

Tostan

Dignity for All

Two Ghanaian participants during a July session at the Tostan Training Center (Senegal, 2019).



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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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Letter From Our CEO



Dear Friends,

I am hoping that everyone who reads this is in good health. I am fortunate to be writing this from my home, where I am working and enjoying time with my family. Tostan's teams and partners have adapted to the difficult situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic and are working remotely across Africa and around the world via telephone, Skype, Zoom, and Whatsapp. This is perhaps one of the few positive outcomes of this unprecedented time — for us to be able to more deeply connect.

It is strange indeed to look back on the year of 2019 — a time before so many disruptive changes occurred that required such rapid leadership agility and adaptation. Yet, such a retrospective feels much needed. It is our accomplishments which have enabled us to be prepared and to continue forward in our mission despite unprecedented adversity. Thus, it is an absolute pleasure to share our 2019 Annual Report with you at this challenging global moment.

We, at Tostan, see the importance of empowering education. Community-led action to create sustainable change is a power that is needed now more than ever in the face of a range of new realities. Our organization continues to innovate by listening to our partner communities. Our Strategic Framework, the SEP 2019-2022, created through a collaborative effort across Tostan, is now a central reference as we confront Covid-19. We will continually evolve our pathways to scaling during and after this crisis — with continued focus on our vision, community well-being, and dignity for all.

I continue to be inspired by Tostan's dedicated staff as they work to bring our strategic vision into practice. Thanks to them, we are able to respond rapidly with confidence and agility in the face of crises. And most of all I see how lucky we have been, how lucky we are, to be surrounded by all of you in the global Tostan family. We are so fortunate to have visionary funders, dedicated supporters, caring staff, and engaged community partners. I truly believe that — to offer a slight variation of the oft-quoted Zulu phrase "ubuntu" — Tostan is because all of you are.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy reading this summary of our work together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Elena Bonometti".

Elena Bonometti



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2019 in Numbers

8,107 participants in **202** communities were reached by the Tostan Community Empowerment Program (CEP) in five West African countries: The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, and Senegal.

77% of CEP participants are women and girls.

Each participant in a Tostan class 'adopts' a community member to share the new knowledge learned during the class. An estimated **11,587** additional community members were adopted by class participants spreading the CEP concepts throughout the entire community. Hundreds of neighboring communities were also engaged by social mobilization agents as part of Tostan's organized diffusion strategy.

165 communities publicly declared their intention to collectively abandon harmful practices.

481 radio programs were broadcast on the educational themes of the CEP.

155 leaders from 16 countries participated in seven 10-day trainings at the Tostan Training Center.

Tostan was represented by a diverse selection of staff members at **11** major international events.



GOVERNANCE

29 inter-village and inter-zonal meetings were organized with an estimated participation of over **3,000** people.

More than **80%** of Community Management Committees (CMCs) in current partner communities are led by women.

EDUCATION

1,832 children were registered for school through campaign efforts of CMCs.

HEALTH

6,723 children were registered at birth thanks to awareness-raising efforts of CMCs.

ENVIRONMENT

4,083 clean-up days were organized by CMCs.

ECONOMY

5,442 people used Community Development Funds, provided by Tostan and managed by CMCs, for implementing income generating activities.

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Ga Nhala community members present on Human Rights (Guinea Bissau, 2019).

2019 Breakthrough: SEP and Scaling Perspectives

Throughout 2018, Tostan CEO Elena Bonometti, the Board of Directors, and Tostan's leadership underwent a strategic reflection process to review and update the organization's 2016-2022 Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP). In partnership with Spring Impact, an organization dedicated to supporting nonprofits as they scale their social impact, stakeholders outlined a broad strategic framework as well as scaling plans for each country where Tostan is present. On February 28th, 2019, Tostan's Board of Directors approved the revised SEP for 2019-2022.

The process began when Elena arrived as CEO in 2017 with a mandate from the Board to explore and update the SEP if needed. In particular Elena wanted the organization to clarify and push forward the three concepts of scale, impact, and sustainability.

"We decided to review and revisit the original Strategic Engagement Plan 2016 — which was a visionary document that I liked — but I thought we could push it further and get more specific. We also wanted to ensure inclusive ownership of the decision-making process," says Elena. She explains that the leadership team accomplished this by bringing together a broad range of perspectives to create a clearer idea of the goals and how to achieve them.

Tostan's partnership with Spring Impact led to a better understanding and modeling of the Tostan vision of scale and the scaling pathways to follow. "What I like very much about the SEP 2019-2022 is that it functions as an organizational road map. It can help everyone at Tostan as well as our partners and collaborators understand quickly what we are seeking and how we plan to get there," Elena explains.

Tostan has achieved remarkable results in community well-being for millions of people in thousands of communities in West and East Africa over the last 29 years. As rural communities, nonprofits, international organizations, and governments from many parts of the world ask Tostan to share its approach with them, the SEP will serve as the guide to scaling partnerships as well as global and local impact.



Aerial view of Soundiane, Senegal (2017).

