



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy
& Appropriate Technology
for the Environment



Annual Impact Report 2019

A Letter from CREATE!'s Executive Director, Michael Carson

Dear friends,

During 2019, my first year as *CREATE!*'s Executive Director, I had the honor and pleasure to visit Senegal three times. Each time I visit our projects in Senegal, I am inspired and amazed by the resolve, optimism, perseverance and collaborative spirit demonstrated by our beneficiaries while working their community garden and income generation projects. I am equally inspired by the dedication demonstrated daily by our staff, led by our Country Director, Omar Ndiaye Seck.

Together with the work of our staff and the generous support of our partners, we have plans to technically expand our work. In late 2019, we embarked on an irrigation activity in Boustane Lo and Mbossedji that is transforming our work in terms on increased vegetable production and income generating opportunities. We are also planning a new household nutrition initiative that will help women grow vitamin A and nutrition rich sweet potatoes and corn, and combat malnutrition in children under five and young adults.



Michael Carson (left) with Horticulture Technician, Georges Nesta Mancabo (right).

While visiting our activities in Boustane Lo in December, I was struck by the organization and cohesiveness of women that were being trained and mobilized by *CREATE!* to begin their project and vegetable garden with us. I was extremely impressed by the collaboration between the women of Boustane Lo and their Community Development Volunteer, Mr. Diop. Mr. Diop returned to Boustane Lo from Dakar to contribute to the development of the village. With the investment of *CREATE!* and Mr. Diop, the women of Boustane Lo village are empowering themselves and the next generation through learning how to produce agriculture for household consumption and sale, develop a poultry project to earn income from the sale of chickens and eggs, and eventually engage in income generating activities.

Recently, due to threat of the global Coronavirus pandemic, we have started an emergency COVID-19 response in our communities. We implemented a pilot initiative distributing hand washing stations in Boustane Lo and are training women's group leaders on the importance of social distancing. In the next few months, we hope to place a handwashing station in all eighteen of our villages, and train women in these villages on the importance of handwashing and social distancing while working on their farms and in their communities. We would not have been able to achieve the impact with Senegalese communities without your help. Thank you again for your generous and unwavering support to *CREATE!*

Sincerely,
Michael Carson
CREATE! Executive Director

2019 Program Accomplishments

Two Communities Pilot Drip Irrigation System Projects



In 2019, *CREATE!* piloted a drip irrigation system in the communities of Mbossedji and Bousatne Lo to relieve the manual workload of our women beneficiaries who previously would have to carry heavy buckets of water from the basins to the garden plots. We envision installing drip irrigation systems in all our partner communities in the future. With clean water and the new irrigation systems, the communities will now have water year-round for drinking and agriculture use.

Five New Poultry Sheds



In the first quarter of 2019, five of our partner communities started building their poultry sheds. Following *CREATE!*'s 5-year development model, poultry raising is one of the later programs. This is a significant milestone for the communities of Weryane, Santhie, Mboss, Back Samba Dior, and Keur Daouda because this project will help take them even further along the path of income generation and overall self-sufficiency!

Meet Yougouré's First Garden President: Boury Thiam



Women like Boury Thiam have the power to change the future of their family and their community. In 2018, when *CREATE!* first partnered with Yougouré, Boury volunteered to lead her community to self-sufficiency as Cooperative Garden president, using *CREATE!*'s programs as stepping stones to a successful future.

