



2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Letter from the Co-Executive Directors

Friends and supporters of CREATE!,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you our 2023 Annual Impact Report and take this occasion to express our gratitude for your contributions to the tremendous success of our NGO. Your unwavering support is the backbone of our efforts and initiatives. Encouragement from donors like you help us pursue our mission to make a real difference in the lives of our beneficiaries and the environment they live in. Every donation you make takes us one step further.

With an aim to erase the imbalance between town and countryside, to respond to the fundamental human needs of the people we serve in a culturally respectful manner that leads our partners towards eventual sovereignty and sustainability, all by using techniques and technologies that are appropriate for rural areas and their conditions, is our most important objective. We count our ability to reach this goal as our greatest success.

Our work thus creates sustainable development villages in rural Senegal. In 2023, we set up a new partnership in the department of Linguère, and, in view of the positive impact of our projects, requests for such partnerships have become more and more numerous. Today we operate in 20 communities, putting in place an ecological environment and reducing rural exodus significantly. Our objective is to cover the entire country.

This year, CREATE! has also made tremendous strides in empowering female entrepreneurs within our partner communities. These women are not only expanding activities within their village space through effective management, but have also formed working groups to provide each other with knowledge and support. Our hope is that these groups will help spread our climate positive work to more rural communities in need and live up to our nomination for the 2024 Earthshot Prize in the "Fix our Climate" category.

Our approach is essentially humanitarian and our personnel are composed of humanitarians with big hearts and a big love for the communities we serve. This is incredibly important for us, and we are very proud to be able to carry it out on behalf of CREATE! **We are truly grateful for your generosity and ongoing support and hope that you will continue to be our partner through future endeavors.**

Omar Ndiaye Seck and Paulomi Bhattacharyya
Co-Executive Directors, CREATE!

Amadou Diouf, Field Coordinator, on Challenges and Resilience



Sustainable vegetable gardening, poultry raising, tree planting, Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA), all using renewable energies and appropriate technologies, are the main activities of CREATE! in rural Senegal. The challenge of obtaining clean water, which is key to our activities, is always present. We overcome all these obstacles every year to achieve our goals.

In 2023, we implemented our 20th site (Ngaraff) and initiated a capacity-building training course in the Linguère department together with the start-up of our 21st site (Keur Birame).

As usual, there have been many ups and downs. On the upside, we overcame some rather difficult trials and challenges, namely natural phenomena like heat waves, pest attacks, etc.; as well as technical and logistical problems like breakdowns of our solar pumps as well as our trucks and motorcycles. As far as the bottom line is concerned, let's admit, the main requirement of the hour is to obtain financing to promote the realization of other sites in other communities in need.

2023 Program Highlights

A new community partnership with Ngaraff



“The Ngaraff women’s group used to cultivate vegetables, but due to a lack of means, the project fell through. Today, with the help of the technician we have learned new agricultural techniques and new management strategies. Currently we frequently consume healthy and natural vegetables and we no longer need to leave the village to go to the market. The selling of vegetables has considerably improved the financial situation of the group. We are keen to receive the other components of the program.”

Awa Dabo, President



2023 saw the beginning of the 20th community partnership for CREATE!, with the village of Ngaraff. This community, with a population of 700 is our fourth partnership in the Linguere region. 60 women and 2 men from Ngaraff has joined the CREATE! cooperative garden program and after their village well was rehabilitated, they embarked on the path of sustainable agriculture. The community now has access to water not just for agriculture, but also for domestic consumption. Thanks to this new water resource, the group could resume their agricultural activity that was paused for years due to the high cost of water from borehole. With the support of the CREATE! team, the incredibly motivated women from Ngaraff were able to transform the site from a bare terrain to a lush and green garden. The production of a large variety of vegetables and fruits allowed them to respond to the growing demand of the village. The women produced enough vegetables to meet their needs and to sell the excess in local markets which contributed to improved food security for all the community members while improving their economic situation.

Building Capacity and Leadership in Linguère

As part of its sustainable development efforts, the CREATE! team implemented a capacity building and leadership training for the presidents and their assistants in the Linguere region partner communities. This training came from a need to support female leaders in their decision-making roles and management of their groups. Capacity building focuses on the development and reinforcement of skills that organizations and

communities need to survive, adapt, and grow in an evolving world. The training took place in Santhie with the presidents of the four sites in Linguère (Santhie, Wereyane, Ouarkhokh, Ngaraff) and their assistants. The objective of this training is to improve the management and capacity of these groups. This program reinforces their leadership abilities by allowing them to better understand challenges and approaches to sustainable development. After this training, we hope they will be better-equipped to make strong decisions and fulfill their roles well in their groups.