The core commitment of the [SEP 2019-2022 framework](#) is to scale community well-being. It outlines three pathways to scale used by the organization to pursue mission fulfillment. These are:

1. **Direct Implementation** of the Community Empowerment Program (CEP) and related programs, including the Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement strategy (SDCE, formerly called CESD). Undertaken at the district, departmental, and community levels, SDCE complements and enhances actions taken in communities while extending some activities to communities with whom Tostan has not yet partnered. To learn more about SDCE, [click here](#).
2. **Sharing Our Model** through the Tostan Training Center and through Strategic Partnerships, with emphasis on the Content, Approach, Methodology, and Strategy (CAMS) that are key to Tostan — and coaching partners in the application and adaptation of program aspects.
3. **Indirect Scaling** by influencing networks of development practitioners, donors, governments, multilaterals, NGOs and others in the global community to shape effective development practices and policies.

Tostan's updated SEP provides an opportunity not only to increase direct implementation, expand programs for training and replication, and continue efforts to influence global systems, but also to do all three in ways that amplify and reinforce one another. In this way, Tostan hopes to demonstrate, share, and extend our work to achieve well-being at scale.

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Pathway 1: Implementing Our Model



Woman participates in the CEP Program, 2019

Tostan believes that every person, regardless of age, sex, religion, nationality, or economic status has inherent human rights which assure their dignity as human beings. Our human rights-based, respectful, inclusive, holistic, and sustainable model strengthens individual as well as collective agency and empowers communities to realize their own vision of well-being through a respectful process of community-led development. Known as the Community Empowerment Program (CEP), this model has been implemented and has evolved since 1991, leading to the empowerment of thousands of communities.

Our successes to date include the **promotion of grassroots democracy and respect for human rights, the enhancement of economic opportunities at a local level, and the emergence of female leadership at the community and local government levels.** We have also witnessed an unparalleled movement for the abandonment of harmful traditional practices such as female genital cutting and child/forced marriage in approximately 9,000 communities in eight West and East African countries. For nearly 30 years, our program has demonstrated its impact in partner communities by positively affecting governance, education, health, economic empowerment, and the environment.

2019 marked the conclusion of the Breakthrough Generation initiative in which donors united around a common plan to work across a range of impact areas via the CEP in four countries simultaneously. Communities in The Gambia (30), Guinea (40), Guinea Bissau (40), and Mali (40) entered the final stages of the Breakthrough Generation initiative this year, with an additional 40 communities in Mali starting a new cycle of the CEP at the beginning of 2019. Although Senegal was not included among the countries of Breakthrough Generation, Tostan also implemented CEP modules in 19 Senegalese communities. This year, 18,207 people — 77% of whom are women and girls — participated in the CEP in 202 communities.

COUNTRY	MALE PARTICIPANTS	FEMALE PARTICIPANTS	NATIONAL TOTAL
The Gambia	600	2,406	3,006
Guinea	777	2,381	3,158
Guinea Bissau	667	2,910	3,577
Mali	1,462	6,089	7,552
Senegal	235	679	914
Overall Total	3,741	14,465	18,207

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The Important Role Played by Community Management Committees

As part of the CEP, participants establish Community Management Committees (CMCs) which are responsible for implementing priority development projects designed by the community. Throughout 2019, CMCs received specific training delivered by Tostan's supervisors on CMC members' roles and responsibilities, social mobilization, child protection, as well as the management of Community Development Funds (CDF) and Income Generating Activities (IGA). These trainings allowed them to design, organize, and manage a wide range of activities.

Thanks to their tireless efforts, the CMCs, class participants, and community members raised awareness via concrete actions within their villages and across hundreds of neighboring communities on subjects learned in the CEP related to good governance, the importance of education, good hygiene and preventive health measures, as well as ending harmful practices. Among other achievements in 2019, CMCs contributed to resolving family disputes and village conflicts, led successful vaccination campaigns, organized campaigns against cigarette smoking, held meetings with herders to encourage them to avoid grazing livestock on farmlands during the rainy season, promoted birth registration, distributed mosquito nets, purchased school supplies for elementary students, organized community clean-ups, as well as coordinated latrine and well construction. A breakdown of activities organized by CMCs in all countries can be found in each National Update attachment to this Annual Report.



Song Kunda CMC members show their project logs and budget during an April meeting (The Gambia, 2019).

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Peace and Security: Promoting Peace and Resilience in Conflict-prone Regions

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Launched in 2010, Tostan's Peace and Security Module reinforces community-led peace-building at the local, national, and regional levels. After completing six months of learning mediation and conflict resolution skills in 2018, in 2019 the participating CMCs and Peace Committees in **122 communities** led important social mobilization activities on themes including the key role of communication in conflict prevention, problem-solving skills, and the importance of respect for human rights. CMCs in Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and The Gambia led a total of **2,589 activities** and Peace Committees in The Gambia and Senegal led **867 activities**.

936 conflicts resolved by CMCs or Peace Committees including domestic disputes, conflicts between neighbors, and disputes between farmers and pastoralists in many communities

16 inter-village meetings, **8** inter-zonal meetings, and **2** cross-border meetings hosted to engage other communities in peace-building and conflict prevention initiatives

11 protocols on peace and conflict resolution measures signed by communities and local authorities (9 in Senegal, 2 in The Gambia).

