

ANDANDO



**ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2022/2023**





A MONUMENTAL YEAR FOR EDUCATION

By working hand in hand for over a decade with the Senegalese Ministry of Education Andando has been able to systematically address student needs in nearly all of our partner communities. We started by eliminating temporary primary school classrooms in remote villages and year after year as we built classrooms, students kept growing, and succeeding. Soon the obstacle became access to middle schools, and then high schools. Andando's intervention grew right along with the children of our partner communities until we arrived at this monumental year of education for Andando with the completion of Ndiawara Middle School, Donaye Taredji High School, and Keur Soce High School. Here is what one of the teachers in Keur Soce had to say about the impacts they are already seeing:

“If today we have a high school, it’s thanks to Andando. And we’re very thankful to you, who provided us with classrooms the way they should be with floors and walls well made. Before, the classes we had were shelters with lots of dust. The effects of the dust on the kids and their clothes was so bad. Now that we have clean floors, we can work without getting dirty. We say bravo to Andando.

— Mr. Touré, Science Teacher at Keur Soce High School —



Students in the advanced science class at Donaye Teredji High School who all passed their exams!

When talking with the principal of Donaye Teredji High School we also learned that 100% of the students who took the advanced S2 science course, held in the new classrooms we constructed passed their exams! Because of this tremendous success and the improved school infrastructure the Education Ministry has decided to offer the highest high school level science course, S1, here in the fall of 2023. This is the first time this course will be offered in the region outside of Saint Louis, which is over 120 miles away! Very few families have the means to send their children away for school, especially to large cities, so when courses aren't offered locally that usually means the end of a student's education in that subject. We are thrilled for these students' accomplishments and are so happy that they can now continue their education without changing schools.

bathrooms has a big impact on student success and can help to drastically increase attendance and enrollment, especially for girls. UNESCO estimates that 1 in 10 girls in Sub-Saharan Africa miss school during their menstrual cycle due to lack of facilities or sanitary products. This is hugely detrimental to their education and increases the chance that they will drop out of school prematurely. It is a well-established fact that when girls succeed communities succeed.

It isn't just a lack of classrooms that can keep kids from continuing their education though. Access to sanitary

“Girls’ education strengthens economies and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals – including boys and men – the opportunity to fulfill their potential.”

— UNICEF —

Andando is dedicated to supporting gender equality by helping all students to stay in school, which is why we built 16 new sanitary latrines with clean running water at Keur Soce and Donnaye Taredji High Schools this year. These facilities support over 2,000 students, more than 50% of whom are girls, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams without worry or stigma from inadequate sanitation. As amazing as this year has been there is still a lot of work to do. We are excited to continue listening to our partner communities and walking with them to improve education in rural Senegal.



One of the beautiful new blocks of latrines at Keur Soce High School.

YEAR IN REVIEW

This was a BIG year of growth for Andando, both in terms of the size and impact of our programs in rural Senegal.

Thanks to the amazing support of our steadfast donors, foundation partners, and local businesses we completed construction on Keur Soce High School this year! Students, faculty, and parents agree this two story 8 classroom building is one of the most beautiful schools now in the whole region. We are thrilled that over 900 students from dozens of surrounding villages now have the means to continue their education without having to move away from home. This wasn't our only school project though. In Andando's Podor region we finished two more classrooms at Donaye Taredji High School and a final two at Ndiawara Middle School. We also built 16 new school latrines with clean running water to ensure that all students have the facilities they need to stay in school.



Outside the newly completed Keur Soce High School where over 900 students are enrolled. Students, faculty, and parents agree this two story 8 classroom building is one of the most beautiful schools now in the whole region.



"There is a start, but there is no end to our happiness." A garden participant expresses her gratitude for another successful harvest.

Our agriculture program continues to be the foundation of our holistic approach to community development and grew this year to 38 market gardens with over 3,600 families participating in Keur Soce and Podor. The term gardens doesn't really encompass the full scope of our partners' achievements though. This year alone yields reached 514,240 pounds and generated profits of over \$163,000!

Andando invests a lot of time, and effort in establishing gardens, but the end result is a permanent community resource which more than pays for itself over the years and gives families the means to support themselves in ways that have never been available to them before.



At our first fish harvest Keur Soce Garden Manager, Mandaw, holds up a catfish, one of the fish varieties we trialed in our aquaculture pilot program.



Fish is an important part of the Senegalese diet and now garden participants can raise their own right in the gardens.



We use a regenerative permaculture model in our gardens that incorporates the use of trees to enrich the soil, reduce erosion, and sequester carbon.

We are so proud of what our partner communities have achieved through their gardens, and we are always looking for ways to magnify their impact. One persistent problem that remains in both Keur Soce and Podor is access to fresh fish.

