



# 206 children sit at tables and benches—no longer on rocks!

When Oury Diallo, GUINNOVATION's founder, attended school for the first time at age seven, the stronger boys competed for rocks to sit on. Others sat on the ground, close to the teacher to hear the lesson. There were no books.

Today, GUINNOVATION's 206 children in four rural communities sit on benches made locally. Three children share a table. Most have their own set of five books that include language (French), calculus, science, history-geography and civic education. GUINNOVATION did receive some government help securing third grade books.

Guinea's government provides schooling, but many outlying communities are not included. In August 2017, GUINNOVATION provided an opportunity for young children to attend school when parents in four small villages in the LeLouma Prefecture were unable to afford a teacher. The children started in the first grade and are now in the third grade. When they complete sixth grade, those who pass a national test will be invited to attend a government sponsored school in a larger population center.

Our educational overseer, Mr. Sidibe, says our children compare well—even better than children who live in larger areas attending public school.



Attendance ranges between 91% in Darou Salam and 98%–99% in Tondon, Guessore and Benguerin. Parents provide lodging for the four teachers.

All four schools started with 60 children for a total of 240 students. Sadly, two children have died, and several families moved. One village, Benguerin, enrolled children too young to attend. Our age requirement was six to nine years of age. Children younger than six dropped out. A total of 34 children left, dropped out (or died), giving us a retention rate of 86%. Slightly more girls than boys attend schools (see chart below).

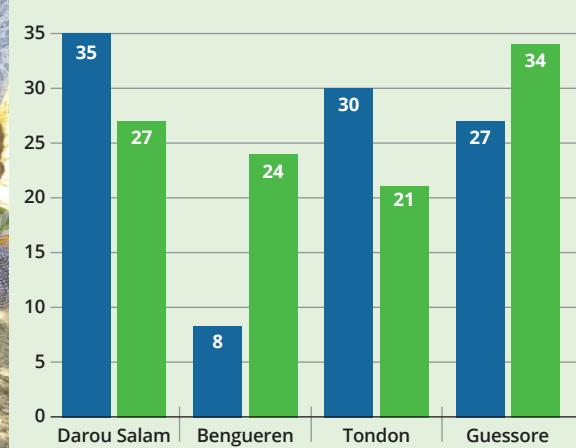
A chance to go to school made all the difference in Oury's life. He now works for an INGO that provides vision care around the world.

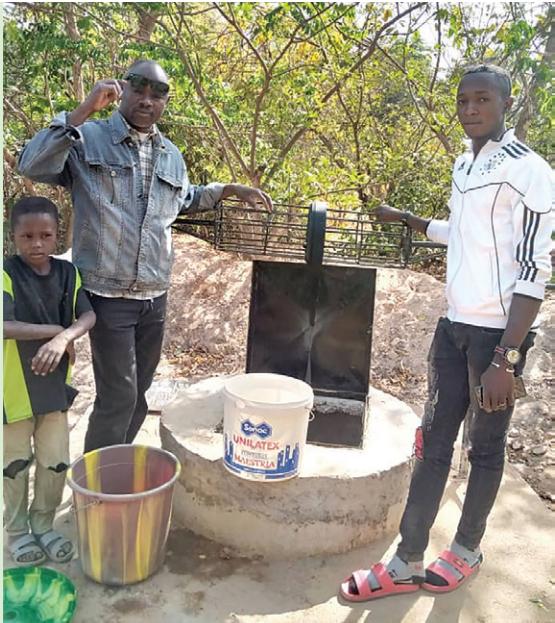
**Number of Guinnovation Students by Gender**



**TOTAL BOYS: 100**

**TOTAL GIRLS: 106**





## School children now have well water for drinking and hygiene

Before the villages got their wells, it fell to one or two children to fetch drinking water from the river. Dialikatou, 10 years old from Bengerin, or Kadiatou, age 12 from Guessore, might be assigned the task. Making the trip to the river and back with enough drinking water for the classroom took them away from class and learning.

But now all the children have access to well water. The wells were constructed close to the school. Now there is enough well water for both drinking and hand-washing, which the teachers and parents told us was a concern.

Thanks to generous North Carolina donors, four wells were constructed in 2019. The work began in April 2019 before the rainy season started. All were finished by late fall. The villages provided meals to the well constructors, using local resources. The four wells cost a total of \$3,643. The individual wells ranged from \$532 to \$1,085, depending on soil and rock composition.

## Bringing **hope** and a **future** to children

Because American dollars go far in the Republic of Guinea, for \$48 you can cover the cost of fourth grade for one child (2020–2021). This amount covers the teacher's salary, books and our educational overseer, who travels to these remote areas to supervise our teachers.

GUINNOVATION is a not-for-profit 501 c 3 organization. We launched our FUND A TEACHER project in 2017 after Oury Diallo, our founder, returned to his village, found the school being used for storage because parents could not afford a teacher, and the government had not assigned a first grade teacher for this village.

Oury personally funded a teacher for his village, enabling 90 children to start first grade. That inspired GUINNOVATION to seek out other villages. The response was overwhelming, and we chose four villages from those that applied. That was three years ago and our children have now finished the third grade.

Children who are not able to attend school are more vulnerable to poverty or to engage in illegal activities, including illegal immigration, and are likely to be exposed to human trafficking.

**\$48 = annual cost of school for one child**

**\$144 = support a child through 4th, 5th, and 6th grades**

**\$140 = monthly cost for 1 teacher**

**\$1,680 = annual cost for 1 teacher**

You can make a secure on-line donation through our website [guinnovation.org/donations](http://guinnovation.org/donations), or send a check to GUINNOVATION, 8025 Morrell Lane, Durham, NC, 27713.

### COVID-19 Update

According to our educational overseer as of June 29, there are currently zero cases of the virus in the Lelouma Prefecture. Our schools closed at the end of March when the Guinea government closed the public schools, but we will re-open when schools are allowed to start back up.

