



Microloans in Action- Interview with Samba Mbaye

Each year over 100 local farmers participate in our microloan program. They use small, interest-free loans to improve their farms, increase their yields and revenue, and ultimately provide a better life for themselves and their families. We are honored to introduce you to Samba Mbaye, who shares in his own words what this program means to him, his family, and his larger community.

My name is Samba Mbaye, I have a wife and six children; three boys and three girls. I am a farmer and at the same time I act as a City Councilor in Keur Socé.

Personally, I have received microloans from Andando. I use these funds to buy fertilizer to enrich my millet and peanut fields. I have been able to fertilize four hectares



Samba working in his millet and peanut fields.

[approx. 10 acres] of fields thanks to the accompaniment and support of the Andando staff.

The funding has a big impact on me--all of Andando's actions impact me. The loans positively benefit my family, because after the harvest we preserve food (peanuts and millet) until the next winter. Andando supports us at a very important

time in the life of the farmer because at this time it is difficult to access financial assistance.

I have hope because Andando teaches us with a development method. Andando is an essential partner who invests in the community.

The support of farmers also benefits the community. After harvest farmers sell to their community so they also have something to eat, this contributes to nutrition and food security, and strengthens the local economy as well. Everyone benefits from Andando's projects because Andando supports the whole community.



Everyone helps out with the farm, here the boys are harnessing the horse to work in the fields.



Samba with his wife, Yacine, and family in their home.

MORE AT ANDANDO.ORG/NEWS

From the Director

It was only about eight years ago that we started our first two gardens in Keur Socé, Senegal. What began as a bit of an experiment for us, spurred on by the ambitious women's cooperatives as to what their potential might be, launched a program that has changed the lives of thousands of people across Senegal.

We knew this had potential, seeing so many people with the skills and knowledge but without access to year-round water and other primary inputs. But we are continually blown away by what this has become – a massive boost to both tangible income and unquantifiable gains in women's health, students' ability to learn and grow, and renewed hope for the future for all those involved.

By the end of this year, we will have 33 gardens in operation with around 3,000 active participants. It is hard to capture just what this has done for these communities, with literally hundreds of thousands of dollars produced and circulated in local economies. One incredible milestone is that we recently reached over 500,000 pounds of produce grown in our gardens in the last couple years alone.

This equates to a stronger, more resilient community, with dynamic economic activity, and a healthier population able to thrive where they are. We are proud of what we have built through your continued efforts, and we hope you can take joy in knowing the difference you have made. There are so many more communities we can reach, and we look forward to many more years of success.



Lewis Kiker, Executive Director



A bountiful and varied harvest of eggplant, melons, turnips, peppers, and greens provide nutritious food to hundreds of families.



Watch Parties allowed friends and family to gather together in small groups while still participating in the larger event.

Host an Auction Watch Party - Oct 28th

You can help us create a sense of community AND increase your impact by hosting a Watch Party for our live-streaming auction.

“Watch Parties are a meaningful way to come together as a community and focus on a shared mission, it’s fun and joyful!”

- Cindy, Party Host 2020 & 2021

A party can be just your household, or can include friends and family.

Register your party with us by October 15th and we'll provide a complimentary Party Box to help make things festive.

MORE INFORMATION AT ANDANDO.ORG/EVENTS

Meet Garrison, Agriculture Officer!

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

Garrison Harward is our most recent addition and joined the Andando team this summer as our Agriculture Officer. He grew up in the small town of Ojai, California and caught the gardening bug early from his Mom and Grandpa. When he wasn't digging in the dirt Garrison spent most of his time in marching band, choir, and theater groups. The thrill of performing led him to California State University Chico where he studied theater and met his wife Hannah; they just celebrated 13 years together.

From 2010-12 Garrison served as an agriculture volunteer with the Peace Corps in the rural community of Dassilame Serere (approx. 40 miles SW of Keur Socé)



Garrison joined the Andando team in 2021.

in Senegal. It was during this time that Andando first met Garrison, funding a water and sanitation project for his community. On a recent visit, Garrison was thrilled to see it is still functioning and benefitting the community.

"The Serer people are an ethnic minority in Senegal and getting to learn about their history and culture along with their incredible language is one of the greatest gifts I took away from my service."

After returning home to the United States, Garrison and

Hannah moved to New York City where they still live in the community of Crown Heights Brooklyn. Garrison is also a Head Production Electrician working in Fashion lighting and has worked for almost every major brand in the industry along with countless theater productions including the initial run of Hamilton.

One of Garrisons' proudest accomplishments is founding a free community farm on his block in Brooklyn, growing free, nutrient dense, organic food for the community. He is passionate about helping farmers (both on his block and in Senegal) to sustainably improve the land while increasing production and the nutritional benefit of the food.

In his spare time you can usually find Garrison playing Petangue (similar to bocce ball) or snuggling his dog, Gabby.

VISIT [ANDANDO.ORG/TEAM](https://www.andando.org/team) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GARRISON



Garrison holding a band trophy with his parents.



In the village of Dassilame Serer, Garrison made many life-long friends during his service with the Peace Corp.



Hannah and Garrison at their wedding.



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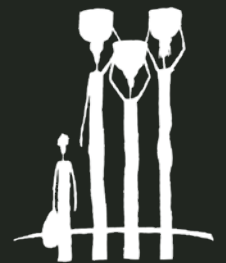
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OCT
21-28



Auction
Fundraiser
& Watch Party

Andando.org/events