Fish is an important part of the Senegalese diet both culturally and nutritionally, but access in rural areas is limited and often prohibitively expensive. For several years our garden partners have been asking for assistance to add aquaculture fish production to their set of skills and thanks to a partnership with Auburn University's School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences we started a pilot fish raising program in four of our Keur Soce partner gardens last year. The results have been phenomenal! All four gardens are now raising continual profitable harvests of tilapia and have increased vegetable yields and profits due to watering with the nutrient rich fishpond water.

“Our crops really progress now. Even if some of our friends in the garden are far from the fishponds, they come to take this water in order to water their crops.”

— Garden Participant —

With the success of this initial pilot program we hope to incorporate aquaculture into our standard garden model and offer it to all of our partner gardens in both regions in the years to come.

Andando teaches a regenerative permaculture model called the forest garden system which uses extensive tree planting to help to enrich the soil, protect people and crops from harsh conditions, create permanent barriers against roaming livestock, and sequester TONS of carbon out of the atmosphere.

Tree planting is an incredible tool for our partner communities and thanks to a grant from Rick Steve's Climate Smart Commitment this year we constructed a new tree nursery and agroforestry training center in our Podor region. Harsh conditions in northern Senegal make it difficult for many communities to start tree seedlings on their own. This nursery will provide trees to our partner gardens, schools, health posts, and surrounding communities and facilitate the training and logistical support needed for villages to establish their own local tree production and reforestation projects.

Thanks to a generous grant from the International Foundation we also broke ground this year at Keur Soce High School on our first-ever school garden which will incorporate an integrated aquaculture training program for students, a first for any high school in Senegal! This garden brings together vegetable production, tree planting, and now fish raising to create a dynamic living STEM laboratory where students will be able to learn practical lessons in a familiar and relatable context which will benefit them in and out of school. The garden will also support a school canteen to provide meals to students who come from faraway villages and aren't able to go home for lunch.

Access to healthcare continues to be a vital aspect of our whole-village approach and this year we got to see firsthand the life-changing and life-saving impact that it can have. Senegal has the 47th highest infant mortality rate and 35th highest maternal mortality rate in the world but with the help of smart interventions and proper infrastructure rural mothers and their babies can have drastically improved outcomes. This year in collaboration with Senegal's Health Ministry we constructed a health post in the remote pastoral community of Seno Bowal.



Harsh conditions make it difficult for communities to start tree seedlings on their own. Our two tree nurseries provide seedlings to our partner gardens, schools, health posts and surrounding communities.



Breaking ground at our first-ever school garden in Keur Soce which will be the first high school in Senegal with an aquaculture program.



Celebrating the opening of the brand new health post at Seno Bowal.



Mothers from Seno Bowal sharing with us the stories of going into labor and traveling by horse cart over sandy roads to reach the nearest hospital.

Mothers here shared harrowing stories of going into labor and traveling by horse cart over sand roads to try to reach the nearest hospital.

“Before the health post, women traveled more than 40 km to give birth and most of the time lost their newborns. For this there was a cemetery for newborns lost along the way, but with the health post which has all the amenities, this dark page in our history is and will only be a bad memory.”

— Seno Bowal Resident —

The completed post has clean running water, electricity, a trained nurse and midwife, and serves 12 surrounding villages and over 4,000 people.

Our commitment to a community doesn't end when the construction wraps up; we maintain strong ties with village leadership and conduct frequent monitoring visits to ensure that all Andando projects can stand the test of time. Everything wears out over time, and when one of our very first health posts, Thiamene Taba, alerted us that their roof had sustained damage during the previous rainy season we turned to Altrusa International of Albany to help facilitate rapid repairs so that the post could continue to serve its community. Thiamene Taba is now back in action and this year saw over 1,700 healthcare visits including 33 healthy births.

These are just a few highlights of what a truly amazing year has been. The project totals and data are no doubt incredible, but this is only the tip of the iceberg of the impacts that our partners are achieving in their communities. We are proud to walk alongside them as they build a better future for themselves and their children. Thank you for supporting communities in rural Senegal.



Young boys testing out the sink at the brand new health post in Seno Bowal.



The midwife at Thiamene Taba stands outside the health post prior to its repairs. This is one of our first health posts, constructed over 10 years ago.

AQUACULTURE & MARKET GARDENS: A PERFECT MATCH!



A pilot garden member learning to access different markers for fish growth and health.



Lamaramme Garden members eagerly participating in the first fish harvest!

