



**CREATE!**

Center for Renewable Energy  
& Appropriate Technology  
for the Environment



# Our Work

Many Sub-Saharan African countries are experiencing the increasingly devastating effects of global climate change, which particularly impact the lives of the rural poor. *CREATE!* addresses this challenge by working to identify and meet the needs of rural populations in four primary sectors: water, community gardens, renewable energy, and income generation. Our programs place a strong emphasis on building robust community partnerships, providing training and support that enables communities to become self-sufficient. Our model is highly participatory, requiring commitment, collaboration, and leadership on the part of our partner communities.



# Our Mission

*CREATE!*'s mission is to help rural populations in the developing world cope with water, food, and fuel shortages resulting from the impact of climate change on their communities.

# Our Approach



## Water

- Well rehabilitations
- Solar-powered pumping systems
- Gravity-fed irrigation systems

## Income Generation

- Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations
- Poultry Cooperatives
- Sale of garden surplus in local markets

## Renewable Energy

- Free, fuel-efficient improved cookstoves
- Tree planting campaigns
- Solar-powered well pumps

## Community Gardens

- Training in year-round, sustainable agriculture
- Community garden cooperatives run by women

# Our Partner Villages



*CREATE!* works with partner villages across rural Senegal, with country headquarters in Gossas. Field technicians work with partner communities over a period of about five years, training them to organize in their communities, and eventually run their programs independently.

### Program Graduation

*CREATE!*'s ultimate goal is for communities to "graduate" after five years and be able to run their sustainable projects independently and for perpetuity. *CREATE!* technicians continue to work with these communities after they have graduated, and engage in a regular process of monitoring and assistance.



# Our Global Family



"Many people do not know that trees are our life-givers. From trees, we get oxygen and we meet many of our needs. It is our duty to plant trees for the future of our children."

- Ndeye Diop, 25, Walo

It is nearing the end of the rainy season in Senegal, and Ndeye is out harvesting her watermelon crops. The big, sweet, juicy fruit, along with the rich harvest of vegetables coming from the community garden will be more than enough to feed her family of 8 in the coming months, with plenty of surplus to sell on the market. "Since we started working with *CREATE!* we no longer need to buy expensive vegetables from the market, because we have a big garden where we can grow all the vegetables we need for selling and for our family's consumption," she says. "In Walo, men and women participate in *CREATE!* programs together, and there has been such a positive change in our living conditions."

"With the help of *CREATE!* technicians, I'm able to raise chickens at home because I have the knowledge I need to do so."

- Teningue Faye, 21, Gagnick Mack

Unlike many women in rural Senegal, Teningue does not live in a large multi-generational family compound, but instead in a small house with her husband and three children. Her husband grows millet, peanuts, beans, and corn during the rainy season but does not have work the rest of the year. Although Teningue manages all of her housework alone, she still finds time to work in the village's cooperative garden. "I decided to participate in *CREATE!*'s programs because I felt that training from *CREATE!* was the only way for me to change my life," says Teningue. "*CREATE!* gave me an occupation. I can grow a variety of fresh vegetables and raise chickens to feed my children now."



# Improved Cookstoves

**Clay, sand, dry grass, and water**

These are the four ingredients women use to build improved cookstoves -- all completely free and locally available across rural Senegal.

## Empowering women

*CREATE!* technicians teach women how to build these stoves and how to train others. These cookstoves enable women to prepare meals using their usual methods and cookware in a way that is safer and more efficient than traditional open fires.

## Saving time, money, and energy

Improved cookstoves reduce firewood consumption by 60-70%. This helps reduce deforestation and the need to buy or collect firewood.



# Well Rehabilitations

## A Local, Human-Powered Solution

*CREATE!* technicians use a human-powered winch system to clear out mud and debris at the bottom of an abandoned well, allowing clean water to flow freely again.

## Harnessing the desert sun

Technicians and community volunteers install a solar-powered pump once the well is cleaned out. A gravity-fed irrigation system allows women to water their crops year-round.

# Our Projects

# VSLAs

## Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations

Women run these savings groups in the community to provide a way for participants to gain basic financial literacy skills as well as to manage their profits from poultry and vegetable sales.

### A grassroots approach to microfinance

Funds come from the community, and stay within the community.



