



November 2023

On July 26, 2023, the military took over the government of Niger. Niger had been widely viewed as the last bastion of democracy in the West African Sahel, so the military take-over caught many by surprise, including us. It is still early to know what the long-term impacts of the coup will be, but it does create a more uncertain future.

This is hardly our first experience with political upheaval and uncertainty. We're reminded of January 1, 2008, when we arrived in Africa for the very first time. We flew into Kenya just as results of a disputed presidential election were announced. Violent protests broke out and our visit to Sauri, the first village to participate in the Millennium Villages Project, was cancelled. Yet, as so often happens, when one door closes another opens. We made an unplanned visit to the Little Rock Early Childhood Development Center in the slums of Kibera and met Lilly Oyare. That initial visit blossomed into a 13-year partnership and the creation of the Little Rock Scholars program. And while our initial visit to Sauri was postponed, we made it back a year later and went on to work with the Millennium Villages Project for a decade.



We remember another date — April 27, 2018. Not political upheaval this time, but upheaval all the same. That was the day that Professor Dov Pasternak passed away. Dov was the father of the Farmers of the Future program. More than that, Dov was brilliant, passionate, and inspirational. His philosophy towards agricultural and economic development reshaped EPN's strategic direction. Dov dreamed that agriculture would one day be the path out of poverty for millions of subsistence farmers and his knowledge and experience seemed

irreplaceable. And yet, 5 years later his dream lives on in the Dov Institute.

We're proud of what Eliminate Poverty NOW has accomplished over the years:

- The Little Rock Scholars program sent 90 extraordinary young women and men to Kenya's top high schools. Most have continued their studies in colleges, universities and technical schools. Their lives are forever changed, and the positive ripple effects will be felt for generations to come.
- Our partnership with Millennium Villages Project spanned 6 countries and focused on projects up and down the agricultural supply chain. Thousands benefitted and we gained invaluable learning along the way.
- With the Songhai Center in Benin, we created the Songhai Women's Capital Fund to demonstrate what entrepreneurial young women can achieve when given the opportunity.
- And we've devoted a decade to optimize Dov Pasternak's Farmers of the Future model, teaching rural women to farm for profit and earn life changing income. Each FOF village became a learning laboratory and together forged the principles on which the Dov Institute is based.

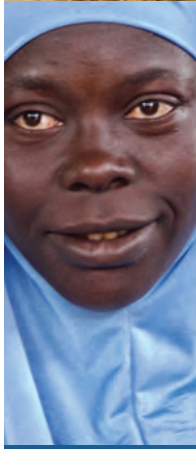
Eliminate Poverty NOW is hardly the first organization to pursue agriculture as the path out of poverty for Africa's subsistence farmers. Nor are we the largest, longest-tenured, or best-funded by any stretch. But few can match our commitment, perseverance, and patience. We take the time required to get it right and create lasting change.

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Members of LIBO, the NGO managing EPN projects in Niger, gather outside the EPN Building on the Dov Institute campus. They are committed to launch technician training in 2024.

We're excited by the Dov Institute. It's innovative – the first in Niger to feature horticulture and the income-generating power of agriculture. Everything about it will be first class – from its facilities to its faculty, students, and programs. And we're well on our way. The campus is a showcase, our emphasis on experiential learning and practical skills is attracting great attention, and our knowledge and results are starting to turn heads. In the past year we've been sought out by Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Blair Institute, USAID and the US Embassy. We were disappointed to push back the launch of technician training another year. There was too much to do, too little time to get it done, and we were unwilling to compromise quality to meet an internal deadline. We fully intend to launch technician training next October despite the challenges the coup may pose.

As always, we're grateful for the support of our donors and our partners in Africa. Without you, none of this is possible. And this year, John and Judy will personally match your contribution dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000 between now and December 31st. **If you are contributing by check, please note that we have a new mailing address: Eliminate Poverty NOW, P.O. Box 364, Dover, NH 03821.** And, as always, you can contribute through our website at [www.EliminatePovertyNOW.org](http://www.EliminatePovertyNOW.org).

We thank you for your trust and support and for creating better lives for thousands of Africa's extreme poor.

*John + Judy*

John and Judy Craig,  
Founders of Eliminate Poverty NOW

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