Overfishing of coastal waters and the Senegal river is leading to a decline in fish populations, making fresh fish rare and expensive in rural inland villages. At the same time, soils in much of Senegal are depleted, forcing farmers to purchase costly fertilizers which further damages watersheds and fish populations. Andando's Agriculture Program drastically improves food security without using synthetic fertilizers, but our partner gardens still rely on natural amendments to ensure long term soil fertility, which aren't always available. The nutritional benefits of the gardens, while substantial, also cannot make up for the lack of healthy protein sources for many families. Aquaculture, it turns out, has the potential to help solve all of these issues!

Our garden partners started asking for help to raise fish as far back as 2017 but we weren't exactly sure how to get started. In 2020 Andando connected with Auburn University's School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences and together with their expert help and in collaboration with garden leaders we came up with a design to incorporate elevated fish basins into the irrigation systems of the gardens. The pilot project launched in 2022 with two new fish basins in each of four of Andando's partner gardens in the Keur Soce region. Healthy aquaculture production requires daily water changes, but thanks to our existing solar pump infrastructure we were able to simply add the fish basins in "upstream" so to speak of the watering basins, without increasing water use at all. Water from the fish basins is drained to water crops each day and then is replaced by the solar pump ensuring that crops benefit from added nutrients and the fish get the fresh water they need to stay healthy.

In a little over a year the project has already proved to be a phenomenal success. All four pilot gardens are now raising multiple profitable harvests of tilapia each year and have even succeeded in establishing local fish breeding so they can continue the project without any outside assistance. In addition to increasing the

availability of fresh fish locally, the gardens have also noticed increased vegetable yields and overall garden profits. In fact the gardens participating in the pilot program now generate 38% higher individual profits per member than Andando's other partner gardens in the Keur Soce area. Their success is very encouraging, and we hope to be able to offer the project to all of our women's group partners in the future so that they too can gain access to fresh fish while further improving the productivity and profitability of their gardens.

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR



- Agriculture -

5 new gardens constructed (38 total)
 3,623 women participating and trained in the program
 512,240 lbs. of organic produce harvested
 \$166,696 profit generated



- Health -

1 new health post constructed (14 total)
 11,362 healthcare visits provided
 290 babies born in quality facilities with trained staff



- Financial Independence -

300 zero-interest loans provided to farmers and entrepreneurs (2,300 total)
 100% of loans were repaid on time in full! (98% all-time repayment rate)



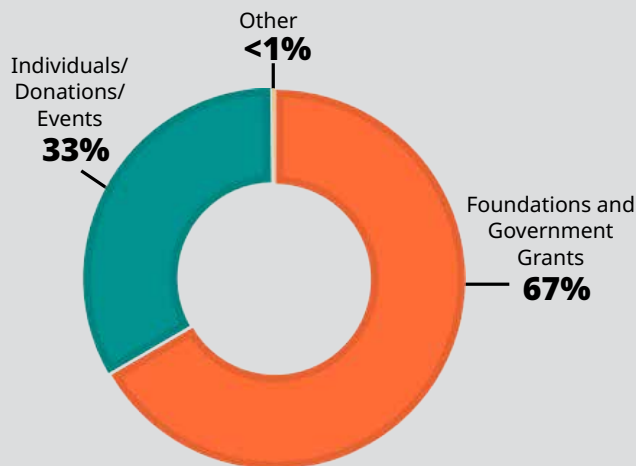
- Education -

6 new classrooms constructed (62 total)
 16 sanitary latrines constructed (41 total)
 5,930 students enrolled at partner schools (10% increase from prior year)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 2022 thru June 2023

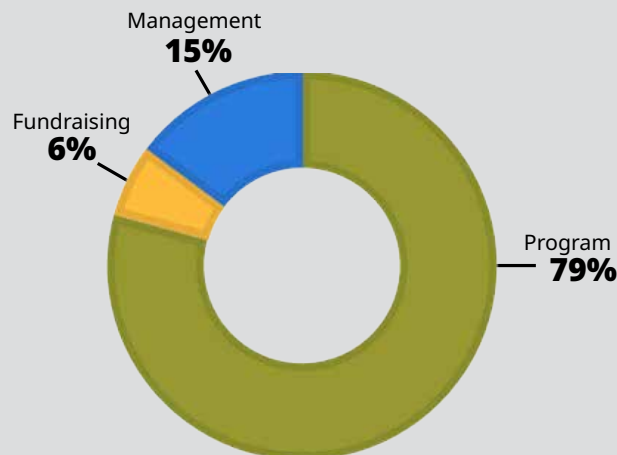
REVENUE:



Foundations and Government Grants \$464,924
 Individuals/ Donations/ Events \$231,527
 Other \$1,243

Total Revenue: \$697,694

EXPENSES:



Program \$465,309
 Fundraising \$35,407
 Management \$86,589

Total Expenses: \$587,305

Partner Organizations/ Grantors



The International Foundation



VIBRANT VILLAGE FOUNDATION



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