



ANDANDO

April 2017

Walking Together Toward a Brighter Future



Meeting with the Kouthieye Garden Cooperative

In the past few months, our teams in Senegal have been working diligently on several phases of our projects in the Keur Soce area. Much of this work has been focused on the five new market gardens we are establishing this year.

As with our other gardens, they will each be managed by a women’s cooperative with established leadership structures, along with the assistance of our garden technicians, on a daily basis. Utilizing local labor and contractors, locally available materials, and using appropriate technology, these systems will be up and running by July of this year and the women will be able to start production immediately.

On a recent trip to Senegal, we met extensively with each cooperative to discuss leadership and ownership over the project. By agreeing to terms in a Memorandum of Understanding, we outline accountability structures, community contribu-

tions, and savings plans that ensure that the project will be sustainable. Throughout the process, our team meets with the women as well as local leadership to keep everyone on the same page. We are excited by the response we have already seen in these communities and their participation in the process. As with our other gardens, close to 100 women will work the land at each garden on a daily basis, providing vital nutrition and much needed income for themselves and their families.

We are also expanding our school-building program and construction is underway at Kouthieye & Keur Pate Malick Primary Schools, where we are building new classrooms for these severely underserved schools. We have partnered with the communities and active school administrations to give these schools enough classrooms to comfortably accommodate all the students. We



One of the FOUR sets of twins recently born at the newly constructed Sama Toucouleur Health Post

anticipate an increase in enrollment next year as local parents see the school as a more viable option than the previous set up. We will also do book distributions, latrine construction, and other improvements.

Finally, we continue to monitor and evaluate our other programs and follow up on specific needs. We just learned that the newly built health post in Sama Toucouleur has recently seen the birth of FOUR sets of twins! This would never have been possible with their previous facility and we are excited by the hope and good news coming from past projects.

Later this year, we will be constructing two more rural health posts to serve people just like this. With your help, we are able to accomplish more and more each year. We are encouraged by this growth and we have even more ambitious plans for the future!



Lead Contractor Abdoulaye Kane surveying the work

Affirming Dignity Through Self-Sufficiency

The programs built by you create real change in communities, just ask those who are impacted! This is Dieynaba Ba, a mother and a pillar in the community. She has worked at Andando's Ngor Marone Market Garden for nearly three years. She has benefitted from a boost in her income, and her family has seen a huge rise in their nutritional options at home. Last week, we sat down with her to hear her thoughts on the program.

"I have learned many things in the garden of Andando, namely: solidarity, entrepreneurship, transparency, and management of affairs when working in a group. I also learned many farming techniques through our garden technician Mandaw Ba, who is always at our disposal. Since I have learned these techniques firsthand, I could work by applying these techniques by myself and be independent.

"I would say that without Andando, I could not know all this. Andando made me self-sufficient economically and socially. It has really improved and strengthened my dignity because in the past, I was wandering all the time to extend my hand to people to feed my children and grandchildren. However, this has now become just a memory.

"Andando has taught me to work to eat, to give to the poor, and to make savings to prepare the future. Thanks to Andando, I now manage to contribute a minimum of 100f or 200f (about 25 cents) to help my children

at school. Before the arrival of Andando, it was difficult for me. With Andando, women have become autonomous, hunger is being defeated. Further, the garden is my place of activity and convergence with others.

"Because of our success, we are now thinking about plans for the future of the garden. We want to expand the irrigation system with more basins to improve our yields. We also want to have small-scale fish-farming in the basins if we can accomplish it.

"With Andando, I have the confidence to devote my working time to the garden and my family life. We are dedicated because we see the dedication that Andando has to us and the ways they have invested in us. We are now thinking to ensure the sustainability of our activities so that this treasure is in our hands. Andando has been such a blessing to us and this community, and I hope they can widen their help to other communities."



These programs are making a real impact in Senegal and we are excited about the direction we are headed together. But to do even more, we need your help! *Please consider making a donation to Andando today.* We rely on the generosity of our supporters to keep these vital initiatives going. Andando is a certified 501(c)(3) organization which means every dollar you give to The Andando Foundation is completely tax-deductible!

To partner with us in walking together with the people of Senegal, go to www.andando.org/donate.

Thank you!