



## A Change of Heart: Community embraces education

From 2017 to June 2023, GUINNOVATION one-hundred percent funded four schools in rural villages in the LeLouma Prefecture of Guinea. Our funding paid the teachers' salaries and purchased all the textbooks, book bags, uniforms, supervisors, and more training for the teachers. At the end of six years, we concluded that our experiment, while it had ended with 88% of sixth grade students passing the National Education exam, had not ignited the community's passion for education.

But we were wrong! The successful graduation of their students and our six-year commitment to them—from both Guinea expats and friends who'd never been to Guinea—ignited the spark! On their behalf, the Government's Educational Superintendent for the area's schools, Mr. Diallo Abdourahmane, got permission to build a new school—starting with the seventh grade.

Their sixth grade graduates could remain in the local area and would not have to travel to a more populated area to continue their education. They named the school GUINNOVATION Middle School!

Our founder, Oury Diallo, recently spoke to Mr. Diallo Abdourahmane. If GUINNOVATION gave \$1,600 for the 2024–25 school year, could the community match that? Mr. Diallo wasted no time. He convened a meeting of the village elders and within two days, the Diaspora and the community had raised \$1,600! Two teachers have been hired. The community is providing lodging and covering some of their food expenses to incentivize them to come to their remote area. The \$3,200 together will cover both teachers' salaries. So, while it took six years to fan this flame, the community is now enthusiastically committed to the education of their children! This is a good news story.



### One of our funded teachers ranked #1 in the state's organized teaching competition in Labe

Following that achievement, Teacher Mamadou Saliou Diallo, at the KOULA TOKOSSERE primary school, presented 29 candidates for the seventh year entrance exam with 28 admitted, meaning they passed! Five were laureates. Mr. Diallo began teaching at the school in October 2019 and was hired this year by the government. He earned a bachelor's degree in community development from ISFAD Labé in 2017. Mr. Diallo thanked the DSEE of Diari, his director Mr. Mamadou Dian Diallo, the staff, the APEAE, and GUINNOVATION for their commitment to education. GUINNOVATION paid his salary last year.

## What our financial support meant to the 7 schools in 2023-24

In developing countries, elementary schools are often started and supported by poor parents and the Diaspora. Here's feedback we received from our schools:

- Directors and teachers gained valuable time NOT having to go to each child, or to all the classrooms, collecting fees every month.
- Teachers relaxed. They came to school every day ready to teach because they knew their monthly salary would be deposited into their account on time. Students and parents were pleased with the teacher motivation they observed because of this.

## Coming in 2026?

Guinnovation's board and advisors caught a new vision! It's an ambitious plan, but we want to build our own elementary school that also houses a medical clinic. This would be first through sixth grades. We start with first and add one grade each year. The medical clinic would serve the surrounding community.



The community showed strong support at the naming ceremony for GUINNOVATION Middle School.

## ANNOUNCEMENT TO DONORS!

## Government has picked up most of the community funded teachers!

Guinea's "teaching competition," which was administered to all eligible teachers in the country, resulted in 16 of the 21 teachers GUINNOVATION had supported, being taken over by Guinea's Education Department. To equalize the continued support to schools, the GUINNOVATION Board will give each school \$1,600. The amount will be written into their 2024-25 Memorandum of Understanding with us and will be used to buy directly from local vendors books, tables and benches.

## Remaining Needs

Several schools requested help building the capacity of their teachers. The better trained a teacher is, the more children will learn. Building capacity for managers was also mentioned. Several schools lack sufficient classrooms. That means children who would otherwise be able to attend school, cannot be included for lack of space. One school requested a computer as they must travel at least 15 miles to access one. Several also asked for help digging wells for drinking water. Our \$1,600 to each school is targeting books, tables and benches—a continuing need. But, if you can help with other issues, please contact us at [info@guinnovation.org](mailto:info@guinnovation.org).



## How can I help?

Because we are an all-volunteer organization, we add no management fee. Your entire donation goes to our projects and programs. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of providing education for children who need it!

For a secure online donation, visit <https://guinnovation.org/donate/> or contribute by check to: GUINNOVATION, 316 Simwood Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587.

