



## How to Build a Health Post in the Desert

Access to health care is an essential component of our holistic approach to helping communities thrive. When health resources are inadequate or inaccessible, routine medical needs can turn deadly. This is especially true for pregnant women and their children. Senegal has the 47th highest infant mortality rate and the 35th highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Fortunately, Senegal has a robust healthcare system with qualified doctors, nurses, and midwives who can drastically improve positive health outcomes for rural communities. The problem isn't expertise or personnel, it's infrastructure, and this is where Andando comes in.

As with all of our projects, a new health post starts with a

conversation. We meet with regional Health Ministry doctors to discuss their needs, and together we identify underserved areas in need of infrastructure. Next comes the first of several visits to prospective villages. We meet with women, midwives, and village elders (pictured above) to hear their stories and learn about their needs and desires for improvements. Once a village is tentatively selected, we verify with the Health Ministry that trained personnel will be assigned to the post upon completion, and we sign agreements with the village for the use of land and water and their contribution to assist with construction.

The excitement really begins when we secure funding and can start

construction. We are currently building a new post in the community of Seno Bowal which is funded 100% by a generous donation from Hub City Church. They have sponsored many of our health posts and we cannot thank them enough for their continued support! We are still in the initial phase of building bricks and laying the foundation, but in just a few short months this post will have running water, electricity, multiple rooms for consultation, delivery and recovery, and will be a game changer for access to medical care for 12 villages with over 4,000 people. We will keep you updated as construction finishes and all the benefits to the village and surrounding areas start to come to fruition.

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*The health post at Seno Bowal will be replaced with a new structure with running water, electricity, and private rooms.*



*Two of the health care workers who will continue to serve their community in the new health post at Seno Bowal.*



*It is exciting to see the construction progress! Bricks are made on site, and soon the structure will start to rise up.*

## From the Director - On the Ground in Senegal!

Thanks to the incredible generosity that our community showed last year at our fall gala fundraiser and through our year-end giving campaign, we are able to hit the ground running in 2023! I am currently in Senegal working with the team to finalize plans for our yearly projects which will include at least four new gardens, a health post, and two new schools.

At the request of Keur Soce High School, we are also building our first ever school garden this year. The administration wanted to improve their science curriculum, and together we decided that a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focused teaching garden, with an integrated aquaculture system, would help to give students valuable skills for their educational and professional careers. Seynabou Ndao, one of our phenomenal technicians who we profiled last year, will manage the project and help teachers to develop a new garden-centered STEM curriculum. Seynabou has a degree in physics and chemistry from the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, and we are so excited to see the positive impact she will have as a resource and role model for students.

In Podor another one of our technicians Alassane Ba, who goes by Gorgui, is stepping up as our new regional Tree Program Manager. This year we are constructing a permanent tree nursery and training center in Podor in order to combat severe deforestation and desertification in the region. Our tree nursery and Gorgui's work will help to strengthen our gardens and the ecology of our partner communities against the effects of climate change.

It's a joy to be able to share not only our exciting projects for the coming year, but also how our staff is growing as they take the lead to improve our programs in Senegal. We are so proud of them! Your continued support makes this, and everything Andando does, possible. Jerejef - thank you!



-Garrison Harward, Executive Director  
Garrison@Andando.org



*Enjoying the company of some of our Keur Soce based staff. We have a great team on the ground in Senegal who are incredibly knowledgeable and fun to be around.*



*Seynabou, one of our technicians, will manage our new STEM focused teaching garden at Keur Soce High School.*



*Gorgui, a technician in Podor, is our new regional Tree Program Manager and will oversee the construction of a new permanent tree nursery and training center in Podor.*

# Meet Moussa, Garden Technician

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce you to another member of our team. We think they are pretty amazing and are sure you will agree.

Moussa Diouff (pronounced Moo-sa) joined our team in 2019. He is the second oldest in his family with three brothers and two sisters. He grew up with his family in the village of Nguédj near Thies, about 165 kilometers (100 miles) from Keur Soce.

Moussa excelled at school and attended high school in a neighboring village, which means he could stay with his family while he continued his education. He performed so well he was invited to attend University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar where he studied physics and chemistry.

With a strong science foundation, Moussa wanted to really challenge himself and transferred to another institute that specialized in agronomy, the science of soil management and crop production.



*Moussa joined the Andando team in 2019.*

**“I was ambitious to be trained in agronomy, and in the end I became a scientist. The science is almost the same. I just practice what I learned, and brought it here.”**

**- Moussa, Garden Technician**

After graduating, Moussa joined our team as an intern in 2019. He brought with him an extensive knowledge of soil health which is a perfect fit for our agriculture and market garden program. He

was first assigned to Mbaylar Market Garden and is now the technician for both the Kouthieye and Battrá Wolof gardens, helping the women there to improve their yields and soil health.

Moussa and his wife, Ndèye, have two daughters: Aminata (3 years old) and Adja (less than one year). His family compound is quite far from Andando’s headquarters in Keur Soce, and when asked if its difficult to be away from his family for work he said, “When there is a holiday or a gathering, I go so we can be together. It’s the job. I am ambitious and I wanted to have a good job.”

When he is not working Moussa manages the family’s livestock, raising sheep, and enjoys keeping active by running every morning.

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

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*Moussa with his wife, Ndèye.*



*Moussa’s oldest daughter holding her little sister.*



*Working alongside a fellow intern, Moussa in 2019.*



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## Jéréjef - Thank you!

For helping us make 2022 a banner year for Andando and our partner communities. Your support throughout the year, and at the annual auction, is making a significant impact in the lives of children and families in Senegal.