“I’ve assisted at the workshop for capacity building for the presidents of different groups at Linguère and for their assistants. This initiative gives motivation to women to continue to remain active and can also facilitate their empowerment after graduation. During this workshop, the beneficiaries learned techniques for management, leadership and communication in order to better lead their groups. I am convinced that this training will allow them to better manage their groups while adopting good practices for carrying out activities well and for reinforcing the solidarity between them.”

Codou Gadji, Technician



2023 Program Highlights, continued

Building a Rainwater Harvest System in Mbossedji



This year, CREATE! established a rainwater harvest system in the community of Mbossedji. This system consists of the installation of a reservoir to collect rainwater that falls on the roofs of buildings with the help of various connecting pipes. This water can then be used for different procedures including watering of the site, and contributes equally to sustainable water management. By using a water collection system, the beneficiaries can collect and store rainwater during the rainy season to use during dry periods.



“Cloudy periods weaken the strength of the pump during the rainy season. To prevent a lack of water, the NGO CREATE! deemed it necessary to put a rainwater harvest system in place, given that the availability of water is essential for the proper function of garden activities.”

Ndèye Diop, President



Our Communications Team: The Fatous

In 2023, CREATE! went through an organizational transition, including our communications. We have two very capable communications personnel within our Senegal team responsible for monitoring and documenting our work on the ground through surveys, interviews, videos and photographs. Recognizing the significance of women’s empowerment in our mission, we knew it was time to empower our team as well by shifting power to their hands.

Meet **Ndeye Fatou Thiam Diagne** and **Ndeye Fatou Sow Ba**, CREATE!’s Communication Coordinator and Communication Associates. These two women are in charge of amplifying Senegalese voices across our organization’s newsletters, reports, and social media posts. Both have embraced their expanded roles with enthusiasm. When asked what this change means for them, this is what they had to share:



Ndeye Fatou Sow: “As a communication assistant, I’ve always been passionate about creating compelling and effective visual content. Before, my role was limited to taking photos of field activities, carrying out surveys and administrative tasks linked to communication. Recently, with the support of CREATE! we had the opportunity to attend training courses on Canva and InDesign, which enriched our professional skills. I’m excited to apply these new skills in my current role and contribute to the success of CREATE! through our visual communication strategy.”

Ndeye Fatou Thiam: “Thanks to CREATE! I have more responsibilities as a communication coordinator. Now Fatou sow and I are working on social media, newsletters, and annual reports via Canva and InDesign. These tasks are new for us because they were done by the US team but now we gain more experiences with CREATE!.”



2023 Sectoral Impact



CLEAN WATER

In Senegal, the dry season lasts for over nine months in a year and average annual rainfall is anywhere between 12-16 inches. To ensure that the rural population who partner with CREATE! can have access to clean water year-round, we rehabilitate existing wells and install solar powered pumping systems. These, coupled with gravity fed and drip irrigation systems, help communities produce nutritious food, improving their lives and livelihoods. In 2023, CREATE! partnered with two new communities, Ngaraaf and Keur Biram, improving their access to perennial water. 21 communities now have the water they need to produce sustainable food year round.

Impact in Numbers:

20,000-28,000

Liters of water pumped per village every day on average.

2000-3000

Liters of clean water collected every day per village for domestic use.

1100+

more people gained access to clean, abundant water from rehabilitated wells



“The easy access to fresh water is very profitable for our village, because after the rehabilitation of the well and the installation of the solar pumping system, we can easily grow vegetables with the technician’s help.”

Amy Ndiaye, Wereyane



2023 Sectoral Impact

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Women in CREATE!'s partner communities receive training in sustainable agricultural techniques to cultivate vegetables, fruits, and nuts year-round in their community gardens. Using water from wells and manual tools to minimize soil disturbance and maximize moisture retention, they emphasize environmentally friendly practices. Instead of chemical fertilizers, they use community-generated livestock compost, and recycled mosquito nets are utilized as a substitute for pesticides. Cooperative members learn to grow a variety of vegetables they enjoy eating, consistently producing enough to feed their families and sell the surplus in local markets, thus supplementing their income. This crop diversity leads to improved nutritional outcomes for the entire community, particularly benefiting women in their reproductive years. The community of Ngaraaf started harvesting from their cooperative garden in June 2023 and harvested nearly 1400 pounds of vegetables every month on an average.



“We used to buy vegetable in the market and it was expensive. We took profite of the weekly market for buying vegetable but we couldn't conserve it many days at home. Since we produce vegetable in the garden we have the possibility to consume it every day and it has improved our diet.”

Mbathio Sarr, Ndiagne Kahone

Impact in Numbers:

900+

men and women participating in community gardens

28000+

pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables produced per month.

