



New Health Posts Ready to Open!

Later this month our construction team in Keur Soce will be putting the finishing touches on two new health posts that will serve the communities of Batara Wolof and Keur Ngor. This will bring the total to eight health posts built by Andando and our partners in the past few years. In all, this program has dramatically increased healthcare access to over 25,000 people.

Previously, people in these communities would often have to travel long distances, by foot or donkey cart, to seek care for even routine medical care. Even worse, many women would have to make this trek while in labor to safely give birth at a medical facility. This led to alarming rate of births taking place in unsafe and unsanitary conditions... **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



Midwives who will staff and run the health post in Batara Wolof.

Loan Distribution, Just in Time for Planting

We recently had a loan distribution event where dozens of local farmers received a loan to assist with the planting of their fields as the rainy season progresses. We have been doing this program for over 10 years and have witnessed life-changing results for many involved. With over a thousand loans going out over the years, we have had about a 98% pay back rate!



Recipients of this year's microloan distribution, many of which are farmers, will be able to expand their plantings and harvest.

Many of these farmers cannot afford the inputs to plant their fields, or end up going to exploitative lenders who then eat up all the profits they might have gained. With Andando's no-interest loans, people are able to keep what they earn and begin to emerge from this cycle of poverty. We sat down with Ibrahima Gueye, a farmer who lives in the village of Keur Diene, near Keur Soce, to ask him about his participation in our microloan program. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

◆ From the Director ◆

“How are you?”

Hello everyone and greetings from Senegal! Nanga def?!



Crossing the Doue River to see a new health post at Dado. Recent rains have washed out the roads.

I am writing to you from Senegal where I have been for the last couple weeks, checking in our programs, working to develop our staff here, and exploring opportunities with new partner communities and organizations. It has been a belated, but decent rainy season here and the millet and peanut fields are coming in well. Our programs in Keur Soce are thriving this year and we are adding more every month. Our staff has taken these new challenges in stride and are making new things possible. This year has been one of growth for us, and we are hopeful that we can continue to expand in the future.

One area of recent expansion that we are very excited to announce is the launch of Andando programs in a new part of Senegal! In July, we broke ground on many new projects in the Podor region of northern Senegal (see map on page 3). Working with a partner - the Vibrant Village Foundation - and backed by

your support and generosity, we are embracing this new chapter as we seek to strengthen more communities.

As with our programs in Keur Soce, we have spent years laying the foundation in this area by first developing relationships and "testing the waters" by operating our microloan program in the area, with fantastic results. This process, which has been about five years in the making, allows us to develop partners in the area, ensure support and community backing, and guarantee success and sustainability as best we can.

This new venture marks a significant step for us and we hope you will join us in welcoming these new communities into the Andando family. We are by no means leaving our programs behind in Keur Soce, and have really only scratched the surface of the potential of the communities there. We have made lifelong friends in Keur Soce and will continue to walk with them to meet myriad needs and continue to invest in their potential. Keur Soce will remain the center of the bulk of our operations, but we are excited for this new growth enabled through your continued support!

Thank you, and I hope to see you all very soon at the dinner and silent auction on October 25th!

Lewis Kiker, Executive Director



Construction of a garden basin at Mbantou Croissement.



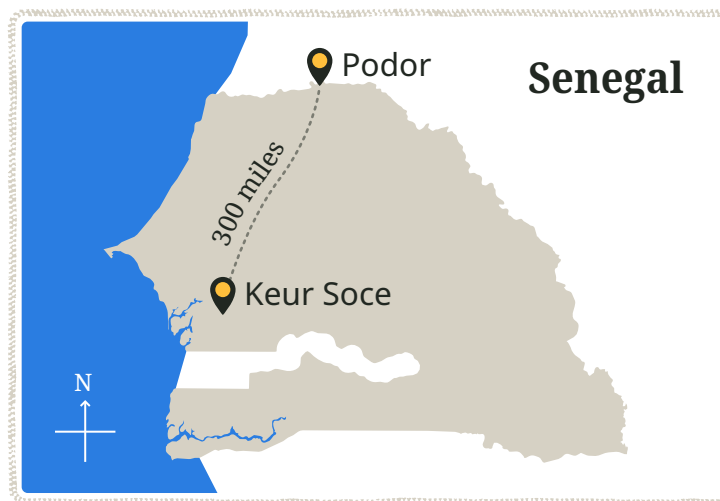
Ibrahim, a second-time loan participant, took his \$100 loan and turned it into \$1,000!

L o a n Distribution Cont'd

“Andando has been instrumental in this area. This past year I received a loan of \$100 and increased my farmable land, bought watermelon seeds, and built up the other maize fields I had planted. That is how I spent the money, then I worked the fields and waited.

It was incredible, because after the season I earned \$1,000 and it is directly thanks to the loan that brought me all this output and great returns.

In addition, I also kept nine bags of maize for my family's sustenance during the dry period. So, the loan has brought me a lot of economic change, but also sociological, by contributing to my dignity, my being and the improvement of my income.”



Podor, located about 300 miles north of Keur Soce, is home to a new phase of Andando programs. Copyright © Free Vector Maps.com

Health Post Cont'd

medical needs turning into emergency cases. These simple, but effective, facilities are staffed by trained nurses and midwives in order to deliver care where people need it most.

At each health post, there is an office and consultation room; a labor and delivery room with electricity and running water; and a recovery/monitoring room for new moms and their babies, each with their own bathrooms. Andando also provides each post with a basic supply of medical equipment and supplies to get started, which the state then replenishes moving forward.

These facilities have led to a dramatic increase in safe births, the hosting of vaccination clinics, child-wellness visits, and family planning consultations. Staff is also able to do routine first-aid when needed, as well as referrals to other larger or regional health centers.

In just the past year and a half, we have seen over 800 births, 7,000 weight/malnutrition checks and education, and 8,000 vaccinations given. For a relatively small investment we can deliver amazing results to the people of the Keur Soce area and keep them on a productive path moving forward. This vital program has an immediate impact on these populations and we are proud to see its growth in helping more and more people achieve a healthy life.

More photos and story at Andando.org/News



Installing plumbing and sinks at Keur Ngor health post.