

USAID YAAJEENDE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2017

FUNDED BY:

USAID \$49,799,066



STUNTING DECREASE
IN COMMUNITIES:

-36%

HOUSEHOLDS
RECEIVING A “HIGH”
DIETARY SCORE:

73%

CHILDREN UNDER 2
ACHIEVING A “MINIMAL
ACCEPTABLE DIET”:

**TRIPLED
TO
40%**

YAAJEENDE

Yaajeende is a first of its kind initiative using a fully integrated approach to enhance the nutritional status of local populations, agricultural production, and governance at the Communauté Rurale (CR) level in the Matam, Bakel, Kédougou and Kolda regions, an area that represents 1/3 of Senegal. Yaajeende is guided by four primary strategies:

Nutrition-Led Agriculture: promoting actions that improve the quantity, quality, price, use, and governance of nutritious foods and food-related resources to effectively respond to critical nutritional deficiencies of target populations;

Asset-Building for Women: incorporating gender-responsive components across all four pillars of food security to increase women's resiliency to economic and climate-induced food insecurity;

Dynamic Local Private Sector: creating and leveraging dynamic local networks of market-based entrepreneurs to increase productivity, lower prices, and increase smallholder farmers' access to quality products and services;

Implementing Science-based Resources: working with international and national researchers and institutions, the program is testing and introducing bio-fortified and improved varieties specifically bred to maximize nutritional content.

A school garden
in Thilogne
Village, Matam
Region, Senegal.
Community
gardens provide
nutritious produce,
and extra income.



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IMPACT: TEACHER, LEADER, ENTREPRENEUR

A healthy start in life begins with healthy food, but not every child gets the nutrients they need for their brains and bodies to fully develop. When they don't, the damage can be irreversable. For decades, children in the village of Sylla Diongto in northeastern Senegal have been smaller than they should be.

When Yaaajeende came to Sylla Diongto in 2012, they asked the community to nominate a leader - someone who could show them how to plant healthier and more diverse vegetables, share recipes for new nutritious meals and teach good hygiene skills, all with the goal of keeping children healthy. The villagers put their faith in Hapsatou.

"I wanted to help my community because it faced many difficulties. Despite the fact that we did a lot of farming, it didn't have much impact on the children's health. They were always weaker than they should be," said Hapsatou.

Empowered with training and support from the Yaaajeende program, Hapsatou plays many roles - teacher, adviser, role model and entrepreneur - to put her community on a path to better health.

She is a farmer. She shows villagers new planting techniques, makes fertilizer and provides seeds for them to grow more nutritious food, such as

Hapsatou leads a young mothers group. They learn about breastfeeding and water and sanitation.



sweet potatoes, which are rich in Vitamin A. She is also an entrepreneur. She prepares fortified flour and dried beans and meats, which she sells to her neighbors. As a community-based solution provider (CBSP) she has started her own successful business bringing nutritional products to her rural village, earning her over \$45,000 USD a year.

"I can make money with these activities, but that's not what's really important. What the community gains from the work is much more important," says Hapsatou. The Yaaajeende program is beginning a franchise component, called CultiVert, which would support CBSPs like Hapsatou to grow their businesses.

"Our next generation will be in much better health because they will know better how they should eat. When you eat something that is clean, good and rich, you will have a good, healthy life," said Hapsatou.

NCBA CLUSA was founded in 1916 and has worked in over 85 countries building democratic institutions and providing technical assistance to cooperative businesses and local organizations. We currently work in Africa, Asia and Latin America providing expertise in co-op development, food security, community based health, governance and natural resource management.



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