Reflection From One YAGM

Finally, we leave you with a small reflection on water by Charlie Williams, a YAGM in Senegal who hails from "where the suburbs meet the rolling foothills of California's Central Valley" and who has experienced water shortages and rationing over the past decade due to the droughts in California. In her latest newsletter, Charlie writes: "I arrived in Senegal and I was in for a rude awakening. Water is a huge privilege. In Senegal, like much of the developing world, the majority of the population does not have reliable access to water, let alone clean water. I was told going into my site that Foundiougne [a Senegalese "department" or administrative district] often went several days without the resource. Initially, I believed it would be an easy transition due to my experience with wells, but this turned out not to be the case at all. Getting water in my home here has been a wake-up call to my privilege back in the States, one that more people need to be aware of. In my community specifically, there are two main challenges: the overall quality of the water and getting it in the first place." Through her newsletter, Charlie invites us to look deeper into our own privileges here in the United States and ways to be better stewards of natural resources.

Diegane Ndong (left), Mbam community project gardens leader, with Charlie Williams, a Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer in Senegal.