



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](#), [Alassane Diédhiou](#), [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 66 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](#)

premiered on Human Rights Day, and a new study was released showing [dramatic reductions in child mortality in Mali](#) following the implementation of a new health model led by [NGO Muso](#) and Tostan.

Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to partnering with you in 2014!

Happy New Year!



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