

The Hunger Project-Senegal

Executive Summary

Inauguration of Ndereppe Epicenter

The inauguration of Ndereppe Epicenter on July 22, 2010 was a tremendous moment in the epicenter's progress, as the event drew nearly 400 people. It was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Dr. Fitigu Tadesse, former Vice President of Africa Programs, for whom it was the last official event with THP-Senegal after working with the organization for over 20 years. The ceremony was honored by the presence of the Bambey Department Prefect and several local authorities, including the Lambaye Rural Community President. All of THP's epicenters in Senegal were represented, and came to express their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tadesse.



Bambey Department Sub-Prefect, Oumar Mamadou Balde, took the opportunity to reiterate his administration's commitment to supporting the population in truly taking ownership of the epicenter and ensuring the long-term sustainability of its benefits. Balde also advocated for a strong mobilization around the epicenter to transform it into "a lever against hunger and poverty."

Food Security Program (FSP) Implementation for the Current Agricultural Crop

The FSP implementation, which is part of the current agricultural harvest, took place in four stages:

- The 2009-2010 Agricultural Program Evaluation: THP-Senegal's Country Director presided over a series of meetings in Ndereppe, Dinguiraye, Sam Contor and Diokoul Epicenters to discuss the last three years' results with producers. These exchanges allowed participants to design strategic choices that support the program's sustainability. It was also an opportunity to talk about the innovative warrantage¹ program.
- Capacity building workshops for farmers took place from June 8–16, 2010, at the Diokoul, Ndereppe and Dinguiraye Epicenters. In partnership with ANCAR, some 191 producers attended six training sessions on best practices in food production.

¹ **Warrantage** is an innovative, revenue-increasing financial tool. In a warrantage program, farmers store their crop immediately after the harvest, when market gluts drive prices down. Then, in the lean period, farmers withdraw their stored crops to sell at a higher profit on the market, where lack of supply has driven prices up.

- Increasing food farmer access to agricultural inputs at epicenters by placing agriculture inputs at the disposal of the producers of epicenters: 24,500 kg (54,000 lbs) of fertilizer was delivered to the epicenters to plow 245 hectares of millet. Only Diokoul Epicenter received pre-basis millet seeds (IBV 8004 and IBV 8402) from the 376 kg (830 lbs) acquired from the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (SARI). Both Ndereppe and Sam Contor Epicenters chose to use seeds selected from their last crop.
- Placing millet stocks, drawn from warrantage and the FSP, at the disposal of producers to bridge the gap during the lean period. 29,693 kg (65,500 lbs) of millet was distributed from FSP stocks and 27,596 kg (61,000 lbs) was distributed from the warrantage stocks.
- Capacity building among both the management committees and food security committees in management and cereal bank management skills: this training was directed by 16 leaders.



Available cereal stocks in food banks



View of FSP field in Ndereppe

Bissap (hibiscus) Production in the 2010 Growing Season

The organic bissap experiment conducted last year in three villages from the Sam Contor and Nereppe Epicenters expanded this year to 12 villages from the Dahra, Coki, Dinguiraye, Sam Contor and Ndereppe Epicenters. This has increased the total plowed area from 3.5 hectares to 21 hectares. The expansion includes 12 groups of women for a total of 563 members. This experience required:

- Capacity building among stakeholders at the beginning of the program;
- Permanent and regular monitoring in the field to gather information on the implementation of best agriculture practices and to produce quality seeds;
- A joint visit from THP and USAID agricultural experts.



Photo: USAID and THP Technical Supervisors conducting a field visit at Ndiégué (Dinguiraye Epicenter), August 2010

Bringing Rural Banks into Compliance with New Microfinance Laws

The firm AGIR was originally approached by the Microfinance Office through the Support Program for Microfinance to assess THP-Senegal's Rural Banks. AGIR presented the results of its analysis on September 8, 2010. AGIR's conclusions were very encouraging for THP's partner banks, and the national registration process will be handled by the firm, which will guide the banks through a budgeted strategic action plan.