## Community Gardens

### Sustainable Agriculture

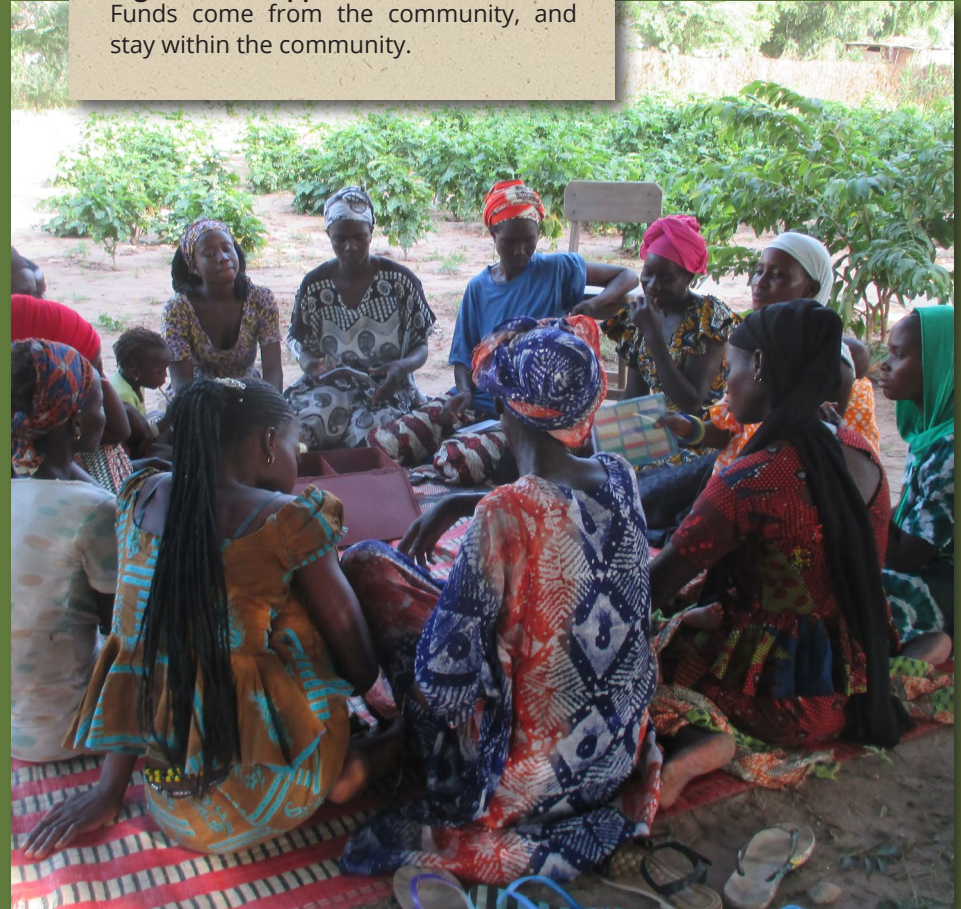
Training is provided to partner villages so community members can grow crops year-round, even in the dry season.

### Cooperative Management

Women lead garden cooperatives and work to ensure that the garden is run properly, resources are fairly allocated, and participants put in a fair amount of work.

### Health and Food Security

Participants report a 100% increase in fruit and vegetable consumption, with the addition of freshly harvested produce to their daily diets.



# Our Impact



**60,000**  
pounds of vegetables  
harvested

**50,000**  
Trees planted

**6,500**  
People Gained Access to  
Clean, Affordable Water

**5,000**  
Improved Cookstoves Built in  
Partner Communities

**956**  
Garden cooperative  
members

**506**  
VSLA Participants

*From the 2016 Annual Report*

# Our Team

*CREATE!*'s staff and field technicians manage our programs in Senegal. All are young Senegalese professionals, educated and trained at local universities and technical programs. They relate to community members, respond to their specific needs, and engage them in the search for solutions to poverty at the village level.

Our Senegal team brings expertise in:

- Business management
- Accounting
- Computer science
- Horticulture
- Agriculture
- Farm management
- English

We are committed to employing people from the country and communities where we work, recognizing the great strength in local knowledge, education, and motivation.



**"With *CREATE!*, I have learned that you can fight back against poverty and food insecurity. My goal is to fight poverty by helping others and to create employment opportunities for young people."**

**- Codou Gadji, Agricultural Technician**





# CREATE!

## Join the Conversation

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