



Village **Garden Project**

Transformational projects meeting practical needs.

“The Garden is a great help to our family, and we are eating from what we have grown.”

—Tenin,
12 years



“I am very glad to have this help. Before the Garden was created, I would wander in the woods to find food and things to sell in order to help my family.”

—Aminata,
Mother in Village B

In Mali, West Africa, where subsistence farming is a way of life for most families, most of the population lives in poverty. With a long and hot dry season, growing enough food to feed a family can be a daunting task. When rains do come, they can often be scattered and brief, bringing hardly enough moisture to keep crops alive; or they can be so strong that fields flood and crops become damaged and fail.



In response to these challenges, Mission10:14 works to establish Village Garden Projects that aim to provide a sustainable food source that will be available throughout much of the year. Working in partnership with local village leaders, these initiatives are designed to form partnerships with women in the villages that lead to the development of improved food sources for their families, as well as provide items that can be traded or sold in the local markets. Through this joint effort, healthier foods are available and additional income is earned by the family.

How Do the Village Garden Projects Work?

Villages donate the land for a garden. Qualifying individuals in the village agree to work the gardens, and Mission10:14, through partnering with individuals, churches and organizations, provides startup support for the projects. Our support includes the funding of hand-dug wells and the installation of metal fencing to protect crops from animals.



GARDEN WELLS: *These photos show the progress of a hand-dug well, along with the tools used in the project.*

What is Subsistence Farming?

Subsistence farmers use virtually everything they grow on an annual basis to help provide for their families, with little remaining to be sold or traded in local markets. These families have the barest means in terms of food, clothing and shelter needed to sustain life. In West Africa, one of the most under-developed regions in the world, this “bare existence” is a way of life for most people. Mission10:14 Village Garden Projects aim to increase the quantity of food for village families, and create improved and sustainable food sources.

What is Required to Sponsor a Garden Project?

One of the objectives of the garden projects is to use appropriate, low-cost methods of production. Therefore, Mission10:14 does not introduce any new technologies in the production of a garden. Each participant uses local gardening techniques and provides their own tools needed for working the garden. The following list includes what is needed to develop a garden project.

- Partners (both in Mali and in the USA)
- Land (donated by the village)
- Individuals to work the gardens (arrangements are made with each village)
- Hand-dug wells with cement top for each garden (each well costs \$140)
- Gardening tools (the responsibility of each participant)
- Seeds and seedlings
- Fencing to protect the garden area from animals

How Can Partners Become Involved in the Garden Projects?

As a partner with Mission10:14, there are a number of ways one can become involved in these practical transformational projects. By putting faith into action (James 2:17), and by caring for the poor through the garden projects, Mission10:14 partners have a unique opportunity to live out their calling in a simple, yet practical way. Here are just a few of the ways one can become involved as a partner in the Mission10:14 Village Garden Projects.

- Adopt a village and financially support a garden project
- Join with others through giving to help sponsor a garden project
- Pray for the ministry of Mission10:14
- Support Mission10:14 financially
- Become a Mission10:14 volunteer and go on a short-term trip
- Share these opportunities with others that you know and encourage their involvement



Mission Statement: To bring the good news of the Gospel to small and isolated people groups in West Africa, and facilitate transformational projects that meet practical needs.

Mission10:14 is a US-based non-profit 501(c)3 organization working in West Africa.

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