1,333 people (including 1,179 women) implemented Income Generating Activities through a revolving loan scheme with funds provided by the Tostan Community Development Fund

Women from Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea Bissau participate in a September march for peace in the Casamance as part of the Peace and Security project (Senegal, 2019).





Prison Project: Empowerment in Prison Leads to Successful Social Reinsertion



Tostan Senegal staff and Prison Project detainees celebrate International Women's Day (Senegal, 2019).

Launched in 2003, Tostan's prison project is currently being implemented in nine prisons in Senegal, mainly for women and for children under 18 years old.

The aim of the project is to support detainees to gain new hope and confidence as well as to successfully reintegrate into their communities upon release. Most detainees have never been to school, thus Tostan facilitators implement a modified CEP with sessions on visioning a positive future, human rights education, hygiene and health, as well as problem-solving and literacy skills. Participants also receive project management training to prepare them to earn a living and be better accepted when they return to their home communities. This year, **749 detainees** were trained in successfully managing income generating activities such as animal fattening, horticulture, fabric dyeing, and food processing.

Family mediation by Tostan staff is a critical component of the project as it leads to facilitated communication and eventually forgiveness by bringing detainees together with their family members, both in person and over the phone. Tostan also helps to encourage reintegration by meeting with other community members and traditional and religious leaders.

In 2019, Tostan prison staff organized over **7,300 successful mediations by telephone** and **559 successful in-person mediations**. Approximately **250 detainees were released and reintegrated** their communities during this period.

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Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement



A woman reads her community's declaration of intent to abandon harmful practices (Senegal).

The success of the first pilot training in 2017 convinced Tostan to launch a new project in 2019 to reach **85 CMCs, as well as the Departmental and 11 District Councils in the Department of Medina Yoro Foulah** (Kolda region, Southern Senegal). In 2019, Tostan Supervisors implemented the training in all 85 CMCs. The Tostan pedagogical team will train the 11 District Councils and the Departmental Council in 2020, and develop a new SDCE module promoting good governance through practices of transparency, accountability, and participatory budgeting and financial reporting.

In 2019, Tostan also launched the first SDCE pilot outside of Senegal. **217 District Councilors of the 12 districts in the Koulikoro District in Mali** went through the first SDCE module during the months of April and July. Furthermore, Tostan took crucial steps forward in standardizing and expanding the SDCE as an enhanced systemic approach as a key part of the CEP implementation in all Tostan countries.

Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement (SDCE) is Tostan's latest innovative strategy to support local governing councils to: better understand their roles and responsibilities as council members, incorporate citizen voices in decision-making processes, and sensitize local elected councilors on the importance of good governance, transparency, and accountability. The new strategy also helps to bridge the gap between the departmental and district governance levels and communities by training CMCs on strategies for better collaboration with the councils and effective advocacy for local government services. It aims to create an environment for dialogue and citizen participation in decision-making, planning, transparency, and accountability. Building community self-efficacy not only improves citizens' confidence in their ability to hold local governing councils accountable for the delivery of public services, but it also clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the mayor and locally-elected council members.

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Promoting Child Protection: Reducing Forced Child Begging

In the regions of Kaolack, Thiès, and Matam regions of Senegal, Tostan implemented the Promoting Child Protection project that aims to end forced, child begging and child exploitation, as well as to improve the living conditions and learning norms for “talibé” (meaning young students of the Qu’ran) in Quranic schools — called “daaras” in Wolof. Through this project, communities and religious leaders have come together to protect talibés and advocate on their behalf to local governments. These children also have the opportunity to improve their knowledge and life skills through the program.

With the support of Tostan’s partner, Anti-Slavery International, leaders of **102 daaras** and community members have supported local children by ensuring their access to food, sleeping mats, and hygiene products, among other improvements. Daara leaders (called marabouts) have also been able to meet with the appropriate national stakeholders to begin taking action to modernize their schools. Through the Promoting Child Protection project, **over 850 Talibés stopped begging in 2019.**

“Since the start of the program in our daara, we’ve seen notable improvements in nutrition, hygiene, and health among us talibé,” explains Aly Ndao, a talibé of the Serigne Djabel Ka Daara in Koutal, Senegal.

Creating “Bountoug”, A New Data Platform

In 2019, Tostan began the rollout of a database platform centralizing all program-relevant data, developed over the course of a multi-year grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Realizing that a well-designed monitoring and evaluations system could greatly advance the organization’s ability to communicate impact with precision and reinforce efficiencies, Tostan partnered with *Vera Solutions* organization to design and build a Salesforce-based platform to improve the storage, management, access, and strategic use of data.

Tostan staff from the international and country offices began training on how to use “Bountoug” — a Pulaar word meaning granary and the name chosen for the data management tool — began at the end of the year. It is Tostan’s hope that Bountoug will enable the organization to better analyze data, cross-reference data from various sources, and share information with internal and external stakeholders for more informed decision-making.



Portrait of a mother
and child in Sedo
Sebe, Senegal

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Pathway 2: Sharing Our Model

Tostan Training Center

At the Tostan Training Center (TTC) in Thiès, Senegal, Tostan hosts international, 10-day sharing seminars in English and French on its holistic, human rights based approach to community-led development.