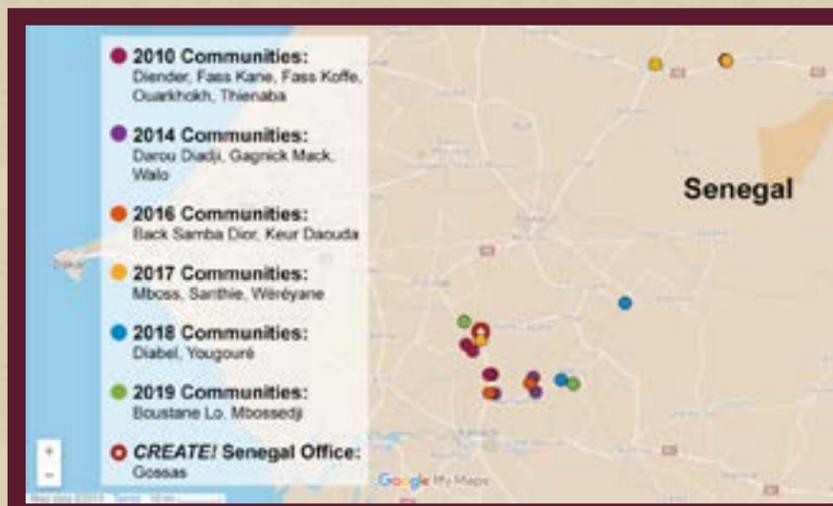
Each day as the sun breaks over the horizon, Boury and other women walk to their community garden, some carrying their youngest child on their backs. "Women can now work in the village, they don't need to leave their families," Boury explains. As well as leading her community as Cooperative Garden president, Boury is also a mother who supports a family of eight. Her children's future and well-being are her priority. "I have an occupation in the village so I can work and take care of my children," she says.

Once a week, *CREATE!*'s technicians train the Cooperative Garden Group different agriculture practices such as cover cropping and transplanting, as well as planning for the future of their first year-round garden. "I'm learning many techniques from *CREATE!*'s technicians; after graduation we will be able to garden easily," Boury tells us. Yougouré has completed their first full year with *CREATE!* and have already made such immense progress under Boury's leadership. Check out the before and after photos below:

Before and after: Yougoure's community garden progress from December 2018 (left) to April 2019 (right).



2019 Community Expansion Map in Rural Senegal



In 2019, *CREATE!* expanded to two new communities Boustane Lo and Mbossedji.

2019 Organization Highlights



Tree Planting Diploma of Recognition

On Journée de l'arbre (Tree Day) in Senegal, *CREATE!* was awarded a diploma of recognition by the Fatick Governor for our contribution to environmental preservation and reforestation in rural Senegal. "This activity [reforestation] allows us to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change brought about by human actions, the consequences of which are suffered by later generations. Our reforestation efforts assist in recovering devastated parts of the globe. Through our work, we hope to leave a better world for our children," says Omar Ndiaye Seck, *CREATE!* Country Director.



Cracking the Nut Conference

CREATE! was honored to present at 2019 Cracking the Nut (CTN) Conference along with many other outstanding organizations. This year, we were thrilled to learn that the conference would be held in Senegal's capital, Dakar. "We are delighted to have participated in such an informative and inspiring conference. We met many other people in our field of intervention who are also concerned about issues related to food security, climate change, and the challenges of rural communities. Meetings like CTN support a better and more open mindset and encourage the spread of new knowledge," says Amadou Diouf, *CREATE!* Field Coordinator.



DW Environment Features *CREATE!*

We were thrilled when DW Environment reached out to *CREATE!* earlier this year! In February, one of DW Environment's journalists visited our partner communities to film and interview members for the show, Eco Africa.

The focus of *CREATE!*'s feature was on empowering women in rural Senegal through different sustainable projects. Check out the video here:

<https://www.dw.com/en/empowering-women-in-rural-senegal/av-48013146>



2019 Impacts: Water

1,550
more people gained
access to clean,
abundant water from
rehabilitated wells.

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

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

"Since the well rehabilitation, the village drinks the clean water and every day I get 20 liters for my family's consumption. The sweet water has improved our health and we also have the means for gardening."

- Ndeye Diop, Diabel

CREATE! ensures the availability of water in each of our partner communities with rehabilitated wells, solar powered pumps, and gravity fed irrigation systems. In 2019, two new *CREATE!* communities Mbossedji and Boustane Lo gained access to clean water by rehabilitating their existing wells. Together with our other partner communities, they are now able to sustainably produce nutritious vegetables yearlong.



2019 Impacts: Cooperative Community Gardens

1,000+
men and women
participating in
garden cooperatives.

50,000+
pounds of fresh
fruit and vegetables
produced.

99%
women in our partner
communities achieved
Minimum Dietary
Diversity (MDD-W).

"Since we consume vegetables we grow ourselves, we become healthier because we don't use chemical products. My children like the eggplant we grow in the site and I really like cooking sauce with the vegetables."

