



CREATE!

Center for Renewable Energy
& Appropriate Technology
for the Environment

Sustainable Impact Report 2018



Michael Carson's First Impressions in the field



CREATE!'s Country Director, Omar Ndiaye Seck (right), shows Michael Carson (left) the different sustainable community development projects in each village.

CREATE!'s new Executive Director, Michael Carson, recently traveled to Senegal to meet the team and visit *CREATE!'s* partner communities. Michael reflects on his first impressions of *CREATE!'s* programs and returning to a country he formerly called home:

"I previously lived and worked in Senegal with philanthropic organizations from 1998-2003 and again in 2017. On January 22, 2019 I embarked on my third and most exciting chapter in Senegal as *CREATE!'s* Executive Director. **The first words that crossed my mind when I visited *CREATE!'s* partner villages were perseverance, ingenuity, and commitment.** I was genuinely inspired by our field technicians who dedicate their effort to empowering rural communities through sustainable projects such as well rehabilitation, year-round community gardens, and village level savings and credit groups. The women in our partner communities are committed to building self-sufficient futures as they devote time and labor to their agriculture and income

generating activities while caring for their families, frequently working under extreme temperatures that exceed 105F with very little rainfall.

Appropriate technology is a vital part of *CREATE!'s* identity, and I was especially impressed with the simplicity and ingenuity of our solar-powered water wells. Our renewable technology, which does not require diesel fuel or direct current electricity, saves communities thousands of dollars in fuel expenses. *CREATE!'s* solar-powered wells provide an annual water source for household use and community garden irrigation. These gardens are providing a year-round source of nutritious vegetables for women and their families!

Our vision for the next few years is to measure the nutritional, health and economic impact of our agriculture and income generation activities within our partner villages. We hope to expand our program throughout rural Senegal as well as into other West African villages, and to partner more effectively with donor agencies and NGOs working in Senegal and neighboring countries. Personally, it is exciting and a great honor to embark on my third Senegal chapter with our *CREATE!* board, staff, and supporters. I look forward to many more exciting visits to Senegal and interaction with our partners."

Partnership Spotlight: This year, we are featuring SpawGlass!

SpawGlass is one of *CREATE!'s* first funders and has continued to support our work in Senegal ever since. SpawGlass specifically promotes our literacy initiative program: teaching women basic financial skills so that they can form Voluntary Savings & Lending Associations (VSLAs). Women across rural Senegal in our partner communities benefit from this program through saving their income, taking out small loans, and earning credit in the village, thus developing a system to lift themselves out of poverty and create community self-sufficiency for generations to come.

Thank you, *jerejef*, *merci* SpawGlass!



2018 Sustainability Highlights



Thienaba Graduates to Community Self-Sufficiency

We are proud to announce that the village of Thienaba graduated from *CREATE!*'s sustainable self-development program in early 2018. Over the last five years, community members have worked hard to develop and utilize new skills learned from *CREATE!*'s technicians. As a result, Thienaba has been thriving independently since their graduation!

New Villages Take Their First Steps Towards Sustainability

In 2018, we partnered with two new communities: Diabel and Yougouré. These two villages are located in the Fatick-Kaolack Region and are no strangers to a harsh, dry desert climate. At the end of 2018, both communities gained access to clean water thanks to *CREATE!*'s technicians. Now, community members are working diligently to develop sustainable cooperative gardens with techniques taught by *CREATE!*'s field technicians.



May 2017

One of the most gratifying aspects of our work in Senegal is watching the literal transformation of our partner communities.



June 2018

Mboss Creates an Oasis in the Desert

When Mboss first partnered with *CREATE!*, the hectare of land that they selected for the garden cooperative site was barren and dry. One year later, thanks to their highly motivated cooperative president and community members, the village of Mboss has transformed their plot of land into a lush oasis using sustainable and natural small-scale agricultural practices taught by *CREATE!*'s technicians. With year-round access to fresh vegetables, Mboss has improved community food security and health.

2018 Sustainable Impacts



"This water has given me good health because it is light, sweet and clean. I get 40 liters a day for myself and my family. I also use the well water for watering the site and my small plant that I got from CREATE!'s tree-planting campaign."

- Souadou Sow, Mboss



Clean Water

60,000- 70,000
gallons of water
pumped per village
every day on an
average.

26
gallons of clean
water collected
every day for
household use.

2,138
more people
gained access to
clean, abundant
fresh water from
rehabilitated wells.

CREATE! ensures the availability of water in each of our partner communities with rehabilitated wells, solar-powered pumps, and gravity fed irrigation systems. In 2018, Diabel and Yougouré, two new CREATE! communities, gained access to clean water by rehabilitating their existing wells. Together with our other partner communities, they are now able to sustainably produce nutritious vegetables year long.



"We have learned all the techniques in vegetable cultivation. Now we eat more vegetables and have become healthier. Each beneficiary has the possibility to grow her own vegetables for feeding her children and selling the excess in the market."

- Khady Ndiaye, Fass Koffe



Community Gardens

907
men and women
participate
in garden
cooperatives.

97%
of women in
our partner
communities
achieved Minimum
Dietary Diversity
(MDD-W).

40,000+
pounds of
fresh fruits
and vegetables
produced.

CREATE!'s partner communities receive training in sustainable agricultural techniques and learn to grow vegetables, fruits, and nuts year-round as part of our cooperative community garden sector. With more than 70% of available garden space being cultivated in 2018, they are producing at least seven different varieties of fruits and vegetables, thus improving nutritional diversity. This year, we also started evaluating data on the percentage of women in our communities who have achieved MDD-W, a verifiable indicator that measures such nutritional diversity.

