Ana Sila is a student of Dandum Primary School, located in Boé, Gabú region, an extremely remote village in the southeast of Guinea-Bissau. In the beginning of 2011 she was invited to participate in her School Garden and learned about the importance of a varied and health diet through planting and eating products cultivated in the School Garden. Soon, all her friends started enjoying the garden activities as well as the more varied dishes prepared with the products planted in the school. Motivated by this learning environment, Ana decided to engage her mom in the garden.

Mr. Bacar Baldé, the director of Dandum School, is really happy with the results of the School Garden. He highlights the engagement of the community, especially the families of the students as a crucial ingredient for the success of this nutrition promotion initiative. In 2011, Dandum School Garden cultivated more than 100 kilos of tomatoes, besides lettuce, onions, peppers, okra and other vegetables. "The income from the sale of onions is of 200,000 FCFA (US$ 400) and it is only the beginning of the sale season. This income is being managed by the women of the village and it will be reinvested in the School Garden", explain the director of Dandum School.

Ana Sila’s mother, Mrs. Sira Bai Camara, encouraged by her daughter, started to learn the agriculture techniques. After a while, she started teaching other members of her family - men, women and children - how to cultivate and earlier than she expected a Family Garden quickly grew in her small village. Today, all her family children and neighbors, the younger and even the older, benefit from a healthier diet thanks to this family plantation. The extra vegetables harvested are sold by the family in order to buy seeds and food to guarantee the daily survival.

This School Garden is an initiative of the UN Joint Programme
FAO - UNICEF - WFP - WHO
‘Promotion of a Multi-level Approach to Child Malnutrition in Guinea-Bissau’