



ANDANDO

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Breaking Ground Toward a Healthier Future

We have broken ground on the Sama Toucouleur Health Post and the walls are going up! This small community in rural Senegal has very limited access to healthcare and even routine issues can be life-threatening. Through the generosity of our partners (YOU!), we are building a small health clinic that will offer basic interventions and services to help put this community on the path toward a healthier future.



This rural community of about 1500 is inaccessible by modern roads. Villagers must travel several kilometers to receive care - a distance too far in many emergency cases. We have been working diligently with community leaders and a dedicated (but under-equipped) healthcare team in the village.



In partnership with these representatives, we have designed and agreed to a work plan for the new health post — a key step in ensuring the sustainability and success of the project. This includes the use of volunteer labor from community members who will work alongside our professional masons in the construction of the health post. In everything we do, we try to encourage and incorporate community input into the design, planning, and implementation process, involving the community in each step. This leads to a sense of pride and ownership once the project is complete.

When this post opens in the coming months, the staff will have the capacity to see dozens of patients each day for routine care, consultations, and emergency services. In addition, this health post will be fully equipped to manage labor and delivery (in most cases), as well as hosting vaccination clinics.

We are dedicated to maintaining a presence in this community for many years and will continue to work with the small health staff to provide additional training and develop their clinic. As the health post moves toward financial sustainability and independent operation, we will scale back our funding but will continue this partnership and work to address needs in the years to come.

In addition to the health post in Sama Toucouleur, we are partnering with the main health clinic in Keur Soce to update facilities and equip existing ones. This will not only better serve the healthcare needs of the Keur Soce population, but also serve the outlying public health posts that we are constructing as they rely on the Keur Soce Clinic for certain supplies and educational opportunities.





“It is incredible what is happening in the gardens!”

There are now four market garden cooperatives up and running in the Keur Soce area. These gardens directly benefit more than 300 women and their families, and the results have been outstanding. Hear what the women involved have to say about the gardens:

Miriama Diouf sees many positive effects: “We have already begun great crop production and have improved our proficiency. It is incredible what is happening in the market gardens in Keur Soce. One can even say without risk of error that “this is an agricultural revolution of women!”

On the one hand, there is job creation. Now, any woman in Keur Soce may find work around her on a daily basis. There is a huge increase in the benefit to our households, and it has improved the quality and diversity of our food. We regularly consume eggplant, tomatoes, turnips, peppers, lettuce, and more. Another part of the harvest is sold to the market, which means the financial household incomes have improved. This money helps us so much in our everyday needs.”



Awa Ndiaye has this to say: “With the results that we have been seeing, we have great hope for the future of our garden. You can see this in the faces of the women in the garden.

“There is a participatory approach with the Andando staff, and they are always asking what our opinion is on what to do. We are consulted and involved in the organization of the agricultural activity. Through the training we receive, we respect better and better agricultural practices and guidelines, with the help of Andando’s technicians.

“In this context, us women know how to express our needs, we can freely express them without fears of being minimized or ignored. We are no longer mere beneficiaries who are suffering, but we are actors at the heart of the process. Indeed, the empowerment

approach truly encourages women. We do not have the words to thank Andando. As soon as we set foot in the garden, we are all happy – the plants are beautiful to see!”

Still to Come in 2016

In addition to continuing to work with and provide training to those already in the program, we are currently building three additional solar pump systems to irrigate three more market gardens like those already up and running. After the addition of these gardens, this vital program will have over 500 participants directly working in the gardens on a daily basis, as well as thousands more benefitting in ways you just read about above.

Andando will also be working with Lamaram Primary School near Keur Soce to build two additional classroom blocks and appropriate sanitary latrine facilities. Alongside this, we will develop enhanced educational materials and opportunities in the school. In similar programs we have done, these changes have boosted enrolment, decreased illness among students, and resulted in higher academic achievements.

We continue to develop our training center. Andando is conducting a series of classes to equip villagers to help themselves in areas of new agricultural techniques, small business training, health and sanitation, and basic reading and writing skills. And as the year progresses, we plan on doing even more!

These programs are making a real impact in Senegal and we are excited about the direction we are headed together. But to continue this work and do even more, we need your help! *Please consider making a donation to Andando today.* We rely on the generosity of our supporters to keep these vital initiatives going. Andando is a certified 501(c)(3) organization which means every dollar you give to The Andando Foundation is completely tax-deductible!

To partner with us in walking together with the people of Senegal, go to www.andando.org/donate. Thank you!