2018 Sustainable Impacts



Renewable Energy



22,000+
tree seedlings
planted
throughout
CREATE! partner
communities.

600+
households
use improved
cookstoves.

5
hours of time
saved per
woman every
day through
the use of
improved
cookstoves.

CREATE! addresses energy problems in Senegal through the use of sustainably-designed and technologically appropriate improved cookstoves as well as solar powered water pumping systems. **CREATE!**'s improved cookstoves reduced firewood consumption by 80% in our partner communities in 2018. Combined with the reforestation campaign, whose goal is to increase the number of trees providing shade, food and firewood to the communities, **CREATE!**'s renewable energy projects aim to positively affect the environment.

"With the old fire, I spent many hours in the kitchen because I had to look after the pot. Now with the cookstove, I can put the pot on the fire and do other things outside. We no longer need to cut trees because we need few pieces for cooking. "

- Soda Top, Ouarkhokh



Income Generation



3,000+
chickens
raised and
sold in partner
communities.

100%
VSLA member
continuation
rate.

557
men and
women
participate in
VSLA groups.

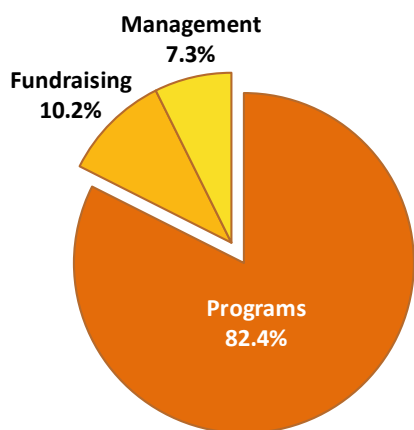
CREATE!'s income generation programs integrate a number of activities to help rural women gain basic financial literacy skills and use these skills to manage their profits from poultry raising and agricultural production programs. In 2018, three new **CREATE!** communities, Back Samba Dior, Keur Daouda and Mboss, started their Voluntary Savings & Lending Associations (VSLAs). Beneficiaries in active communities are now saving more than CFA 10,000 on average.

"Since we have the VSLA in the village, many things have changed because we save money, make loans, and do business. With the VSLA, women don't have a problem satisfying their needs because they have the possibility to make loans."

- Fatou Sene, Gagnick Mack

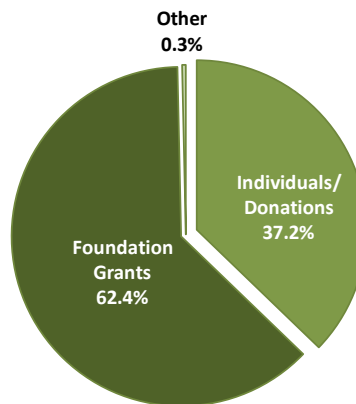
2018 Financial Summary

82.4% of *CREATE!*'s budget directly supports our programs in rural Senegal.



Expenses

Programs	\$376,889
Fundraising	\$46,798
Management	\$33,564
Total	\$457,251



Revenue

Individuals/Donations	\$150,118
Foundation Grants	\$251,967
Other	\$1,407
Total	\$403,492



Cultivating a Sustainable Oasis

Ndeye Fary Thiam is a mother of five, a household provider, and a dedicated garden cooperative member. Thanks to the hard work of Fary and other community members, the village of Ouarkhokh has become a thriving, sustainable oasis in the desert of rural Senegal. Fary recalls that before her village had a community garden, only her husband worked to support the family. Now, she tells us, **“My occupation is in the site because I am able to gain something for supporting my family.”**

With the new knowledge and skills that Fary learned from *CREATE!*'s technicians, she is able to support her family independently. Every day, Fary brings home fresh vegetables to cook for her children from the community garden. “My family’s diet has become richer,” she tells us. “We eat fresh vegetables and have become healthier because there are no chemical products in it.” Fary and other women can provide a healthy diet for their families and generate income at the same time. “Before, we used to spend a lot of money on buying produce,” She explains. “But now we have our own garden site, and we have easy access to fresh vegetables.”

Turning a desert into an oasis isn’t just about making a village physically greener in an otherwise barren land, it’s about creating community self-sustainability. This is what Fary and the village of Ouarkhokh is working towards and we couldn’t be more proud of their enthusiasm and determination!

Thank You 2018 *CREATE!* Donors



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Thomason Bread & Soup Company

Thank you, Jerejef, Merci from Our Country Director

Dear friends of *CREATE!*,



I would like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude for your contributions to the success of our organization.

CREATE!'s approach focuses on the well-being of our partner communities. Our staff is composed of compassionate individuals who have a great love for the people they work with as well as the work that they do. In turn, we are able to build strong and trusting relationships with our partner communities. This is a key part of *CREATE!*'s success.

Our goal is to mitigate the imbalance between urban and rural areas using sustainable and appropriate technologies to meet the basic needs of our partner communities. We aim to promote a "real green revolution" through our programs resulting in increased food security, better quality of life, stimulation of the rural economy, and environmental preservation through renewable energy.

This year, we partnered with two new communities bringing our total partnerships to 15. Our programs are designed to encourage self-sufficiency through training and skill-development. By encouraging self-development at the village level, the opportunities generated through our programs have helped minimize rural emigration.

In the future, we would like to spread our programs across rural Senegal given the great need for sustainable intervention both on an environmental and humanitarian level. We are counting on your contribution to help us do so.

Best wishes,



Omar Ndiaye Seck
CREATE! Country Director



Seck and solar technician Abib Niang work together to wash the solar panels and make sure the technology is working properly for the community of Wéréyane.

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