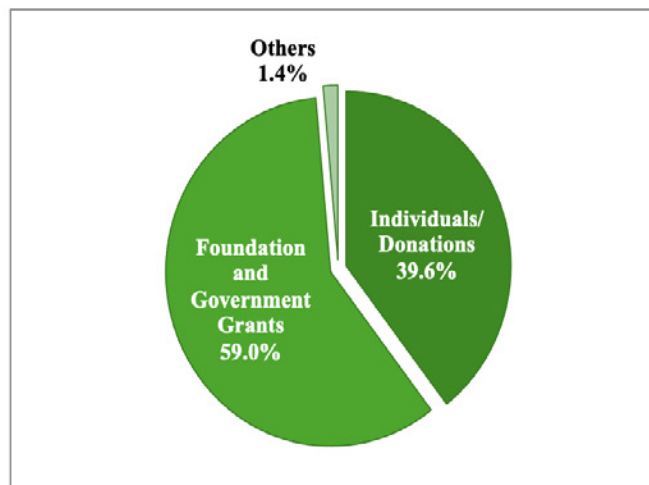
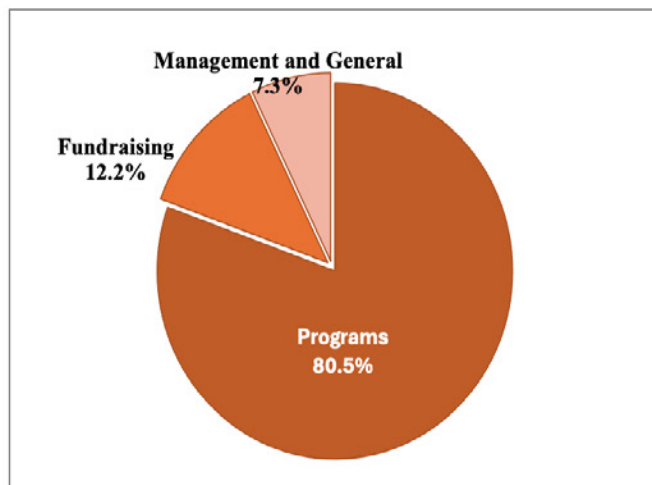
chickens raised and sold in
partner communities every
month on average



"It was not easy to have loans in the village because we do not have a bank, and we just started the VSLA saving. In a few months, we will have the opportunity to obtain loans more easily".

Mame Boye Gueye, Ngaraff

2024 Financial Summary



Expenses

Programs	\$301,565
Fundraising	\$45,849
Management and General	\$27,204
Total	\$374,618

Revenues

Individuals/Donations	\$190,448
Foundation and Government Grants	\$284,033
Others	\$6,923
Total	\$481,404

Partnership Spotlight: Earth Rising Foundation

In 2024, CREATE! launched a new partnership with the Earth Rising Foundation to initiate regenerative agriculture programming in the community of Keur Mandongo. Our collaboration is rooted in the shared vision of climate justice, which supports new and existing voices that want a future based on caring for one another and the planet.

Through Earth Rising's support, CREATE! rehabilitated an abandoned well and installed a solar pumping system, a crucial foundation for Keur Mandongo's sustainable farming practices. By the end of 2024, the community was accessing 25000 liters of water per day. Earth Rising Foundation's support for CREATE! will not only help mitigate the effects of desertification and climate change but also support women's leadership and community resilience in Senegal.

We are deeply grateful to the Foundation for its investment in a community-powered approach to addressing the climate justice crisis. Together, we are building a just and regenerative future—one community at a time.

Thank You

2024 CREATE! Donors

Individual Support

Janice and Terrence Ahern
Miriam Aiken
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Kathryn Armstrong
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Bellevue Rotary Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Earth Rising Foundation
Groundbreaker gGmbH
Mortenson Family Foundation
Nestlé Community Impact Fund
New Earth Foundation
Ninneweb Foundation
Ronald W. Naito Foundation
SpawGlass Foundation

Others

Robert Johnson
City of Eugene
Emge and Whyte
Maryland Department of Labor
SAIF Workers Insurance

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Mary-Kay Miller, Board Secretary and Treasurer. Adjunct faculty in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, Salem State University.

Ronald Taylor, Retired CEO of construction company and a founding donor of CREATE!

Susan Miller Briggs, MD, MPH. Senior Surgeon and Endowed Chair of Global Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA.

Joyce E. Leader, Retired ambassador of the United States. Worked in Africa for 15 years as a Foreign Service officer, Peace Corps staff, and volunteer teacher.

Delanson Y. Hopkins, BA, MBA. Retired health care and hospital executive in Brookline, MA.

Samba Gadjigo, Helen D. Gould professor of French and Francophone Studies at Mount Holyoke College.

Binta Mamadou, Multilingual Project Finance Attorney

Aïda Sarr Lewis, Educator and Trained Human Rights Advocate.

Thank you, Merci, Jerejef

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