



“Before I could not have a big farm. Now I can!”

Mamadou Senghor is a father, grandfather, and farmer in Fas Toucouleur. His village is 3 miles from the main road and historically has limited access to electricity and running water. As the eldest son, he is responsible for the care of everyone in his household. (In Senegal it is common for multiple generations to live together on a family-owned piece of land.)

A long-time farmer, Mamadou struggled, as many in this area do, to get the supplies needed at the start of the planting season. Because of this he could not use his fields to their full potential, which limited the amount of food he could grow for his family and the amount of income he could gain from the sale of cash crops,

such as peanuts.

“Before I could not have a big farm. But since Andando helped me, I have increased my farm. Before I had maybe 1 hectare (2 ½ acres), and now I have 6 hectares (approx 15 acres). I have something to give to my family to eat and something to sell. We solve our economic problems and pay back the loan.”

Having a robust and diverse farm gives Mamadou security for his family. He uses the extra income to replace the huts on their property (comprised of clay walls, thatched roofs, and dirt floors) with more durable buildings. Raised off the ground with concrete floor and walls, and topped with a metal roof, his



Mamadou Senghor with his wife and some of the multiple generations that live in their home.

family no longer suffers during the rainy season.

“I thank the supporters of Andando and pray for them... because we know how much you help us, and how you have lifted us up. “

HEAR MORE FROM MAMADOU AT
ANDANDO.ORG/NEWS



Mamadou shows the remaining clay hut; all the rest have been replaced with concrete structures with metal roofs.



Khady, Mamadou's wife, proudly standing outside her new kitchen.



In one of Mamadou's fields, he grows corn, millet, and peanuts.

From the Director

We are so encouraged by the community's response to Keur Soce High School and look forward to another year of investment in this program. Over the past year and a half, we have completed six full classrooms, brought in desks and other equipment, and seen the building fill up with new teachers and eager students.

The school has gone from non-existent in 2020 to an enrollment of nearly 400 students, with many more coming in the next year as we continue to expand the school. There has long been a large demand for this increased access to education, and we are excited to be partnering to make it happen.

This has the potential to be an absolute game-changer not only for students in the Keur Soce area, but also for families moving forward who will see their children go on to bigger and better things with this huge step up in opportunity. The school will continue to grow and will be more and more supported by the State, and we really look forward to seeing the generational change this institution will make.

“Jéréjèf!” – Thank You!



Lewis Kiker, Executive Director



Madame Marone and her students in one of the new classrooms at Keur Soce High School. She teaches Geography and French to the freshman and sophomore classes.



During a break between classes, students wave from the second story of Keur Soce High School where six classrooms are completed and fully furnished.



Fatimata and her younger sister on the grounds of the new high school. Fatimata is an incoming freshman and an example to her younger siblings.

Advancing Education = a Better Future

When we first started construction on the Keur Soce High School we spoke with incoming freshman, Fatimata, about what this means for her:

“When I heard that they were building classes here, specifically for high school, I was so happy. I didn't want to leave my village [to attend school], I wanted to stay here, I wanted to learn here and succeed here. I love science subjects... I would like to be in a health center like a doctor. I want to help people, to cure people.”

- Fatimata Ba, Freshman Keur Soce High School

MORE FROM FATIMATA AND EDUCATORS AT ANDANDO.ORG/VIDEOS

Meet Francois, Garden Technician

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.

Francois Manga, who goes by Fara, joined the Andando team in 2015 as one of our Garden Technicians. He was born in Thies, a large community 184 kilometers (approx. 112 miles) northwest of Keur Socé. He comes from a big family, and enjoyed an advanced education. He studied in Ziguinchor, which is in the southern part of Senegal (below The Gambia), often referred to as the Casamance Region.

Before joining us he had extensive experience in gardens, working in the Mbour Garden, the Beersheba Cooperative, and finally as an intern in the Keur Moussa Monastery Garden. We first met



Francois joined the Andando team in 2015.

Francois when we bought mango, lemon, and guava trees from Keur Moussa Garden for inclusion in our own gardens. Once he completed his internship there, he joined the Andando team.

A quick learner, Francois started with one garden and is now managing three. He works directly with nearly 350 women, training them and giving them support so their gardens can flourish. When asked, he says his favorite produce is beetroot!

“When you give, you have to give wholeheartedly. When you work, you have to give everything to succeed.

I enjoy learning how to manage the gardens and handle problems as they arise. I have enjoyed working for Andando very much and am very proud to be part of the team.”

An avid futbol (soccer) fan, you will find him cheering on the Senegal Lyons (who recently won the Africa Cup of Nations tournament for the very first time) as well as Manchester United.

He was a member of the local Boy Scouts and loves to play with and teach his nieces and nephews; he cares deeply for his family.

Your support enables Francois to help his fellow citizens. Thank you for investing in their future!

VISIT ANDANDO.ORG/TEAM TO SEE MORE OF FRANCOIS AND HIS FAMILY



In addition to providing training in the gardens, Francois also assists with local farmers participating in the microloan program.



Keeping up with his nieces and nephews, Francois is lively and energetic.



Francois with his Boy Scout Troop (he is fourth from the right, back row.)



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