Demonstrating God's love by enabling people affected by conflict and disaster to restore their lives and rebuild their communities.
From the Leadership

Dear friends, supporters, and colleagues,

Instant access to news about worldwide events has increased our awareness of global issues, but it has also fostered preconceived notions. For example, when we hear about the Middle East, Afghanistan, or Africa, our immediate mental response is often to think of poverty, conflict, market instability, and disaster. But the truth is much more complex; in the midst of chaos, conflict, and atrocity, there are opportunities for renewed hope.

Years of drought, often followed by heavy downpours of rain, threaten the lives and livelihoods of thousand of families in northern and northeastern Afghanistan. While drought devastates crops, heavy rain causes serious floods and landslides. Shelter For Life Afghanistan teams have worked with vulnerable communities and methodically remedied such vulnerabilities. Our teams have been able to restore several irrigation systems, build flood control and prevention infrastructure and road networks. In addition, we planted more than 300,000 fruit and non-fruit trees. While the trees stabilize the soil, positively affect surface water recharge and provide nutritious fruits, the infrastructure helps to connect farms to regional and national markets.

Even though the civil war in southern Senegal has ended, the region of Casamance remains poorer than the rest of the country. Although the region is blessed with fertile soil and water, the farmers in the region are poor. The situation is worsened by salinization of the soil by the incursion of sea water into some agricultural land. Shelter For Life in Senegal has been rebuilding the road and drainage networks in Casamance. The road and drainage reconstruction has restored connections between farms and markets and improved the productivity of agricultural land, and also hundreds of men and women have been hired as general laborers to work in the reconstruction work. These efforts have not only begun restoring the livelihoods of farmers but have also prepared the way for refugees to return to the area from neighboring countries.

You are part of the SFL family and it is only in partnership with you that we are able to facilitate these opportunities of hope. It is an honor to express our gratitude for your support and encouragement.

The Management and Board of Shelter For Life International

[Signatures]

Partners

[Logos]
Connecting Communities, 
Reviving Growth, 
Promoting Peace in Senegal

Senegal's southern region of Casamance, known for its rich soil and climate conducive to growing fruit and crops, fell victim in the 1980s to a long-running conflict between the government and local separatists. The conflict brought instability to the region and displaced tens of thousands of farmers. The region lapsed into poverty as agriculture failed and infrastructure crumbled.

Since 2012 an effort towards rapprochement between the government and opposition forces has been underway, and the government is making an effort to redevelop Casamance.

Roads linking agricultural production zones with market centers are a definite need in the area, and one aspect of the redevelopment emphasis. A national highway, the RN6, running east-west through Casamance, has been built. Another part of reconstruction in the region is a series of feeder roads being built by SFL linking agricultural areas with the highway, funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

During the decades of conflict, when much of the local population left their homes, many of the area's smaller roads became overgrown and eroded, and were not usable by motor vehicles. During the annual three-month rainy season the roads became almost impassable, further discouraging agricultural trade and resettlement.

SFL's rural farm-to-market feeder roads project started not with road construction, but clearing landmines from fields and areas where the roads were to be built. SFL played an important role as a go-between in extensive negotiations with the government and elements of the local separatists. Roads could not be built without the go-ahead from opposition forces, and the necessary negotiations were often challenging.

Once permission was given for new road-building, SFL hired local cash-for-work laborers who clear brush and trees from the overgrown roads, prepare the roadbed for heavy compaction, and dig roadside drainage ditches along some lengths of the road. Then, along with compaction, an iron and aluminum-rich soil called laterite is applied. With the use of heavy equipment the laterite helps form a durable road surface that stands up well in the rainy season.

Lines etched on the map of Casamance show completed roads and those planned and under construction.
Among the feeder roads constructed by SFL in 2015, a critical artery for the transportation of cashews was completed. Cashews are an important cash crop in Casamance and beyond.

The community of Boutoupa is not large, perhaps home to not more than a hundred families. However, this community is significant in local cashew production, and is now connected to the RN6 national highway.

Each year between April and August, cashew farmers and traders meet to buy and sell this important commodity. Cashews from as far away as neighboring Guinea-Bissau are sold to international exporters who ship them to India, Vietnam, and the US. In order to find their way to international markets these cashews must first travel along the SFL-rehabilitated road to the RN6.

During 2015 SFL’s team also constructed a series of seven short roads running north from the RN6 to the Casamance River. These roads connect fishermen to the highway. Fish is another important commodity in the region, and easy access to markets is an enormous help to fishermen and their families. The Casamance River is salt water about 120 kilometres (75 miles) inland from the ocean. As a result there is a large variety of delicious seafood that can be fished and exported regionally. By constructing these roads, refrigerated trucks are able to come to the riverside and load their cargo. In this way the seafood supply chain is significantly improved.

SFL hires local men and women to work on the roads, and pays them in cash. This provides an important economic boost to the region, which has struggled with poverty for many years. The local communities along the roads are very
keen to participate in the road construction as it presents a good employment opportunity. In 2015 SFL hired 1,138 community members to clear bushes and trees on more than 55 kilometers (34 miles) of new roads. Of these laborers, 330 were women, or 29% of the force.

In 2015 a total of 77.6 kilometers (48.2 miles) of road were surveyed and contracted to machine operators, and 37.5 kilometers (23.3 miles) were cleared by cash-for-work laborer teams in preparation for machinery works. SFL fully rehabilited 18.3 kilometers (11.4 miles) of roads, with accompanying drainage ditches.

Looking ahead to 2016, SFL will complete the overall target of 130 kilometers (81 miles) of safe, durable, and efficient feeder roads.

