Thank you for your support in 2013!

In what was a full and exciting year, our partner communities took the lead in their own development, making strides in the areas of governance, education, health, environment, economic growth, and more.

Here is a snapshot of their successes and other Tostan highlights.

January – The Community Management Committee (CMC) of Simbaya in western Guinea developed creative solutions to ensure their children have access to education. Tostan was listed as one of the Top 100 NGOs in The Global Journal for the second consecutive year.

February – Tostan's Prison Project continued to lead a modified version of the Community Empowerment Program (CEP) in Senegalese prisons and facilitated many successful family mediations, including that of Fama Sall and her family.

March – We launched our new Reinforcement of Parental Practices (RPP) Module, which aims to improve children's early development and learning through positive parental practices.

April – Our new celebratory and story-centered website and brand launched, as well as our founder Molly Melching's biography, However Long the Night, which appeared on Tina Brown's must read book list.

May – Tostan's work to inspire positive social change and the abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC) was featured on PBS NewsHour. We also officially launched our ambitious Generational Change in Three Years campaign.

June – Beginning in May and carrying over into June, four public declarations for the abandonment of FGC and child/forced marriage took place in four countries – Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and The Gambia – in just four weeks.

July – Communities in Senegal strengthened their literacy skills through the use of mobile phones and However Long the Night made it onto Bill Gates' Reading List.

August – We started a new blog series featuring the work of dynamic Tostan team members including Penda Mbaye, Alasane Diedhiou, Marie Sall, Lamin Fatty, and others. Senegal's Director of Family declared that total FGC abandonment in Senegal is possible by 2015.

September – We called for your thoughts on our new Training Center in an online survey, and we began using online monitoring and evaluation technology in the field. Also for UNGA week, we shared how our partner countries are making progress towards the eight Millennium Development Goals.

October – Peace Committees helped to resolve longstanding conflicts and build sustainable peace, and Tostan partner communities collaborated with the NGO Community Voice International to record and sell their music to raise funds for their development projects.

November – Tostan's RPP team collaborated with religious leaders from over 60 Senegalese villages at a workshop about early childhood development and the teachings of Islam. Meanwhile, in The Gambia, Omar Cessay and the local CMC worked together to improve access to healthcare in remote communities.

December – Communities told their stories of change in three participant-produced films.
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Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to partnering with you in 2014!

Happy New Year!

Molly Melching