Participants are mainly NGO leaders; religious, traditional, and community leaders; and human rights activists. Training participants in 2019 were sponsored by the participating NGOs, The Carter Center, Norad, the MGSC Foundation, and The Orchid Project. The TTC staff made significant efforts to customize each training offered according to the audience. For example, 2019 trainings included a standard introductory training in English and another in French on what Tostan refers to as the CAMS — referring to an overview of our **C**ontent, **H**uman Rights **A**pproach, participatory **M**ethodology, and organized diffusion **S**trategy. They also included customized trainings for tribal leaders and government authorities from the Omo Valley in South Eastern Ethiopia, and for Malian, Nigerian, and Ghanaian religious leaders. In December 2019, the TTC staff piloted an advanced training for Nigerian and Ghanaian religious leaders who had already attended the introductory module.

The TTC also hosts internal trainings which are important spaces of exchange and learning among Tostan staff from all departments. In October and November 2019, the TTC hosted two five-day trainings, one in French and one in Wolof for the Tostan International and Senegal offices, the TTC service providers, and pedagogical field staff to share the Tostan CAMS. Tostan plans to offer this training to all Tostan staff, regardless of their hierarchical positions.



Aerial view of the Tostan Training Center (Senegal, 2017).

Data as of December 31, 2019

People trained to date: **587**

Trainings to date: **28**

Countries of participant origin: **48**

Training Center Data 2019

Trainings: **7**

155 people from **16** countries

Women: 93 Men: **62**

Scholarships: **27**

Special Trainings 2019

Omo Valley

Tradition Leaders

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Program Officer Godfrey Okumu (far left) and TTC Coordinator Birima Fall (far right) with partners in Nigeria during the scoping mission for the project "Uniting Nigerian Communities to End Violence Against Women and Girls" (2020).

“Uniting Nigerian Communities to End Violence Against Women and Girls”

In October, 2019, Tostan entered into partnership with the Ford Foundation to implement a new project: *Uniting Nigerian Communities to End Violence Against Women and Girls*. Over a two-year period, the Tostan training staff will reinforce the capacity of Muslim and Christian religious leader networks as well as civil society organization networks, to form a strengthened movement for increasing gender equality and reducing violence against women in Nigeria. In 2020, the identified religious leader and civil society networks will participate in a three-week training for an advanced understanding of the CAMS and be able to replicate the training in Nigeria for their network members.

Tostan’s collaboration with the Ford Foundation in Nigeria is significant as it marks the first step in extending the replication of Tostan’s model beyond its current five countries of implementation and the TTC. “This project is innovative because it enables Tostan to scale impact through partnership building,” explains Birima Fall, Coordinator of the Tostan Training Center. According to Program Officer Godfrey Okumu, it is an opportunity to partner with some of the largest in-country networks of civil society organizations in Nigeria, including religious leader networks, for the first time. “It’s a key moment for mutual learning — about partnerships, their grassroots work in Nigeria, Tostan’s experience, and most importantly, scaling impact together.”

Pathway 3: Global Influence

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2019 saw the release of an award-winning documentary film, *Walk On My Own* produced by the NGO BYkids and directed by Ndeye Fatou Fall of Keur Simbara, a flagship partner community for Tostan in Senegal. In the film, 13-year-old Ndeye Fatou interviews elders and friends who tell their community's story of social norms transformation. She describes her own experience growing up as part of the first generation of girls to be free from harmful practices and supported to make her own decisions, pursue studies, and follow her dreams. Part of a wider series, *Walk on My Own* aired on PBS television network and online across the United States throughout the Spring of 2019.

After the premiere of the film in Keur Simbara for an audience of 200 community members in 2019, Tostan also hosted two successful public premieres in New York City in March 2019, coinciding with the 63rd UN Commission on the Status of Women. On March 13, over 200 people joined Tostan and BYkids at Columbia University's International House for a screening and panel discussion and another similar event was held at the UN Association of NYC on March 14.

Recognizing that the film is a powerful tool to engage new audiences and create community among supporters worldwide, Tostan also created an engagement guide to facilitate more intimate screenings and conversations around *Walk on My Own*. **We encourage you to watch and share the film.**

Portrait of Ndeye Fatou Fall, director and narrator of the film *Walk on My Own* (Senegal, 2019).



Positioning Tostan in the Global Conversation on Systems Change

Tostan's first moment of global recognition in the emerging conversation on systems change came in 2015 when it was cited as an example of shifting social equilibriums as the necessary foundation for systems change by Sally Osberg, then President and CEO of the Skoll Foundation, in her book with Roger Martin, *Getting Beyond Better: How Social Entrepreneurship Works*.

Tostan set out to define its vision of systems change in 2017 and 2018, emerging with a theory of systems change in 2019 that combines three pillars of its approach: integration and interrelatedness of all development issues, a community-led development approach, and a social norms perspective.

