



## Celebrating Andando's 40th Garden!

The village of Wouro Kelle in Podor is located in the vast flood plain of the Senegal river, known locally as the Walo. With rich soils and abundant water this land is ideal for rice cultivation, but unfortunately the same yearly floods that the village relies on for farming also causes it to be isolated for much of the year. A little more than 700 people live here with the closest market town being about 10 miles away. Though the people of Wouro Kelle work hard to provide for their families, circumstances are stacked against them and there is simply not enough access to fresh fruits and vegetables to provide adequate nutrition, especially for young children.

Gardening is not new to the village, but it is seasonal. As flood waters recede the heavy clay soil holds enough water to grow a single crop of sweet potatoes and pumpkins on the banks of the river before the hot season arrives and dries out the land. Without access to irrigation or fences to keep out free-range livestock it's nearly impossible to continue gardening activities year-round. This is where Andando comes in. After months of meetings, planning, and construction Wouro Kelle is now joining Andando as our 40th women's garden! Garden President Fatimata Sekk had this to say to our generous donors:

**"We thank the lord we thank everyone who helped to create this condition. Where you**

**come from is far, if you were not determined you would not reach here. We have wanted to have a garden for a long, long time... Now we are so determined to have it succeed. Everyone let's stand up and let's work... We pray for our garden to be among the best in this area. We are so happy, there is no limit for our happiness."**

We are so happy as well to be partnering with such a deserving community and look forward to seeing the transformations that their work will bring to their families and community in the coming years.

*Lead photo caption: Women from the village gather under the shade of the single tree in plot to dance and celebrate the start of the garden.*



*This barren plot will soon be a lush permaculture garden providing a permanent source of nutrition and income for the whole village.*



*With the fence, basins, and solar pump system complete the women of Wouro Kelle are ready to start their first ever dry season gardening campaign.*



*Garden President Fatimata Sekk verifies that all infrastructure is completed and functioning properly. This garden draws water from the river, which turns brown with silt after it rains.*

## From the Director

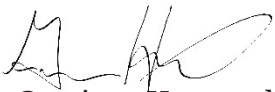
40 gardens, 14 health posts, 65 classrooms, 45 latrines, and over 2,000 microloans to date. These numbers are impressive but what is the real limit of what we can do together? How many more people can we reach? How can we grow without losing the personal touch and care that has made Andando so uniquely successful? What is next for Andando? These are questions that I ask myself constantly and with the completion of our 40th garden this feels like an important moment to step back, take stock, and share our vision for the future.

It is nothing short of miraculous what Andando has been able to achieve over the past 15 years, but there is still so much more work to do. We've been in the incubator together, so to speak, building a community of supporters and developing our methods and partnerships. What we do works, and we have a moral imperative now to reach as many communities in need as we can.

To this end we are investing in our local staff, who have always been key to our success, building their capacity and giving them the tools and training to tackle larger projects in the future. We are working with regional government leaders to assess our current impacts and develop long-term plans to address the remaining needs in Keur Soce and Podor. And we are looking for Andando's next region, or regions, to expand into, where our unique and dedicated approach can impact even more remote and neglected communities.

We are poised and ready to expand and **there has never been a better, or a more needed time to support Andando**. Whether through the auction, monthly contributions, volunteering, or spreading the word, your support is not just another drop in the bucket, it directly impacts what we do every day and how big our vision for the future can be.

“Jéréjéf!” – Thank You!



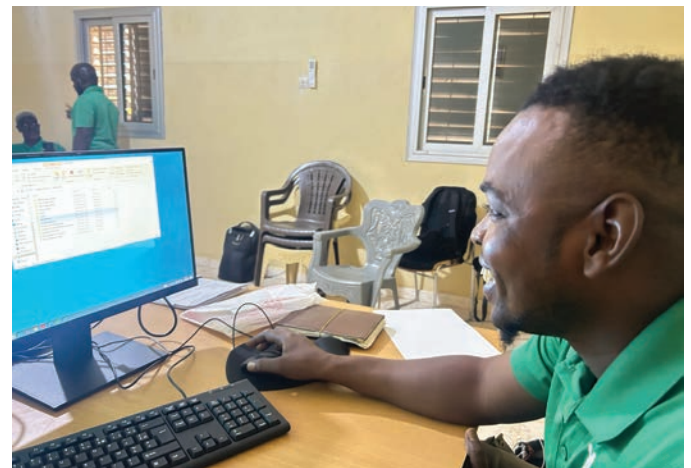
-Garrison Harward, Executive Director  
Garrison@Andando.org



*Some of the amazing Podor team standing in front of our newly completed tree nursery, which will drastically increase the rate at which we can build new gardens.*



*A potential new partner school in the neighboring commune of Ndiédieng, next to Keur Soce.*



*Podor Tree Program Manager Alassane Ba (Gorgui), taking our new office computer for a test drive.*

# Meet Maguette, Garden Technician

Continuing in our series, we would like to introduce you to another member of our team. We think they are pretty amazing and are sure you will agree.

Maguette Marone joined our team in 2018. She is the second youngest in her family with five older sisters, one older brother, and one younger brother. She grew up in Keur Soce and remembers when Andando first started working in the area.

**“We can say that Andando was founded in front of me.”**

Maguette’s early education career was in one of Andando’s first partner schools. She has fond memories playing *renga boulu*\* with her friends on the school grounds. Maguette would often help her mother, Dibi, in her shop after school. Dibi was one of the first entrepreneurs to build a business using an Andando microloan!



*Maguette joined the Andando team in 2018.*

After completing school Maguette joined our team in Keur Soce as a Garden Technician. With a passion for health and also watching her mother build a successful business she brings a unique perspective and talent to the team:

**“My role is to guide women and show them how they can earn without using a lot of money.”**

In July of 2020 Maguette married Ibrahim and they live in Keur

Soce. When she is not working Maguette enjoys watching movies and has a passion for health and wellness.

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

**MORE AT [ANDANDO.ORG/TEAM](https://www.andando.org/team)**

*\*Renga Boulu is a childhood game where one person sits in a circle with their eyes closed while their friends sit in a circle around them. One person taps the middle person’s head and they have to guess who it was that touched them.*



*Using her life experience, Maguette helps women develop their own agriculture and entrepreneurial skills for success.*



*Maguette clearing brush at the Andando training center garden area in Keur Soce.*



*A vital member of our team, Maguette brings a unique perspective and talent to both the Podor team (pictured here) and the Keur Soce team.*



*Celebrating her marriage, Maguette (second from right) with two of her sisters and her little brother at her wedding in July 2020.*



**ANDANDO**

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*Yaakaar!*  
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