The Non-formal Education Program/ICOO (PMA/ENF/ICOO)

The second year of PMA ENF is nearly complete. The past two quarters saw the implementation of all of the planned activities in the following areas:

- 35 contact points in female entrepreneurship in Dahra and Coki Epicenters;
- 110 women empowered in meat production techniques through cow fattening;
- 75 women empowered in meat production techniques through sheep fattening;
- 80 women empowered in fruit and vegetable processing;
- Coki Epicenter's cereal processing unit is being led by an expert in marketing and production to ensure authorization;
- Trainees are managing the dynamics of the group's organizational development;
- Seven cow fattening workshops at Dahra Epicenter were organized to foster income-generating activities for recipient groups;
- Three literacy facilitators began a new eight-month cycle;
- Beginning on September 15, 2010, 105 apprentices, from Coki, Thieyene Braylene and Warack, are being trained in accounting, management, and reading and writing in local languages.



Photo: Training in Female Entrepreneurship in Dahra

Capacity Building for Volunteers in Epicenter WEP Programs

In this period, the Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) volunteer animators were trained in women's rights, reproductive health, leadership and personal development. This training included 1,825 volunteers across 60 villages and eight epicenters.

Capacity Building for Volunteers in HIV/AIDS and Malaria Programs

Volunteer animators were trained by Head Nurses from health clinics on malaria and HIV/AIDS. In total, 988 volunteers were trained, including 30 men and 958 women. Thirty-six villages from eight epicenters are thereby benefiting from qualified resources to lecture on behavior change communications regarding these two endemic diseases.

Reforestation at Sam Contor, Ndereppe and Dinguiraye Epicenters

Ndereppe, Sam Contor and Dinguiraye Epicenter communities took advantage of the rainy season, particularly during the month of August, to reforest the epicenters. Over 1,700 plants, including melifera, propospis and terminalia, were planted to improve the epicenters' surroundings. Nearly 260 individuals committed to providing caretaking and protection for these plants.

The Operationalization of the Sam Contor Health Hut

The Sam Contor Health Hut achieved full recognition in August 2010. The Health Hut is fully equipped with medical facilities, enabling the medical authorities to place a trained Community Healthcare Agent at the disposal of the health center. The midwife was sent to the Mbacké Sanitary District for a six-month training course. An initial allocation of basic medicines was received, enabling local populations to access services nearby, eliminating the need for a trip of 4 km or more to receive treatment.



Namarel Epicenter Work

Continuous work at the Namarel Epicenter will soon allow nearby populations to enjoy new services at the epicenter, such as an upcoming preschool, food bank and meeting hall. The construction work will also include rehabilitating the building which currently houses the Rural Bank. These improvements will undoubtedly boost epicenter activities. The health clinic will also receive a new water system and solar-powered electricity.

Theory of Change Meetings

THP staff held several meetings in September to begin developing its Theory of Change. An external facilitator, as well as key representatives from Coki, Ndereppe and Sanar Epicenters, helped guide these meetings. THP-Senegal staff considered the approach to be instructive and important in the growing comprehension of THP's impacts at the epicenter level.



Photo: THP-Senegal workshop on Theory of Change, September 2010

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
The organic hibiscus activity expansion into five epicenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 hectares plowed, thanks to a partnership with TROPICASEM. Twelve groups from Ndereppe, Sam Contor, Dinguiraye, Dahra and Coki Epicenters are participating in organic hibiscus agriculture and quality seed production.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 people from 5 epicenters participated in the training session on organic hibiscus agriculture. The THP-USAID monitoring team conducted several visits. The fields are developing normally, despite a few infestations, which received intensive treatment. It is important to note that the rainfall is 200% to 250% higher than in previous years, prompting high hopes for a solid hibiscus harvest.
Sustainability of the Food Security and Lean Period Support Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93 producers participated in the evaluation meetings regarding the sustainability of the Food Security Support Program (FSSP). • 179 producers held general assemblies to prepare for the next crop in epicenters covered by the Food Security Support Program (FSSP). • 191 producers from three epicenters attended a training on agricultural best practices. • 45,750 kg of grain was collected at food banks, falling slightly short of the 46,500 kg expected. This does not include Namarel food bank stock, which is 11,100 kg. • 27,596 kg of warrantage stock was withdrawn by the 380 depositing producers. The producers were able to measure the operational advantages according to the current price of millet in the market. • 24,500 kg of fertilizer was distributed to producers to use on 245 hectares of grain. • 16 leaders of food bank management committees were trained in management techniques.
Increased knowledge of HIV/AIDS and malaria control and prevention means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112 potential new volunteer animators in HIV/AIDS and malaria were fully trained by head nurses; • 192 people participated in HIV/AIDS testing sessions thanks to the collaboration between Bambey AIDS services and Ndereppe Epicenter. Two individuals were found to be HIV positive. • 1,008 people attended HIV/AIDS and malaria animator sessions, presented by health professionals.
Improved supervision of child mortality and basic care in the epicenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vaccination and child nutrition monitoring center opened at Ndereppe Epicenter, with the capacity to monitor 50 children regularly. • A Health Hut is operational at Sam Contor to provide basic services 4 km closer to the populations in need.
Improvement of the epicenters environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ndereppe, Sam Contor and Dinguiraye Epicenters received reforestation of 1,700 plants, provided by the Forestry Commission.
The Women's Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 240 potential volunteer WEP animators were identified during a training session in women's rights, reproductive health and