Further endorsement of Tostan's role as a systems change actor came through Melinda Gates in her book, *The Moment of Lift*. Melinda Gates noted how Tostan's approach led to shifts in systems of belief, leading to large-scale behavior changes within communities. She credited Tostan with teaching her that "outrage can save one or two girls, but empathy can change the system". We can see this reflected today in Tostan partner communities with the increase in women's leadership: thousands of women who have been through the CEP now hold leadership positions in the CMC and have been elected as municipal councilors at the district level and parliamentarians at the national level.

Tostan CEO Elena Bonometti joined the Philanthropic Collaboration for Large-Scale Change conference in Bellagio, Italy in June, 2019. Leading philanthropists and social entrepreneurs gathered from many parts of the world to discuss new funding paradigms to scale sustainable impact in development. Within these new funding paradigms, shared values and the transfer of power to community actors emerged as building blocks for innovation.

"Tostan's Leadership Circle members demonstrate what is possible when individuals and organizations enter into partnerships that go beyond financial contributions," says Global Partnerships Specialist Suzanne Bowles. "Deep and trusting collaborations coupled with a shared aspiration can open previously unimagined possibilities. This is what Tostan has to offer as a gift to the world: a rich history of process awareness, radically inclusive collaboration, and adaptive learning from Monitoring and Evaluation systems leading to scaled changes in the very conditions upon which well-being is achieved."

Throughout the year, Tostan explored and shared its practice-based insights with others at the following events:

Walk on My Own, New York, March 2019
(Naima Dido, Molly Melching, Suzanne Bowles)

Africa Agriculture Summit, Gauteng, January 2019
(Sun Valley, Yussuf Sané)

Family of Women Film Festival, Idaho, February 2019
(Naima Dido, Suzanne Bowles)

Skoll World Forum, Oxford, April 2019
(Elena Bonometti, Molly Melching, Suzanne Bowles)

World Justice Forum, The Hague, April 2019
(Edrisa Keita, Mamoudou Ndiaye)

Women Deliver, Vancouver, June 2019
(Rose Diop, Mohamed Cherif Diop, Suzanne Bowles, Naima Dido, Elena Bonometti)

Philanthropic Collaboration for Large-Scale Change, Bellagio, June 2019 (Elena Bonometti)

United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 2019
(represented by May Soliman)

Opportunity Collaboration, Cancun, October 2019
(Suzanne Bowles)

Hilton Prize Symposium, Los Angeles, October 2019
(Elena Bonometti)

Thomson Reuters Trust Conference, London, November 2019
(Suzanne Bowles)

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Thank You to Our Supporters

A check-up at a community health post (Senegal).



The generosity of many partners drives Tostan's momentum and impact. In 2019, Global Mobilizers made 1,189 gifts of all sizes in support of our work, representing 30% of all funds raised!

2019 Leadership Circle

Brian & Kelly Baxter
Cartier Philanthropy
Cynthia Baxter
Imago Dei Fund
Leslie Decker
Mary Ellen Cunningham
Orchid Project
Pathy Family Foundation
Planet Wheeler Foundation
The Gem Foundation
The Greenbaum Foundation
The Long Road Foundation
Tom & Gail Kaneb Family Foundation
The Ripple Foundation

Sister Organizations

Tostan Canada
Tostan Denmark
Tostan Sweden

Foundations & Organizations

Aid for Africa
American Women's Group in Paris
Anonymous
The Carter Center
Comic Relief (via Anti-Slavery International)
Austin College
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Branson Family Foundation
Bylo Chacon Foundation
European Union (via Future au Présent International)
Every Good Thing LLC
Flora Family Foundation
Fredrick Orhn (via Tostan Sweden)
Gary Saltz Foundation
Gates Philanthropy Partners
Global Affairs Canada
James Family Foundation
Kerrigan Family Charitable Foundation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Malin & Lennart Philipson Foundation
Margaret Gada Slosberg Charitable Foundation
Mao Family Foundation
Norad
Radio Sweden
Snowbird Foundation

Svenska Petroleum
Tellus Viva
The David E Reese Family Foundation
The Nommontu Foundation
The Trimble Foundation
UNICEF Senegal
UNFPA Mali
UNFPA Senegal
University of Kent
US Embassy Dakar
USAID (via Partners Global)
World Children's Prize

Individuals

The individuals listed below contributed \$10,000 or more between January 1 and December 31, 2019 for core support of our mission.

Alexei Kosut & Laura Back
Andrew Achterkirchen
Barbara & Ed Wilson
Carlyn Ring
Francesca Moneti
Gregory & Karen Dimit
Isaac Reilly
Jeffrey Walker
Mark & Lisa Wheeler
Susan Boggio

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From the CEO

2019 in Numbers

2019 Breakthrough

Implementing Our Model

The Important Role Played by CMCs

Peace and Security

Prison Project

Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement

Promoting Child Protection

Sharing our Model

Uniting Nigerian Communities

Global Influence

Positioning Tostan

Our Supporters

Financials

With Gratitude

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Financials

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	2,337,272
Investments	508
Grants receivable	333,333
Employee receivables	29,055
Other receivables and advances	229,340
Prepaid expenses and other assets	25,041
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,954,549