In 2016 SFL will also conduct an intensive survey of farmers who live along the roads to understand how the roads are impacting their work and lives.

By connecting farmers and fishermen to regional market centers, and encouraging resettlement and agricultural production, SFL’s rural feeder roads project is providing employment to hundreds and potential long-term livelihoods to thousands in the future.

Tina, SFL’s staff nurse supports cash-for-work laborers.

When cash-for-work laborers clearing land and constructing roads and drainage ditches in Senegal suffer minor injuries or are unwell and require first aid, they are looked after by SFL’s nurse Tina.

In her capacity as staff nurse for SFL’s road-worker teams, Tina treats minor wounds such as cuts and bruises, and occasional heat exhaustion.

There is a shortage of medical professionals in Casamance, and nursing degrees are not easy to acquire. From Casamance herself, Tina completed her three years of training in Ziguinchor, received her nursing degree in 2012, then worked in a local clinic until she started in her current position with SFL.

Tina is pleased to be in a job she finds challenging and fulfilling as she supports those who are contributing to the betterment of life in Casamance. And SFL is pleased to have a dedicated and caring medical professional on staff to support our hard-working teams in the field.
Renewing the Land and Rejuvenating Communities in Afghanistan

The SFL team in Afghanistan had an active year in 2015, implementing seven projects funded by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Activities included a variety of humanitarian assistance and community development interventions in thirteen districts of four provinces.

The rural areas of northern Afghanistan often suffer from insufficient or irregular water supplies - a chronic problem difficult to overcome for farmers intent on doing their best to grow good crops year after year. Poorly maintained irrigation channels, or those damaged by floods or conflict, significantly limit crop production. SFL’s teams helped remedy this problem in several communities by cleaning, repairing, and widening canals and building aqueducts to facilitate improved water delivery to farmers’ fields.

The condition of many rural roads has hampered farmers moving their crops to market, and limited access to education and healthcare. SFL rehabilitated several lengths of road and so improved capacity for motor vehicle traffic. Farmers can now move their harvested crops to market more efficiently, and more easily carry needed equipment back to their farms.

The hilly and mountainous terrain of much of the northern provinces leaves many communities vulnerable to loss from floods and landslides. SFL led work to stabilize hillsides and protect property. Check dams were built to slow and contain fast-flowing water in streams, especially dangerous in times of flood. Terraces on hillsides were built to help keep the sloping soil in place, and several kilometers of protection walls were put up to guard communities against potentially devastating flash floods.

On thousands of terraces and in nurseries built by SFL, hundreds of thousands of trees were planted. The trees roots stabilize the soil and recharge its ability to hold water. When full-grown the plants will provide edible fruit and nuts - sources not just of nutrition but income as commodities.

Local laborers were engaged in food-for-work
programs to build the canals, roads, terraces, walls, and nurseries. Mixed foodstuffs, such as wheat, pulses, oil, and salt, were distributed. In addition, school feeding programs were implemented in two districts, with food distributed to students in grades one to nine over an eight-month period.

At a glance, here are the achievements in 2015 across the various projects:

Infrastructure:
- 62 kilometers of canals built or rehabilitated
- 26 kilometers of roads rehabilitated
- 5,759 meters of protection walls built
- 9 culverts and 44 meters of aqueducts built
- 470 check dams constructed
- 4,785 terraces built on hillsides

Trees planted:
- 76,200 walnut and blackberry
- 208,000 pistachio
- 1,600 apple
- 51,200 other fruit and non-fruit trees

Food distributed to food-for-work laborers:
- 2,491 metric tons to 15,800 laborers

School feeding distribution:
- 269 metric tons to 11,250 school children

Workers completing work on a flood protection wall and ditch.

Sustainable Microfinance for Afghanistan (SEMA)

The microfinance program begun several years ago in northern Afghanistan continued in 2015. Despite security challenges in the field due to renewed conflict, loan officers continued field activities servicing loans and visiting microloan recipients.

Men preparing to plant trees on a hillside in northern Afghanistan. The trees will stabilize the soil and help prevent landslides.
2015 Financial Statement

Revenue and Support
- Federal Grants and Contracts: $1,622,010
- UN World Food Program Contracts: $650,688
- Contribution and Support: $28,162
- Other Income: $143,031
Total Revenue and Support: $2,443,891

Expenses
- Program Services:
  - Senegal Program: $1,365,558
  - Afghanistan Programs: $705,253
  - Total Program Services: $2,070,811
- Support Services:
  - Administration: $402,314
  - Total Support Services: $402,314
Total Expenses: $2,473,125

Change in Net Assets: $(29,234)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year: $720,847
Net Assets - End of Year: $691,613

Donors

Stephen J. Arroyo
Richard and Norma Brill
Patrick and Angela Digmann
David Eng
Robert M. Gates
Ralph and Marie Jackson Family Foundation
Zoltan Kadar, Jr.
Chang Seon Kim
Kimberly Clark Foundation
James G. Lochtefeld
Whitney Meyers
National Christian Foundation

Patricia Nicholson
Robert Nickel
Matthew and Marian Odegaard
Abdullah Omar
Earl B. Patrick
Naomi Schwaegerl
Arathi Shah
Nomi Silverman
Steve Susmihl
Terrace Shores Evangelical Free Church
John C. Threadcraft
Douglas M. Whittemore
Board of Directors and Officers

Brint Patrick  
Chairman

Gordon Wright  
Vice Chairman

Kyle Newkirk  
Treasurer

Victor Weir III  
Director

Tom Lane  
Director

Mustafa Omar  
Executive Director

Asfaw Seyoum, CPA  
Director of Finance

Afghanistan Office and Field Staff

Senegal Office Staff