Program stands out as a turning point in the communities' lives and behavior	<p>leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,825 people attended the plenary sessions held in villages by volunteer animators.
Increased mobilization and commitment of communities in hunger and poverty control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,026 people were trained in Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs). • 392 VCAW volunteer animators were trained at the epicenters.
Women can read, write and complete arithmetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 women from Sam Contor Epicenter are continuing their literacy training sessions. That training will have an impact in both activities management and the work of the different committees. • 105 women are taking literacy classes in Coki Epicenter.
Mpal Epicenter is acknowledged as an important stakeholder in the fight against child malnutrition in Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51,275 food bags of 100 grams each were made at Mpal unit in order to complete the order placed by the NSP (Nutritional Strengthening Program). • That activity generated CFA 5,232,490 (US\$11,050) in revenue for Mpal. • 327 bags are in stock, worth CFA 34,335 (US \$73).
Epicenters women are very committed in the fight against hunger and poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,974 people (1,958 of whom were women from 392 groups, and 16 men) received loans of CFA 163,144,200 (US\$345,000) to run income-generating activities. • The Rural Banks of Coki and Dahra each held their quarterly general assemblies, drawing an attendance of 139 and 114 people, respectively; • The Rural Bank managers of Dahra, Coki and Sanar attended a capacity building session on management and governance.

Objective/Challenge	Reasons / Lessons Learned
Creating a monitoring system in each epicenter, to articulate THP's required actions for continuous monitoring of all activities in process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement in monitoring creates transparency in the committee management. • Information on difficulties and specific problems regarding only certain villages are reported to the relevant committee and to THP. • Information can be collected on short notice.
All structures, committees and activities of the epicenters are formulated to be recognized by the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal groups cannot access the available funding. • A lack of democracy in informal structures prohibits ensuring the sustainability of the epicenters' operations. • The groups operate without the basic rules of management

	and without supervision.
Enable more women to more easily access good land to increase and sustain the hibiscus production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An intense advocacy campaign aimed at authorities, elected officials and village leaders of the epicenters of Ndereppe, Sam Contor and Dinguiraye will be made annually after the hibiscus harvest and income assessment.
Strengthen the epicenters' warrantage program and readapt the existing mechanisms to current conditions of grain abundance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quantities of grain harvested in 2010 are much larger than previous years. • Purchasing prices offered by speculators are very low. • To protect producers against the selling off, prices of deposits must be adapted to support a recovery of stocks by producers during lean season.
Ineffectiveness of the professional learning center for young girls from the epicenters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unavailability of qualified master craftsmen at the epicenter and the lack of resources in the government (Chamber of Commerce) explain these delays. • The bureaucracy of the central government, which was called upon by THP-Senegal to respond to this situation.

Partnerships

THP-Senegal maintains good partnership relations with all of the epicenters' administrative authorities, as well as with several other institutions, including:

- **The National Institute of Pedology (NIP)**, located in the Ferlo region, has proposed a partnership agreement with THP to support epicenter-level production, in particular by providing guidance or necessary technological contributions to increase the level of soil fertility. Furthermore, the NIP has provided 300 kilograms of soil-enriching phosphates to women in Keur Mbaye Safé and in Dahra who are cultivating organic bissap.
- **The Institute of Food Technology (IFT) and USAID** continue to support THP's implementation of organic hibiscus farming. USAID provides technical support (best practices in cultivation, harvesting and marketing) and the IFT provides support in creating added-value through processed goods.
- **The Regional Development Agency (RDA), Sam Contor Epicenter and THP** worked together to finance a potable drinking water access point for the epicenters, thanks to THP's financial contribution to microprojects.
- **The Regional Development Agency (RDA) of Louga**, identified The Hunger Project as a technical partner in the development of local planning tools.
- **ANCAR: Rural and Agricultural Counselors (RACs)** associated with Ndereppe, Sam Contor, and Diokoul demonstrated their willingness to assist the Food Security

Support Program created by THP. They also led the training for producers in the aforementioned epicenters.

