



## Planting Seeds for the Future

Together with the help from members of the community, we have nearly realized our reforestation goal. Last year we started an ambitious goal of 50,000 trees that will be used as live fencing, shade trees, and for food production. Over 40,000 trees have been planted so far!

Initially the seeds are planted in plastic sleeves that allow for proper watering and then they are grown under the cover of the greenhouse constructed on-site at our headquarters in Keur Soce. The greenhouse is covered with a special screen that protects the young plants from the scorching sun as well as from birds that would eat the seedlings before they could get established. With the coming of the rainy season we have been able to start some trees directly in the ground, rather than



*Over 40,000 trees have been started as part of our reforestation project.*

having to start them as seeds, then later transplant them.

Recently, we celebrated Senegal's Arbor Day with the blessing of the Mayor of Keur Soce and the Deputy Mayor who joined us in the

ceremonial planting of two trees. In the environmental field trees symbolically are sources of vitality and sustainable development. The Mayor thanked Andando for our development actions within his community, especially the honor that he is granted through the planting of trees and watering them because "together these two elements are the source of life."

We are grateful to have the support and collaboration with local authorities which enables our sustainable work. Your support allows our team in Senegal to continue to nurture these relationships and invest in the future of the communities we serve.

**READ MORE ON PAGE TWO "FROM OUR FOUNDERS" AND ON PAGE THREE "MEET CAMARA," TO SEE HOW YOUR DONATIONS MAKE AN IMPACT.**



*Many of the women from the community gardens have helped with seed planting.*



*The Mayor of Keur Soce joined us for a ceremonial tree planting in honor of Senegal's Arbor Day.*



*Young seedlings are grown inside our greenhouse, protecting them from pests and harsh growing conditions.*

## Meeting the President of Senegal

Senegal has opened its borders for travel once again! One of our founders, Fiona, was able to make our first country visit since the start of the pandemic. (International travel is currently permitted so long as the traveler produced a negative Covid-19 test.)

As soon as the regional lock down on travel was lifted, our team sprung into action. Three of four new gardens have been completed since June, one more is halfway done, two classroom projects and a health post have been started, all while maintaining the ongoing work. Fiona says, **“Our staff are superstars!”**

In addition to spending some quality time with our team, Fiona also toured some new sites for future development in both the Podor and Keur Soce regions. Both regions were lush and green from the recent rains. Some parts of Senegal have received as much as 8 inches of rain overnight which resulted in some localized flooding. Fortunately, our areas were not significantly impacted and communities have used sandbags to protect gardens and other areas from flooding.

The most unexpected thing that happened during the trip was a surprise visit from the President of Senegal, Macky Sall. The Mayor of Keur Soce was informed that the President would be stopping by Keur Soce on his way to see a government-financed rice project just outside of town. Mayor Malick Ndiegane said he could choose four people to meet the President and two should be from Andando! Boubou Sy (Andando Country Director) and Fiona represented Andando. President Sall asked about what we did, how often we were in Senegal, how long we had been there, etc. He spoke with us for quite some time and we were able to congratulate him on his government’s steps toward development. It was a huge honor to meet the President, a very successful trip.



*Visiting the school in Agnam (in the Podor region), a potential site for future development.*



*We had the honor of meeting President Macky Sall in his recent visit to a government-financed rice project near our base in Keur Soce. One of our founders, Fiona, and our Country Director, Boubou, were invited to the meeting to represent Andando.*



*Visiting with the midwives and medical staff of the health post in Biddy.*



*Inside an elementary school classroom under construction in Donaye Taréj.*



*Fiona and some of our staff demonstrating the variety of trees we are growing as part of our reforestation project.*

# Meet Camara, Andando's Keur Soce Project Manager!

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce to you to another member of our team who works on the ground in Senegal every day to build resilient, thriving communities. We think they are pretty amazing and are sure you will agree.

Mamadou Camara, who also goes by Camara (pronounced Ka-mara), started with Andando in 2016. Though Camara was born and raised in Kaolack (a larger town 13 miles from our offices in Keur Soce) most of his extended family is in Guena, Mali. He is the middle child with eight siblings.

After high school, Camara attended Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis (northern region of Senegal) where he studied Business. Earning a professional license in Project Management he went on to manage a real estate agency. Prior to joining Andando, Camara organized a community development project using microfinance (much like our microloan program). This



*Camara joined the Andando team in 2016.*

included providing trainings in financial education, life skills, and entrepreneurship. With this broad and extensive expertise, Camara was the perfect choice to fill the role of our Project Manager in Keur Soce where he oversees all of our projects including our nutritional program in schools and working with health post workers. He works with Mandaw (Lead Garden Technician) to keep the microloan and community garden programs running smoothly. He is also responsible for collaborating with the village chiefs, mayors and the sub-prefect. Cultivating and maintaining strong relationships with these leaders is vital because

we need the permission and blessing of local authorities in order to initiate our programs in their communities.

Camara and his wife, Mariama Keita, have two children: a five-year-old daughter, Fanta; and their son, Omar, who just turned two years old earlier this month. Family is incredible important to Camara, *"Africa has sociologically its own definition of the family. Each person comes from a family, and we are committed to helping our families, to meet their needs at all levels because in Africa it is beautiful to work, however everything will be returned to the benefit of the family."*

When he's not working you will find Camara enjoying sports or listening to music. He especially likes Salif Keita, a musician from Mali. Your support enables Camara to help his fellow citizens. Thank you for investing in their future.

VISIT [ANDANDO.ORG](http://ANDANDO.ORG) TO SEE MORE OF CAMARA AND HIS FAMILY.



*Cultivating and maintaining strong relationships with local leadership ensures our programs have the local support needed to be successful.*



*Part of Camara's responsibilities include overseeing the education and nutrition programs, which have increased students' test scores.*



*Camara with his wife, Mariama, and their two children, Omar and Fanta.*



ANDANDO

PO Box 542

Jefferson, OR 97352



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Details at:

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