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Land	271,433
Buildings and improvements	458,372
Furniture and office equipment	96,567
Computer equipment and software	289,674
Vehicles	467,247
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(991,551)
Net property and equipment	591,742
Noncurrent assets and grants receivable	328,145
TOTAL ASSETS	3,874,436

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Loan payable	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	301,442
TOTAL LIABILITIES	301,442

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	1,699,871
Temporarily restricted	1,873,123
TOTAL NET ASSETS	3,572,994
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	3,874,436

EXPENSES

Program Services	6,391,804
General & Administrative	1,044,174
Fundraising	413,101

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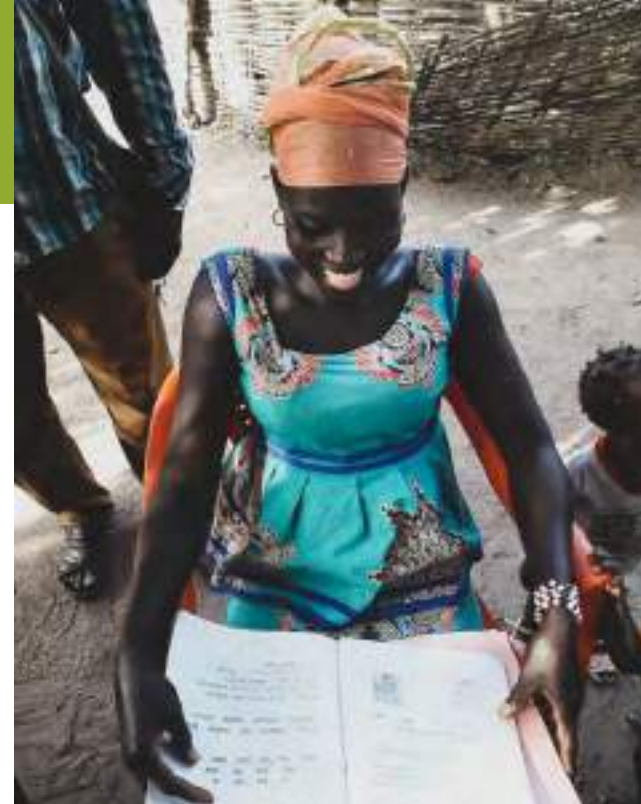
Global Influence

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Above: A CEP participant enjoys learning to read from one of Tostan's literacy books. Below: Class participants hold discussions on topics related to human rights long after classes end.



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[Sharing our Model](#)
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[Our Supporters](#)
[Financials](#)
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Tostan community partners celebrate the launch of the "When She Leads, Everyone Succeeds" initiative in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada. Commune of Bignarabé, Region of Kolda, Senegal

Thank you to all of Tostan's Global Mobilizers!

We are grateful to be your partners igniting change through participatory, human rights-based education so that communities may design futures that lead to dignity for all.

— The Tostan Staff



Community vision board in The Gambia, 2019

As the 30 Breakthrough Generation communities participating in the CEP approached the end of the program this year, Tostan Gambia National Coordinator Edrisa Keita says they have “noticed impressive gains towards the goal of strengthening community-led, sustainable development and the promotion of Human Rights.” CEP participants and Community Management Committees are actively involved in the development process, community decision making, and the implementation of activities related to the community vision of well-being. (See box 1 for some of the main areas active CEP communities worked on in The Gambia in 2019)

Increased visibility among, and collaboration with, local and national authorities is chief among Tostan Gambia’s major accomplishments in 2019. A Youth Forum and exchange trip between Councillors of Basse and Medina Yoro Foulah in Senegal were two such occasions for engagement with Rural Council officials, chiefs, and other regional authorities, leading to an increase in demand for the CEP in regions where Tostan does not have a presence. This is a strong indicator of the practical impact the CEP and related programmes of Tostan have on the lives of participants, especially

women and young people. These results are also affirmed by the Women’s Bureau of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, which monitors the impacts of the CEP in communities. Early and frequent engagement of local Council members on the roles and objectives of decentralization and local governance also lay a critical foundation for the implementation of Tostan’s Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement (SDCE) approach in The Gambia.

Looking ahead to 2020, Tostan Gambia is optimistic about scaling programs to 60 new communities in the Central River Region and implementing SDCE, both for the first time, with continued collaboration with and enthusiasm from local and national authorities.

“We as Assembly members will do everything possible to ensure that the work of Tostan is expanded in URR and more regions of The Gambia as this is critical to our national development. Our doors are wide open for Tostan to engage us with critical issues and we will offer our support, collaboration and guidance at all levels.”

– Sidia Jatta, Assembly Member for Wuli East, URR

2019 IN NUMBERS

30 communities have undertaken the CEP

10 communities have undertaken the Peace and Security Program, establishing **10** Peace Committees who helped resolve **128** conflicts

3,006 CEP participants, of whom **2,406** were women and girls

96 radio programs broadcast

In 2019, the **30** Community Management Committees registered as Community Based Organizations, and distributed community development funds to over **900** people for income generating activities. CMCs also:

Held **360** clean up days

Registered **376** children at birth

Enrolled **287** students in school

Planted over **400** trees

Hosted **2** Inter-Village and **2** Inter-Zonal Meetings

29 of a total **30** partner communities had a female Community Management Committee Coordinator

Tostan began working in The Gambia in 2007, launching the CEP in 40 communities in the Upper River Region. Since then, 214 communities have participated in the CEP and 325 communities have declared their intent to abandon harmful practices. For more information on Tostan Mali and Tostan’s work, visit our [website](#).