- Ngoné Signane, Wereyane

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 80% of available garden space cultivated in 2019, communities produced at least five different varieties of fruits and vegetables, thus improving nutritional diversity. In 2019 CREATE! piloted a drip irrigation system in the communities of Mbossedji and Bousatne Lo to relieve the manual workload of our women beneficiaries who previously would have to carry heavy buckets of water from the basins to the garden plots. We envision installing drip irrigation systems in all our partner communities in the future.



2019 Impacts: Renewable Energy

5
hours of time saved
per woman everyday
through the use of
improved cookstoves.

650+
households using
improved cookstoves.

16,000+
tree seedlings planted
throughout CREATE!
partner communities.

"As president, I have three improved cookstoves in my house to set an example for the group that I lead. The improved cookstove has brought security to the village. Since we started using the improved cookstove in our houses, we can stay with our children in the kitchen."

- Ndeye Diop, Mbossedji

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 75-85% in our partner communities in 2019. Combined with the reforestation campaign, whose goal is to increase the number of trees providing shade, food and firewood to the communities, CREATE!'s renewable energy projects aim to positively affect the environment. On this year's Journée de l'arbre (Tree Day) in Senegal, CREATE! was awarded a diploma of recognition by the Fatick Governor in honor of our contribution to environmental preservation and reforestation in rural Senegal.



2019 Impacts: Income Generation

92%
average participation
rate of cooperative
members in VSLAs.

\$20-25
average savings per
beneficiary.

4500+
chickens raised
and sold in partner
communities.

"Thanks to the VSLA, women in Walo are able to satisfy their needs because they are saving money, making loans and most of us are doing small commerce. Now I have the opportunity to support my family with the credit I earn."

- Bassine Fall, Walo

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 profits from poultry and agricultural production programs. In 2019, two CREATE! communities, Santhie and Wereyane, started their VSLA program and their poultry raising activities.

2019 Financial Summary



Partnership Spotlight: This year, we're featuring One Days Wages!



Since 2014, One Day's Wages has helped support CREATE!'s water, agriculture, and income generating activities in 11 partner villages. Four of these partner communities have graduated CREATE!'s programs to self-sufficiency and the other six are completing their five year training. Thanks to One Day's Wages incredible generosity, hundreds of families across rural Senegal are thriving and building self-sufficiency for generations to come.

Thank you, jerejer, merci One Days Wages!

Thank You 2019 *CREATE!* Donors



Individual Support

Miriam Aiken
Sarah Atkins
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Richard and Sally Bartley
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Foundation Grant Support

The International Foundation
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Vibrant Village Foundation

Other

AmazonSmile Foundation
GlobalGiving
Emge & Whyte CPA's
Nici Brueckner
Thomason Bread & Soup Company

Meet *CREATE!*'s Board of Directors

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“Alone we are going fast; all together, we will go even further to promote the autonomy of women in rural areas.”

- Omar Ndiaye Seck, *CREATE!* Country Director



Omar Ndiaye Seck speaks to a group of volunteers in the village of Back Samba Dior.

In a short testimonial video, you can listen to Seck talk about *CREATE!*'s mission and vision for the future on *CREATE!*'s 10th Anniversary for 2020:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_Hlwty5uQM&feature=emb_title

CREATE! Attends Tostan Workshop: Promoting Community Well-Being

At *CREATE!*, we believe that the community members themselves should define their own well-being. We provide training and support that enables rural villages in Senegal to take ownership of their self-development projects. While *CREATE!* establishes the programs, our partner communities continue to sustain and grow these projects according to their own needs and motivations.

Seck attended an engaging 10-day workshop with Tostan on promoting community well-being. Tostan is an NGO that collaborates with rural communities throughout West Africa. Trainers from the Tostan Community Empowerment Program in rural Africa used a participatory and learning-centered approach to explore community-led development.

After the workshop, Seck was inspired to bring new ideas to the *CREATE!* team. “The training allows us to improve our approach and methodology to better respond to the interconnected crises of the rural world,” he said.



CREATE!'s approach to rural development focuses on the well-being of our partner communities. Our staff is composed of compassionate individuals who have a great love for the people they work with as well as the work that they do. In turn, we are able to build strong and trusting relationships with our partner communities. This is a key part of *CREATE!*'s success.

We'd Love to Connect with You!

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