



## Forests for a Future

We have begun an ambitious and vital new Forest Garden project! Our initial goal is to reforest 50 acres in the Keur Soce region, with more in years to come. Trees not only provide a sustainable food source but also help with deforestation and soil erosion.

Last August, in a partnership with Trees for the Future, several of our Garden Technicians attended a tree planting and forest garden planning workshop. Our lead technicians expanded their knowledge and participated in practical, hands-on training to learn how to incorporate forest gardens into our existing vegetable gardens.



*At a workshop led by Trees for the Future, our Lead Garden Technician, Mandaw, shares a sample garden plan incorporating trees. Trees serve as both a live fencing as*



*Andando staff planting over 1,800 seedlings.*

Recently we met with the local Department of Water & Forests and toured their tree nursery facility, gaining valuable insight into the specific needs in the region we work in most. By collaborating we gain buy-in from local leadership as well as the ability to pool our resources to maximize our impact.

This summer we constructed a tree nursery at our training facility in Keur Soce that will serve as the home base for the tree planting project. Our staff of Garden Technicians and Interns will propagate 50,000 seedlings that will be cared for at this nursery until they are strong enough to be replanted in community gardens, schools, and health posts.

In the meantime, members of Andando's garden cooperatives

are participating in workshops where they are learning how to properly transplant and care for the seedlings once they are ready to be moved to their new homes. These women will serve as leaders and educators in their communities by demonstrating the benefits of Forest Gardens and their successful implementation. This new project requires the addition of a Tree Technician to our staff in Senegal, who will serve as an invaluable resource for the individuals working with us and the communities benefiting from the Forest Gardens.

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*Garden members learning how to transplant and care for young trees.*

## From the Director

I am writing this from Senegal, where I am fortunate enough to spend a few weeks working with our partners, visiting projects, speaking with participants, and developing new programs. These activities take a good deal of time, but they are all a huge part of our success.

We at Andando value taking the time to listen to community members to identify the real needs before developing sustainable programs that operate within existing structures. Rather than going in and reinventing the wheel, we equip and encourage people to better utilize their existing strengths and potential.

With our community gardens, for example, the women already have some of the knowledge, land to grow on, and a cooperative structure – they just need increased access to water to irrigate their crops. Once we work with them to provide this, they thrive.

I recently met with the Deputy Governor of the Keur Soce region, who told me, “Andando is our best partner in these areas. Sometimes, other NGOs don’t respect the wishes or methods of the community, and the lagging results show it. But with Andando, we are 100% satisfied.”



*Meeting with members of the Paymar Community Garden - a potential site for 2020 development.*

Through the use of this asset-based model of community development, those in our programs are active participants instead of just recipients of outside aid. Promoting the agency of those we work with results in much more self-sustaining programs which we believe will maintain these communities on the path to a better future.

“Jéréjéf!” – Thank You!

Lewis Kiker, Executive Director

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## Auction Preview

Do you want to be part of the change? Join us for an unforgettable evening where you can make a lasting impact in Senegal.

Our annual dinner and silent auction is right around the corner - on Thursday, October 24th. Tickets are just \$30 and include dinner and drinks. NEW this year, a fun and exciting Dessert Dash!

GET TICKETS WHILE THEY LAST AT  
[ANDANDO.ORG/EVENTS](http://ANDANDO.ORG/EVENTS)



*Auction Item: Senegalese Baskets*



*Auction Item: Senegalese Djembes*



*Auction Item: Senegalese Nativity Set*

# Back to School!

Senegalese students will be returning to their classes soon; for those in Daga Sambu and Fas Toucouleur, this will mean new classrooms and latrines! Over the summer a block of three new classrooms were constructed in Fas Toucouleur, doubling the current capacity of the school.

Last year 125 students at this school were meeting in temporary classrooms constructed of thatch and millet reeds. This year they will be able to attend class indoors.

Outside of the classrooms, two new latrines were constructed, which will improve sanitation conditions and decrease absences due to illness. School administrators tell us that they anticipate an increase in enrollment, attendance, and test scores because of these upgrades.

Two new cook stoves have been installed for the nutritional programs at other Andando partner schools. With the promise of a full

belly, young learners are encouraged to attend school and can focus on their studies.

We are excited to see community involvement increase. On a recent visit to the school in Fas Toucouleur, we met with several volunteers, teachers, parents, and administrators. They are collaborating to make their own improvements by constructing teacher housing adjacent to the school yard. They told us of their increased pride in the school and their hope for a stronger future.

Thank you for empowering individuals and communities to make sustainable, long-term investments in future generations. Your continued contributions make this possible!

Of course, we are not done yet. We continually receive requests from community leaders and school officials to partner with them. Each community is filled with gifted, young students who



*Excited students outside the nearly completed classrooms in Fas Toucouleur.*

are eager to contribute to a brighter future for their families and neighbors. We need your help to make this a reality.

Will you join us by becoming a monthly donor? A donation of \$5 can provide one student with all the school supplies they need for the upcoming year. There are over 3,000 students in our current partner schools and we hope to add 500 or more in the coming year.

**LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER AT [ANDANDO.ORG/TAKE-ACTION](http://ANDANDO.ORG/TAKE-ACTION)**



*This summer, students visited the National Assembly as well as several other culturally significant sites.*



*Volunteers use cook stoves like these to prepare breakfast for students each day.*



*Community volunteers building walls for teacher housing adjacent to the school.*



ANDANDO

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Get your tickets!

# Dinner & Silent Auction

5th Annual

OCT  
24

Join us for an  
unforgettable evening  
making long-term  
change in Senegal.

Tickets and Information

[Andando.org/events](https://andando.org/events)