TOSTAN GUINEA IN 2019

With the CEP coming to a close for 40 communities in Guinea, Tostan Guinea National Coordinator Mouctar Oularé notes remarkable progress towards community involvement in development processes, decision making, and the execution of the communal vision of well-being. Community Management Committees (CMCs) bought school supplies for more than 100 children, built more than 300 improved wood stoves, and shared information with more than 400 families on the use of mosquito nets and good hygiene practices. (See box 1 for more details on activities in Guinea in 2019). This and more was accomplished, even as Tostan Guinea faced weather delays in programming. Tostan Guinea staff were also able to maintain relationships with local authorities and other technical partners.



Cécile Kolie, Head of Pre/Post Natal Consultations and Family Planning (quoted below)

As they prepare for 2020, staff are looking forward to increasing local visibility during large national events, including the International Day of the Girl, Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C, and the month dedicated to celebrating the Guinean Child. This will lead to greater awareness of Tostan's work nationally, and help foster new relationships with technical and financial partners. Staff also look forward to implementing SDCE and reinforcing strategic and operational partnerships with the Programme National des Communes de Convergence (PNACC), the national governmental entity coordinating decentralization and local development, in training Communal Councils.

“Before the Tostan program, very few women came to the health center to give birth or for post-natal consultations, which posed high risks to new mothers... In October alone, I've seen 52 women for post-natal consultations, 5 women came to the health center to give birth, and 11 women are using family planning methods.”

– Cécile Kolie, Head of Pre/Post Natal Consultations and Family Planning,
Technical Health Assistant at the health center in Kalinko, Guinea

Tostan

Dignity for All

2019 IN NUMBERS

40 communities have undertaken the CEP

3,158 CEP participants, of whom over **2,300** were women and girls

52 radio programs broadcast

In 2019, the **40** Community Management Committees Registered as Community Based Organizations and distributed community development funds to **1,994** people for income generating activities.

CMCs also:

Held **723** clean up days

Registered **1,577** children at birth

Enrolled **276** students in school

Hosted 4 Inter-Village Meetings

Built **2,089** improved cook-stoves

28 of a total **40** partner communities had a female Community Management Committee Coordinator

Tostan began working in Guinea in 2004, launching the CEP in 60 communities in collaboration with USAID. Since then, 368 communities have participated in the CEP and 1,027 communities have declared their intent to abandon harmful practices. For more information on Tostan Guinea and Tostan's work, visit our [website](#).

TOSTAN GUINEA BISSAU IN 2019

As the 40 communities participating in the Community Empowerment Program in Guinea Bissau move closer to the final stages of the program, Tostan Guinea Bissau National Coordinator Yussuf Sané is impressed by the increased engagement and strengthened capacities of the Community Management Committees (CMCs). Especially noteworthy is reinforced local economic empowerment, as CMCs lend, monitor, and supervise loans and small income generating activities from Community Development Funds. (For more information on CMC activities, please see the sidebar).

In December 2019, Tostan Guinea Bissau also organized two seminars on women's leadership, community health and well-being, and economic empowerment. Bringing together different generations of CEP communities from six different sectors for the first time, the seminars increased participant understanding of religious references to women's leadership, practices recommended by health specialists for healthy communities, and initiatives taken by experienced leaders of former CEP communities to achieve and ensure sustainability of their community visions.

In 2020, Tostan Guinea Bissau will open 120 new CEPs in Bafatá in accordance with Tostan's scaling plan, and introduce a new cohort of Bissau-Guinean civil society leaders to the Tostan Training Center. They anticipate current CEP communities will decide to publicly declare their intent to abandon harmful practices, impacting an estimated 3,000 direct participants. Guinea Bissau staff will also look to foster new partnerships with local authorities and civil society.



Samba Embalo, Sector Administrator, Sonaco
(quoted below)

“Since the beginning of the program, [I have seen] a significant change in the situation of children in the sector, especially in terms of hygiene. It is very important that the CMCs are equipped with the knowledge on the rights and laws that exist to protect children in the country...it is important that they are able to transform knowledge acquired from training into activities for the population.”

– Samba Embalo, Sector Administrator, Sonaco, Guinea Bissau

Tostan

Dignity for All

2019 IN NUMBERS

40 communities have undertaken the CEP

30 communities participated in social mobilization activities on peace and security with other cross-border communities in The Gambia and Senegal, resolving **541** conflicts.

3,577 CEP participants, of whom more than **2,900** were women and girls
143 radio programs broadcast

In 2019, **38** Community Management Committees opened bank accounts. Over **2,000** people used community development funds for income generating activities. CMCs also:

Held **1,274** clean up days
Registered 665 children at birth

Hosted **3** Inter-village meetings and **1** Inter-zonal meeting

All **40** partner communities had a female Community Management Committee Coordinator

Tostan began working in Guinea Bissau in 2008, launching the CEP in 39 communities as part of a UNICEF/UNFPA joint program. Since then, 119 communities have participated in the CEP and 271 communities have declared their intent to abandon harmful practices. For more information on Tostan Guinea Bissau and Tostan's work, visit our [website](#).



