



COVID didn't stop Guinea kids from learning

Of the 194 children who were tested on third-grade material in October 2020, 150 (79%) passed. They scored even better than children in government-sponsored schools on their end-of-grade test. This was achieved despite a 6-month school closing due to the pandemic and political unrest.

The 40 children who didn't earn a passing score will have a chance to catch up as they learn 4th-grade material. The four schools have the same teachers from the year before. They know the students, their strengths and areas that need improvement. We are grateful for that stability. Eleven children were unable to take the tests the week it was given.

Girls out-performed the average

Eighty-seven percent of the girls earned a passing grade on the end-of-grade test in October 2020. We are pleased to report that 113 of the 205 students are girls. It was a conscious effort when we launched the schools that girls be welcomed and encouraged to attend. We have two female teachers, which helps model education benefits for girls.

High attendance

Attendance in 2020 was 90% in our four schools, according to Mr. Sidibe, our educational supervisor. GUINNOVATION is funding four schools in the Lelouma region of Guinea, and 200 children are now in the fourth grade. Children come to school on time and ready to learn, Mr. Sidibe reports.



Our teachers tell their stories

When Mariama Korka Diallo came to teach in *Benguerin*, she found a disheartened village. Efforts to educate their children had collapsed. There was no teacher and no books. All that changed when GUINNOVATION financed a teacher, books and built a well. Now, motivated children come to school on time, complete assignments and are learning! This has changed the spirit of the village to one of hope.

Barry Mamadou Pate teaches 61 fourth grade pupils in *Guessore*. A grandmother recently expressed her gratitude for the education her grandson was receiving. Because he can now read, he helps her make calls and conduct other business on her phone. She sees first-hand the benefits of education. She will continue to support her grandson's efforts and all those who are making the GUINNOVATION school possible.

Tondon's 4th-grade teacher Toure Alpha Madany shared this example of how parents are supportive of their children's school opportunity. "I asked children to provide their birth certificates. One child did not have one. His father walked 22 kilometers (14 miles) the same day to secure one for his child and brought it to me that afternoon."

Adama Dian Diallo, teacher at our school in *Dar-Salaam* recounted testimony of a parent. Before any of the children went to school, they could not speak or read French. All that has changed now as he observes the children speaking French and reading at home. The value of education — "It's like night and day," he said, expressing his gratitude for the whole village.

Four wells are dug and operating!

With your generosity, a covered well with lift mechanism has been dug in each village. Mr. Sidibe reports the villagers now use the wells instead of fetching water from the river. The wells are helping our children and their families practice hand-washing hygiene more easily, a benefit in the midst of a pandemic.

School uniforms

Mr. Sidibe reports poverty "is the greatest I've seen in 10 years," causing families to put their children to work and in some cases, leaving the area. He recommends GUINNOVATION provide each student a school uniform as added incentive to keep their children in school — average cost, \$3.75 per uniform. We are also launching a public service campaign to promote education as a way of stabilizing families.

How you can help!

For \$48 per child per year, GUINNOVATION can provide a teacher, books, desks, and expenses for our educational supervisor. This means we need to raise \$9,840 in 2021 to help our children complete the 4th grade. American dollars go a long way in Guinea! Here's how you can partner with us:

- ☐ \$48 for one child for a year of school
- ☐ \$480 sponsors 10 children for one year
- ☐ \$1,700 sponsors the salary of one teacher for one year
- ☐ \$264 provides uniforms for one school and sponsors a public service campaign

Our mailing address is 8025 Morrell Lane, Durham, NC, 27713

Our website: www.guinnovention.org

Donate online: www.guinnovention.org/donations

Students finish 3rd grade with high marks!

According to Guinea's Pedagogical and Inspection Team, GUINNOVATION's children performed better than other government-sponsored schools in the prefecture.

79%
earned a
passing grade
or better

194/205
took the test
150 earned a
passing grade

90%
attendance
rate was
maintained

113
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are girls

All children moved from 3rd to 4th grade, as those who did not earn a passing grade will be with the same teacher, who can help them overcome whatever academic weakness they have.