- **Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (SARI)** signed an agreement with the THP to supply seed for millet seed multiplication during the 2011 season at the epicenters involved in agricultural production.
- **The TROPICASEM**, a private company that specializes in the production of quality vegetable seeds, contacted THP through USAID to propose hibiscus seed multiplication.
- The epicenter of MPAL and operators of the **National Program to Strengthen Nutrition (PSN)** have established an informal partnership which will allow baby food production to enter the range of microenterprises for agricultural products processing.
- The MARSHAV (Israel cooperation office), together with UNESCO, awarded Mrs. Fatou Binta Fall Balde of IPEA / our Microfinance Program capacity-building training for her work in community development and management of microenterprises at THP-Senegal. Other awards are expected in various sectors.
- THP-Senegal was admitted as a member of **CONGOSD** (Council of NGOs Supporting Development), which comprises almost 200 national and international NGOs based in Senegal.
- **Multifunctional Platform Program** has decided to locate a unit in the village of Loubal Dahra, a THP-Senegal partner.
- **The Animal Research Centre of Dahra Djoloff (ARC)**, oversees monitoring work and THP training activities on livestock care and production in the Dahra and Coki area. ARC and THP are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the partnership.
- **The Support Program for Sectoral Policy Support (SPSP)** and the Microfinance Program are working together on the transition into compliance of all the epicenters' Rural Banks, according to new regulations on microfinance in West Africa.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

During this reporting period, the events described below were the subject of media coverage. Most of the stories appeared on television and articles have been published on the site of the Senegalese Press Agency (www.aps.sn), offering easy access to THP global for items such as:

- **Mpal Women's Forum**, held during the Fortnight of Women, held May 29, 2010 and broadcast on Walfadjri Television, June 7, 2010;
- **The inauguration of Ndereppe Epicenter**, broadcast on national television and covered by the SPA, the national newspaper "Le Soleil" and community radio Gaynako of Namarel. The latter was recorded at the epicenter of Namarel;
- **The epicenter food bank management committee trainings**, held on September 24 and 25, 2010, were reported on by the Senegalese Press Agency.

Recent Innovations

- The use of Namarel's community radio (since it returned to service) to conduct VCAWs in the epicenters reached by the signal. This radio has a radius of nearly 50 km, covering all villages of the epicenter. Since the resumption of the signal June 14, 2010, several VCA and WEP workshops were held.
- The organization of group sessions on HIV/AIDS with the Bambey AIDS service at Ndereppe Epicenter. This collaboration has raised awareness and allowed the voluntary screening of 191 people, of whom two were HIV-positive.
- THP-Senegal oversaw the communities of Sanar Epicenter in organizing free medical consultations with medical doctors and specialists in various fields of medicine. In just one day, 200 people from the epicenter (94 women, 65 men and 41 children) saw a doctor and were provided with medication at no cost.
- Groups have been performing income-generating activities that are difficult to evaluate or render sustainable. THP created a supervisory system for these partner groups, who can take advantage of a support packet in organizational development through students who are also interns. The packet includes diagnostic tools, action plan guidance, rule creation and management tools, as well as support and advice follow-up tools. This system will allow a stable and sustainable structure for transparent, healthy governance to develop.
- Trainings held for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Women's Empowerment volunteers are now held at the village level, with participatory and inclusive discussions structured around a snack. This explains the increase in the number of participants in these workshops.

Profile of a Leader in the Community

Mrs. Marième Harouna Ba, mother of two children, is President of the Board of Directors of CTG Namarel. Mrs. Ba has seven years of experience as a trainer in literacy (1993-2000) and 10 years of radio communication (2000-2010). Indeed, for seven years, she was the main facilitator of the local radio before becoming head of the radio program (2003-2010). She has alternated between her work on the radio and as a trainer.

These experiences have enabled her to train more students in literacy, numeracy and language management in local Fulani in four programs. At least 400 women were trained and assisted by Marième, as well as a score of literacy trainers that she supervised.

Since 2008 Marième has been a trainer in WEP (Women's Empowerment Program) and she holds a weekly workshop in a remote village, despite the fact that it is difficult to access.