Fanta Diarra, President of the Dioila Rural Women's Association
(quoted below)

Watching the 80 communities participating in the Community Empowerment Program in Mali progress further with their modules over the course of 2019, Tostan Mali National Coordinator Moussa Diallo has noticed an increase in social mobilization activities and the implication of influential local leaders in executing community visions. He is particularly excited by the recently completed Strengthening Democracy for Civic Engagement (SDCE) trainings on decentralization with District Councils, which will lead to increased cooperation between local authorities and communities. (For more information on results in Mali, please see the sidebar).

In 2020, Tostan Mali staff look forward to continuing the CEP in the 40 Breakthrough Generation+ communities of the Koulikoro region, hosting the following round of SDCE trainings with the same District Councils, and introducing a new cohort of local leaders to the Tostan Training Center. Mali staff will also look to foster local partnerships, including with local authorities and civil society.

2019 IN NUMBERS

80 communities have undertaken the CEP

7,617 CEP participants, of whom more than **6,000** were women and girls

125 communities declared their intent to abandon harmful practices

125 radio programs broadcast

551 women hold positions in CMCs

In 2019, **40** Community Management Committees opened bank accounts, **54** established Community Development Funds, and **42** registered as Economic Interest Groups. Over 1,500 people used community development funds for income generating activities. CMCs social mobilization also led to:

1,592 clean up days

2,339 children registered at birth

30,869 children vaccinated

617 students enrolled in school

Tostan began working in Mali in 2009, launching the CEP in 38 communities in collaboration with USAID and the Government of Mali. Since then, 158 communities have participated in the CEP and 258 communities have declared their intent to abandon harmful practices. For more information on Tostan Mali and Tostan's work, visit our [website](#).

“The Tostan program has considerably reduced conflict in our communities. I think if the government of Mali was able to bring the program to the North and Center of the country, the conflicts there would be over.”

– Fanta Diarra, President of the Dioila Rural Women's Association

TOSTAN SENEGAL IN 2019

Tostan

Dignity for All



Declaration in Djiredji, Senegal, December 2019

2019 was a unique year for Tostan Senegal, as several projects ended in late 2018, and the launch of the CEP in 120 new communities scheduled for the Fall was split between late 2019 and early 2020. Nonetheless, Tostan Senegal also kicked off the second pilot for Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement (SDCE) modules on decentralization, good governance and transparency for local elected officials and Community Management Committees. In 2019, 40 CMCs were trained

by Tostan Senegal and Tostan International staff, with additional trainings scheduled for 2020. The expected results of this pilot are significant, as SDCE is expected to be modified and implemented across Tostan's five countries of work. A careful monitoring and evaluation of the results will be implemented to be sure all lessons learned can be taken into account during the replication process.

Tostan Senegal National Coordinator Rose Diop is encouraged not only by progress towards community involvement in development processes, decision making, and the execution of the communal vision of well-being, but by the locally-led shifts in social norms change. In South Senegal, 40 Mandinka and Pulaar communities publicly declared their intent to abandon harmful practices including FGC and child marriage in December. This in spite of the fact Senegal only had 19 communities active CEP communities this year. (See box 1 for additional results in Senegal in 2019)

In addition to Tostan Senegal's input shaping the scaled implementation of SDCE, Rose Diop and staff are excited about working with Bassari communities in Southwest Senegal for the first time in 2020. Having translated Tostan's materials on Human Rights to Oniyan, Tostan Senegal staff are prepared to begin the CEP, and later the Peace and Security Project, with 20 Bassari communities, as well as an additional 80 communities in Kolda, Sedhiou and Tambacounda.

"I challenge anyone who would say human rights cannot be found in the Quran. All that Tostan teaches is in the Quran. Women and children's rights are respected in the Holy Book."

– Thierno Abdourahmane Daouda Dia, religious leader, Velingara Ferlo, Senegal

2019 IN NUMBERS

19 communities have undertaken the CEP

Over **900** CEP participants, of whom more than **675** were women and girls **72** radio programs broadcast

40 communities publicly declared their intent to abandon harmful practices

112 communities participated in the Peace and Security Project, establishing **112** Peace Committees, who helped resolve **267** local conflicts

85 communities took part in the Strengthening Democracy and Civic Engagement pilot **6** prisons implemented a modified version of the CEP as part of the Prison Project

133 Daaras (Quranic schools) participated in the Promoting Child Protection Module

In 2019, **2** Community Management Committees registered as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and one opened a bank account. Nearly **800** people used community development funds for income generating activities. CMCs also:

Held **317** clean up days

Registered **469** children at birth

Enrolled **652** students in school

163 of a total **186** partner communities had a female Community Management Committee Coordinator

Tostan was founded in Senegal in 1991. Since 1997, 1,509 communities have participated in the CEP and 6,643 communities have declared their intent to abandon harmful practices. For more information on Tostan Senegal and Tostan's work, visit our [website](#).



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