



CREATE!

2024 Spring Newsletter

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Collective Action: Empowering Women, Empowering Communities

How CREATE! is building capacity, leadership, and solidarity

What is capacity building?

Capacity building is the cornerstone of empowerment. It enables individuals, groups, and communities to increase their agency and decrease their vulnerability to structural inequities. It includes skill development, knowledge acquisition, organizational strengthening, and resource mobilization. Capacity building, however, is not just about developing technical skills, but also involves fostering conducive environments for learning, collaboration, and innovation.

How does CREATE! approach capacity building and leadership?

Within CREATE! communities, women have always been pivotal in decision-making and group management. Recognizing the importance of nurturing women's leadership and the need for additional support, our team in Senegal has launched a capacity-building program (PRCPGA) for group presidents and their assistants as part of their sustainable development efforts.

In a recent workshop held in Santhie, presidents and assistants from CREATE!'s four communities in Linguère convened to partake in capacity-building trainings. Drawing participants from both graduated (Santhie, Wereyane, Ouarkhokh) and new communities (Ngaraff), the workshop provided a valuable space for women leaders to share diverse experiences and insights about the unique stages of partnership. Through collaboration, the program aims to enhance leadership management and participants' understanding of sustainable development issues to foster collective success.



CREATE! technicians are diligently monitoring and evaluating program progress to pinpoint strengths and areas of improvement among women and their communities. The success of this initiative in Linguère will serve as a blueprint for similar workshops in CREATE!'s other partnership regions, Kaolack and Fatick. Empowered by peer support and comprehensive training, women leaders within CREATE! communities are poised to fulfill their roles more effectively, fostering solidarity and bolstering resilience and empowerment within partner communities.

Donate today to support our women-centered capacity building program. Your contribution will empower these women leaders to work together and champion positive change.

The Impact of Capacity Building: Insights from Codou Gadji



Codou Gadji, CREATE!'s agricultural technician in Linguère, was one of the team members who spearheaded the capacity building training for women leaders. In an interview with Fatou Sow, CREATE!'s Communications Assistant, she described the impact of the innovative program:

"This initiative motivates women to keep working to improve their living conditions and can also facilitate their empowerment after graduation. During the training, the women were able to learn management, leadership, and communication techniques to better manage their group. With advice on financial and group management, sustainable agriculture, and poultry raising techniques, these women were able to share their experiences and difficulties. After hearing from participants, I am convinced that this training will enable them to better manage their groups, while adopting best practices for the smooth running of activities and reinforcing solidarity between women."

Codou exemplifies the unwavering dedication of our extraordinary technicians, who tirelessly champion sustainable development and empowerment within the communities CREATE! serves. Their commitment to uplifting others echoes through every initiative, inspiring hope and transformation.

From Farm to Faucet: Transformative Initiatives in Ngaraff

In the sun-scorched landscape of Linguère, Senegal, lies one of CREATE!'s newest partner communities: Ngaraff – a village confronting the harsh realities of water scarcity. Despite strides made by CREATE! in improving water access through well-rehabilitation, the dry season still tests the resilience of the community's cooperative gardens. Amidst these challenges, however, a tale of empowerment is unfolding in Ngaraff, marking a significant stride in community-led initiatives.

With the guidance of CREATE! technicians, the women from Ngaraff took the lead in establishing a centralized water connection line. This line will serve as a backup water resource, used only when wells run dry during the summer months and will safeguard the harvests and hard work of community members.

Since the program's launch in 2023, Ngaraff's first successful harvest and sale of okra, watermelon, turnips, and lettuce laid the groundwork for this initiative. Building on this success, CREATE! facilitated discussions with the women to highlight the benefits of further investing in additional sustainable water solutions. After careful planning and community engagement, a women's group was formed to oversee the management of funds from this season's harvest to cover water expenses. This self-managed approach not only fosters community ownership but also instills a sense of accountability within the community.

"With water connection from borehole to the site, we can continue to watering our vegetables whenever the solar pumping system is not working properly. This initiative will help us to perpetuate our activities and contribute to our community development. We are sure that this approach will help guarantee a better future for our community and for future generations." - Awa Dabo, Ngaraff's group president.

Mbossedji's Path to Self-Sustainability: Celebrating a Milestone



The community of Mbossedji successfully graduated from CREATE!'s four-year sustainable development program with partnership and support from Rotary, spearheaded by the Bellevue Rotary Club in Washington, USA, and the Rotary Club Dakar Millénium in Senegal. Despite facing various challenges, including the impact of a global pandemic, reaching this milestone was a significant accomplishment. During a small graduation ceremony held on January 11, 2024 to celebrate this achievement, community women rejoiced in receiving their completion diplomas from CREATE! staff. Expressing gratitude to all involved, they showed enthusiasm for the journey towards a self-reliant future.

CREATE!'s 21st Partner Community Starts its Transformative Journey



Located in the Kaolack region of Senegal, Keur Birame is CREATE!'s newest partner community started with the generous support from the Bellevue Rotary Club and Rotary International. With a population of 491 individuals engaged in subsistence farming and cash crop cultivation during the brief rainy season, Keur Birame eagerly anticipates enhanced livelihoods through this recently initiated partnership.

CREATE! rehabilitated the community's old water well, built the platform for the water reservoir, installed the solar pump and panels, and laid the building blocks for the irrigation system.



To celebrate International Women's Day, the community marked the official launch of their organic cooperative garden with the planting of a variety of vegetable seeds.

While Keur Birame sets its sights on graduating from the program in four years like Mbossedji, right now the women are brimming with excitement as they embark on this promising venture.

***Please donate to support CREATE!
partner communities' journeys toward
sustainability and self-sufficiency.
Together we can support women's
futures in rural Senegal.***

CREATE!'s Achievements

We were nominated for the prestigious Earthshot Prize again!

Two years in a row, CREATE! has been nominated for its dedication to environmental innovation and community empowerment. With a mission rooted in sustainable development, CREATE! inspires hope and drives real progress toward a future of regeneration and abundance for our planet. Through initiatives that empower local leaders, promote sustainable practices, and drive positive change, CREATE! embodies the urgency and optimism required to accelerate environmental solutions on a global scale.

On-the-Ground Success

This last quarter, CREATE! has made incredible strides in sustainable community development. Over the last three months:

- Our solar-powered pumps delivered **over 960,000 liters of fresh, clean water.**
- Partner communities produced an impressive **5800 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.**
- Women harvested more than **7000 bunches of leafy greens.**
- Each participant **earned and saved nearly \$5 on average per month.**
- We started our **21st partner community, Keur Birame.**



The sustainability, leadership, and self-sufficiency embodied by our partner communities is made possible by donors like you. Your continued support will enable us to reach more communities, focus on women's leadership, and create a brighter future for generations to come.



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