92%

of women from our partner communities have achieved minimum dietary diversity (MDD-W)

2023 Sectoral Impact

RENEWABLE ENERGY

A key aspect of CREATE!'s renewable energy initiatives is the introduction of improved cookstoves. CREATE! technicians teach community members to construct these cookstoves using local materials such as clay, sand, dry grass, and water. These stoves are designed to provide safer and more efficient cooking methods compared to traditional open fires, reducing firewood reliance by 60-70%. In 2023, CREATE! technicians conducted 20 training sessions on cookstove construction. Alongside cookstove training, CREATE! emphasizes reforestation. In 2023, CREATE! communities planted 30,000 new trees and cared for approximately 200,000 previously planted trees, sequestering over 500 tons of carbon. Additionally, CREATE! promotes the use of solar pumps instead of diesel-fueled ones, and in 2023, installed one solar pumping system in Ngaraaf.

Impact in Numbers:

600+

well-maintained improved stoves in all communities +6 hours per day

30,000

30,000 tree saplings planted throughout CREATE! partner communities

500+

tons of Carbon saved through reforestation efforts



“

Before, we used traditional cookstoves which were very polluting and dangerous for our health. These improved stoves allow us to cook more efficiently by reducing wood consumption and smoke emissions.

Awa Mbaye, Santhie

”

2023 Sectoral Impact



INCOME GENERATION

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 income from poultry and agricultural production programs as well as any other income generation activities. By having more control over their finances, the women feel empowered to make decisions, both in their family and in their cooperatives, helping sustain the program. 19 CREATE! partner communities are now raising poultry and have learned how to save their generated income through their Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs).



After receiving training on VSLAs, we acquired skills in financial management. We save money safely and the loans obtained allow us to finance small businesses in order to meet our needs.

Soda Lo, Mbossedji



Impact in Numbers:

650+

number of women participating in VSLAs

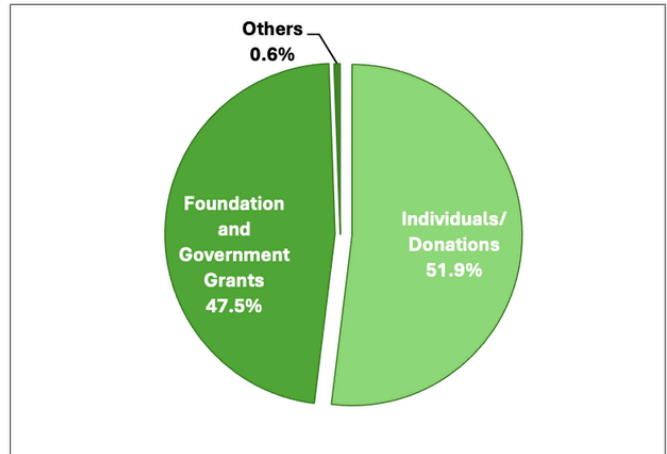
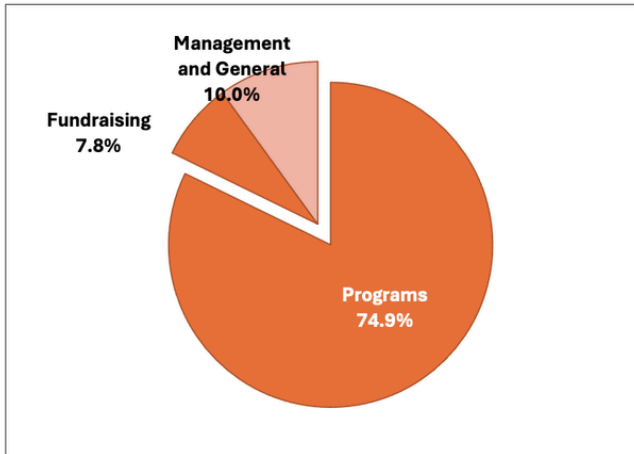
\$23

average savings per beneficiary

1200+

chickens raised and sold in communities every month on average

2023 Financial Summary



Expenses

Programs	\$277,070
Fundraising	\$26,132
Management and General	\$33,758
Total	\$336,960

Revenues

Individuals/Donations	\$191,153
Foundation and Government Grants	\$174,663
Others	\$2,152
Total	\$367,968

Partnership Spotlight:

This Year, we are featuring The Africa Donor Circle of SVCF!

The Africa Donor Circle of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation first supported CREATE! in 2018, enabling us to collaborate with the community of Diabel in rural Senegal. With an emphasis on renewable energy and clean water, two of CREATE!'s four main focus areas, this partnership between the Donor Circle and CREATE! was a perfect fit from the beginning. In 2023, CREATE! was fortunate to partner with the Donor Circle once again. Their support this time enabled us to initiate our clean water program in the community of Ngaraaf. The incredible generosity of all the members of the Donor Circle and their belief in our programs have not only given the women of Ngaraaf access to clean water using solar energy, but has also resulted in improving their food security and economic situation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Africa Donor Circle of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for their trust in our work.

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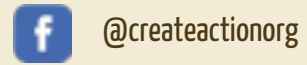
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We would like to thank all of our board members who bring a smile to every team member - it always lifts our morale, especially when we need it most.