



## Fueling Future Leaders - Interview with Mbaye Ndiaye

Students in rural Senegal faced even more food insecurity this year due to Covid, but thanks to a special grant from Altrusa International, Altrusa Albany, and additional support by Vibrant Village, over 1,500 students could count on getting a free, nutritious breakfast at school so they could focus on their studies.

We sat down with school PTA leader, Mbaye Ndiaye, to get his take on how the nutritional program impacts students in his community.

*“Following a fire which destroyed the temporary straw classrooms, Andando built us new brick and mortar classrooms. Andando*

*has supported the school system adding a nutritional program.*

*During the resumption of classes, Andando brought breakfast to all the students until the day of their final exams, including the teachers and examiners – and everyone was well taken care of.*

**What Andando has done is enormous!**

*Before when we did not have the schools, gardens, and health posts, we lived in difficulty, poverty, and precariousness. Students had to travel far to neighboring villages to attend school. As soon as Andando built classrooms, our children were*



Students enjoying their breakfast outside of their classroom with Andando Project Manager, Camara (pictured in green shirt and green mask).

*excited to stay in our village and complete their schooling. Andando made this possible.”*

-Mbaye Ndiaye, PTA leader and father

MORE AT [ANDANDO.ORG/NEWS](http://ANDANDO.ORG/NEWS)

## We Need Your Help - Now Accepting Auction Donations

Do you have a special skill or item/product? Help fund life-changing programs in Senegal by donating an auction item for our fall fundraiser.

Items that do well are memorable or one-of-a-kind such as hand-made items, experiences, services, vacations (or stay-cations), etc.

Need some ideas? These items

have done well in the past:

- Baked Goods or Flowers Delivered Monthly
- Massages
- Instructional DIY (Brew Your Own Beer, Paint Party, etc.)
- Services such as lawn care, cleaning, painting, etc.
- Sports events or performances

CONTACT [CRYSTAL@ANDANDO.ORG](mailto:CRYSTAL@ANDANDO.ORG) OR VISIT [ANDANDO.ORG/EVENTS](http://ANDANDO.ORG/EVENTS)



**Brew Your Own Beer with Founder Kevin** has been a popular auction item for many years. What special skill or item/product can you share?

## From the Director

Early last month, we distributed nearly 100 microloans to farmers in the Keur Socé area. Our microloan program is one of the earliest programs we initiated in Senegal. Over ten years old (!) it has grown to be one of our more successful – and popular programs! – having reached well over 1,500 people!

This year’s recipients will take advantage of early pricing for crop inputs ahead of the rainy season. At just over \$100 each, these interest-free loans help farmers in a big way to avoid exploitative lending practices that can eat up most of their profit at the end of the harvest season. The farmers keep more of what they grow in their own pocket, and build toward a better future.

“The funding had a big impact on me and my family. After the harvest we manage to preserve food (peanuts and millet) until the next winter. Andando supports us at a very important time in the life of the farmer because at this time it is difficult to access financial assistance.”

-Samba Mbaye – farmer and past microloan recipient in Keur Socé

With a 100% payback rate over the last several years, loans are recirculated in the community again and again, keeping the money and the growth local. This program embodies our philosophy of helping people help themselves, and meeting them where they are. We are proud of our team for safely and efficiently coordinating this program along with local authorities. Now we hope for rain and wish the farmers a happy and healthy growing season!



Lewis Kiker, Executive Director



*Some of the farmers who received microloans at our June distribution.*



*A farmer with his son seeding their peanut field in anticipation of the rainy season.*

---

## It's "Canning" Season in Senegal

When the gardens produce more food than families can eat and sell, the women quickly set to preserving the excess so it will be available later. Recently in the Mboyo Garden there was an overabundance of turnips and the women’s collective made sure nothing went to waste.

“We can use everything. We are not losing, even if we have an overproduction. We know how to keep the produce so we can use it in the future.”

- Racky Naine, Mboyo Garden

Preserving excess produce extends its shelf-life as well as makes a new product the women can sell in their local communities.

READ MORE FROM RACKY AND OTHERS AT [ANDANDO.ORG/NEWS](http://ANDANDO.ORG/NEWS)



*Filling jars with prepared turnips. Preserving excess produce extends its shelf-life and adds additional income opportunities for garden participants.*

# Meet Abdou, Garden Technician!

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce 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.

Abdou Salam Ba joined the Andando team in 2018 as one of our Garden Technicians. He lives in Fas Toucouleur with his wife, Diawo, along with their eight children and 12 grandchildren.

Growing up, Abdou learned all about farming the way most children in the region do - from his parents. From a young age he developed a real knack and a deep appreciation for agriculture, animal husbandry, and household governance. After completing his schooling he went on to work with the Department of Water and Forestry. Through the years, Abdou continued his training with a variety of other agricultural organizations, including the



*Abdou joined the Andando team in 2018.*

Peace Corps. He developed and maintains an impressive orchard on his own family plot and continues to work with Peace Corps Volunteers in the area.

When his own children got old enough, he started passing down his knowledge to them, including his son, Mandaw (who joined our team in 2012 and manages all the area garden technicians, including Abdou).

*“Administratively, I am under the responsibility of my son but he always comes to me when he encounters difficulties and I*

*always continue to strengthen his capacities.*

*When a person feels comfortable in their job, they will have the love and passion to work at any time of the day. We must have a love of work because only work can allow the individual to meet his needs and raise his status to the highest point.”*

In his free time Abdou enjoys watching documentaries and listening to music, particularly from Mali and Guinea. He is also passionate about environmental issues and enjoys helping his neighbors and others in the area improve their soil for cultivation. He is known to make house calls when someone is experiencing particularly challenging instances of pests or other problems.

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

VISIT [ANDANDO.ORG/TEAM](https://www.andando.org/team) TO SEE MORE OF ABDOU AND HIS FAMILY



*A successful arborist, Abdou propagated his own orchard trees decades ago, as shown in this picture of him filling planting sheaths at his family plot.*



*Transplanting young trees in his orchard, Abdou developed and maintains an impressive and productive family garden.*



*Abdou shares his expertise and advanced knowledge of agriculture with the other garden technicians. He is an invaluable source of knowledge in local practices.*



ANDANDO

PO Box 542

Jefferson, OR 97352

*Return Service Requested*



Save-the-Date

OCT  
28

Dinner  
Auction  
Fundraiser

Andando.org