



## Thank you from the Director!

Visiting Senegal last month, I was able to see firsthand the impact that you all have made this past year. Despite the challenges, we made huge strides in our efforts with the establishment of new gardens, increased capacity at many schools, and broadened access to healthcare.

Last month, you heard the story of Racky (pictured above and right) and I had the chance to visit with her again. It is astonishing to see her strength and resilience, and there are hundreds more stories like hers. These folks are paving their own path toward a better future, and we are so fortunate to be a part of it.

In 2022, we plan to build on these successes with five new community gardens, more classrooms to empower young students, and building a healthier population. Your contribution makes these programs possible, and the Senegalese send along a BIG “Jerejef!” – Thank you!

-Lewis Kiker, Executive Director



Surveying a new garden site with Boubou, Senegal Country Director.



Racky (pictured on right) is President of the Lamaramé Market Garden, one of four gardens participating in our aquaculture trial project (see page two for more).



100%

Payback rate over the last two years for our microloan program



5,000+

Students reached through our 16 partner schools



500,000+

Pounds of produce grown, consumed, and sold from our 33 market gardens



50,000+

People being served by 13 health posts now in operation

## Farming Fish ... in the Desert? by Garrison Harward

During our latest trip to Senegal we added yet another exciting element to four of our gardens near Keur Soce - **Aquaculture!** In a partnership with the Auburn University, that started in 2019, we are embarking on a trial fish farming project to raise Tilapia and Clarias Catfish in the gardens. Fish are an essential part of daily life in Senegal and while dried fish are readily available throughout the country, fresh fish can sometimes be scarce in inland areas. Producing fish locally is a wonderful addition to food security and our nutrition objectives.

But where does one get baby fish in Senegal? Well, as with most things, you gotta know a guy. Fish farming isn't commonplace yet in Senegal but it does exist and there is a small network of fish producers around the country. Our coordinator from Auburn gave us a list of phone numbers and that's all we needed. Naturally none of those contacts had any fish available but believe in the magic of Senegal and our Country Director Boubou! He connected the dots from one person to the next until just a few days later, as if by magic it seemed, we were driving into town with 500 fingerlings in the back of the truck! We introduced the fish into the basins to the general amazement from everyone, ourselves included.

The significance of what this could mean for the gardens wasn't lost on anyone and both the technicians and the women in the gardens were eager and attentive as we explained the project. We left everything in their capable hands and a month later we are happy to report that the fish are doing great! This is only the beginning. We'll keep you updated as the fish grow and we see the many benefits they bring.



*Readying the basins for the fish, part of a trial aquaculture project in four of our well-established gardens.*



*Testing and maintaining an appropriate pH level will ensure a healthy living environment for the fish.*



*Releasing the fish into the basin. Fish provide food for families as well as fertilizer for garden plots.*

## Thank You - Online Live Auction a Jovial Success!



*Lewis and Crystal hosting the live fundraiser with auctioneer Paul.*

It thrilled us to see your faces at the online live auction in October! Thank you for showing up to help families in Senegal.

A huge THANK YOU! to everyone who donated (through the paddle raise, sponsorships, online and live auctions) and those who hosted or attended watch parties (see back panel)! YOU made it a resounding success and together we raised nearly \$46,000 to invest in people so they can build a future where they can truly thrive.

Save-the-date: Thursday, October 27, 2022!

# Meet Omar, Garden Technician in Podor!

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce you to another member of our team who works on the ground in Senegal every day to build resilient, thriving communities. We think they are pretty amazing and are sure you will agree.

Omar Ba is the oldest in his family, with one brother and two sisters. He grew up in Keur Guiran, a community just next to Keur Soce.

After completing high school, Omar would walk past the Andando market gardens on his way to work or running errands. He was very interested in what he saw:

***"I passed by the gardens often and was very impressed with what was happening. I wanted to be a part of it."***

- Omar Ba, Garden Technician

He visited the gardens more often and developed a relationship with the Andando staff. In 2017 he joined our team as a Garden



*By providing hands-on training, Omar supports the women working in the gardens with practical and accessible skills and knowledge.*



*Omar joined the Andando team in 2017.*

Technician and was one of the first technicians to relocate to the northern region of Podor when we launched gardens there in 2019.

***"I enjoy the challenge of learning agriculture in the new region and new context. I am very interested in passing my knowledge onto the women that are working, and when this happens, I consider it a major success."***

When he's not working you will find Omar on the futbol (soccer) field. While everyone in Senegal seems to be exceptional players Omar tells us, ***"I am definitely the best futbol player on the Andando***



***Nicknamed "Moniteur de Moto" (which translates to Motorcycle Instructor), Omar is the self-proclaimed Most Talented Moto Driver on the Andando staff.***

***staff, and I am even the most talented moto driver on the staff – you can call me 'Moniteur de Moto' - The Moto Instructor!"***

Omar just recently married his fiancée, Awa Diallo, in June. A celebration that the entire Andando staff had been looking forward to!

Your support enables Omar to help his fellow citizens. Thank you for investing in their future.

VISIT [ANDANDO.ORG](http://ANDANDO.ORG) TO SEE MORE OF OMAR AND HIS FAMILY.



*Awa and Omar celebrating on their wedding day, last June.*



*Sharing in the joy of a bountiful harvest, Omar cultivates unity in his gardens.*



**ANDANDO**

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**Thank you!** For joining our live-stream auction fundraiser!

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