Marième Harouna Ba advocating on the fight against HIV/aids



Marième Harouna Ba being screened by the head doctor of the District

Marième Harouna enjoys the epicenter's offerings and her work as a well-known WEP animator, through which she helps women assert their rights. It is for this reason that, during a WEP workshop on the child's right to education in an epicenter village, Marième's moving speech prompted an elderly person to request that Marième take charge of her daughter. The child, from a remote village called Hamé, located 10 kilometers from Namarel, lived too far from any school. Since July 2008, therefore, the girl has been in Marième's care, pursuing her schooling at Namarel. She is proudly the first girl from Hamé to have the privilege of attending school!

Since August 2010, Marième has been trying her hand as director of the community radio, where she has been working for 10 years. When the post became vacant, Marième knew that she could compete for the position against two men, despite the fact that the radio had never been led by a woman. Marième states that it was her experiences with THP and the success that she had had in the past with listeners that motivated her to seek out the position. The radio's Advisory Board announced Marième as director on August 13, 2010.

Impact Assessment

Data collection by THP on impacts and achievements is still an issue with regard to completeness, consistency, and even timeliness.

During this period, an emphasis was placed on establishing data collection and monitoring and evaluation skills within the epicenter committees. To this end, 30 leaders have already undergone trainings to create and lead groups responsible for implementing a documented follow-up of all activities led in the epicenter. The next trimester will focus on extended this organization and these trainings to all epicenters, and on ensuring communities' access to simple and accessible data collection tools.

This new form of collection will provide periodic, comprehensive information on achievements.

However, information collected on the MDGs will still be managed by the THP-Senegal technical team, with support from VCA leaders, epicenter leaders and local government.

Future Plans

Objectives for the next quarter (Q4 2010& Q1 2011)	Challenges and ideas
Ensure the visibility of epicenter-level activities for improved community awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize the epicenters associations; • Set up a monitoring and evaluation collection unit within the committees of the epicenter; • Update the information provided on epicenter bulletin boards; and • Establish a system for quarterly or monthly reporting within the committees of the epicenter.
Transfer the concept of the theory of change to the epicenters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold brainstorming sessions at each epicenter seek out impacts.
Find new volunteers in every village of the epicenters, to reach as many people as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for new volunteers operating in each village; abd • 1,000 volunteers for HIV/AIDS and malaria, WEP, monitoring and evaluation and VCAWs.
Work with epicenter farmers to assess the sustainability of FSAP and its relationship with warrantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a SWOT analysis of the program at each epicenter; • Promote the institutionalization of committees; • Ensure implementation of professional learning by food bank producers; • Foster the relationship of food security committees with ANCAR and microfinance institutions; and • Develop additional funding for warrantage, and set the terms of implementation (cost of deposit, time, price return and interest allocation rules, etc.).
Continue the Organic Hibiscus Extension Program and produce quality seeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement good husbandry and harvesting practices; • Support the identification of drying sites and adequate conditioning means; • Facilitate groups who liaise with markets in need of hibiscus; and • Prepare groups to treat the seeds in appropriate conditions.
Monitor reimbursement delays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repayment rate \geq 98% for the Microfinance Program.

Formalization of Rural Banks established by THP-Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Microfinance Director to ensure that plans developed by AGIR are followed.
Ensure that there is a coherent internal monitoring and evaluation internal mechanism at epicenters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the data collection by volunteer monitors; • On the epicenter committee, empower a monitoring unit for data collection; and Establish a mechanism for sharing and validating data at the epicenter.
Support groups in the empowerment phase after the organizational development program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the implementation of the acquired capacity building tools; • Plan for Rural Banks to financially support the activity development of the most professional groups; • Follow the required materials and tools defined by the trainees; • Promote exchange visits with structured peer groups that have visible gains.
Promote diversification of women's groups income sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the activities of processing and manufacturing soap, bleach, dye, etc.; • Prompt the GPFs to process agricultural products (hibiscus, grain, etc.); and • At some epicenters, organize groups of young women to participate in income-generating activities.
Foster education committees by recruiting school age children at the epicenters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the potential children to enroll in the next school year (2010/2011); • Recruit children for a massive registration; • Have parents meet their commitment to contribute to the school's functioning; and • Plan future need for nutritional foods.
Support the modernization of the baby food production unit at Mpal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize and submit the support project, prepared based on recommendations in the study done by the IFT; and • Find a financial partner to implement the plan of rehabilitating and relaunching the unit.