



»» Project Information

Implemented by:



Education – Guinea

Despite its wealth in resources, Guinea is among the poorest countries in the world; about two thirds of the population live in poverty. Improved education outcomes are absolutely necessary for its human development, but this still poses a great challenge for the Guinean government. The low educational level is a major hindrance for Guinea's development –not even one third of the total population can read and write. In many remote areas such as the Faranah region in central Guinea school infrastructure and qualified teachers are lacking. KfW Development Bank – on behalf of the German Federal Government – finances the construction and equipment of primary schools within the "Primary Education Programme Guinea", implemented by the NGO Plan International in coordination with the Ministry of Pre-university Education and Alphabetisation MEPU-A.

Context

Despite its wealth in resources, Guinea is among the poorest countries in the world. It is ranked #182 out of 188 countries by the Human Development Index in 2015. A great hindrance for the development of the country is the utterly low education level in the population. Only 30.4 percent of the overall population is literate, the literacy rate among women is even less (22.8 percent) and among the younger population (15-24 year olds) it amounts to 45.3 percent. The effective school attendance rate is only 2.4 years (1.4 years among girls) despite an obligatory six years of schooling; class size in primary schools is 44 students per teacher on average.

The Ebola epidemic in 2014 and 2015 had a substantial

negative impact on the education sector. Schools had to be closed for several months. Furthermore, the decline in economic growth due to the epidemic resulted in a decrease of education expenditure.

Project approach

The Financial Cooperation (FC) programme "Primary Education Programme Guinea" aims to support the Guinean government with the implementation of the national education programme (Programme Sectoriel de l'Education, PSE), particularly with regard to extending the access to primary education and by improving the quality of teaching.

Project name	Primary Education Programme Guinea
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Guinea/ Sub-Saharan Africa
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Pre-university Education and Alphabetisation; Plan International Guinea





Koumarela primary school in Dabola, Faranah
Source: KfW, photographer: Dr. Elke Lüdemann.

Due to the persistently fragile political situation in Guinea, the EUR 18.3 million in funds that had been initially committed to a basket funding, were reallocated into a bilateral, non-governmental program. The project is implemented by the NGO Plan International in close cooperation with the PSE.

The project primarily targets primary school-age children, yet their parents and teachers as well as municipalities and local construction companies also benefit directly and indirectly from its activities.

The FC programme comprises the construction and the equipment of a total of 141 primary schools in the Faranah region in Central Guinea. Access to water and sanitary facilities are provided in each school building; in addition, new teacher housing units are built in some school communities. Furthermore, the acquisition of teaching material is financed. Especially in the first project phase, trainings for primary school teachers were a key component; by now trainings have been intensified by a complementary programme of the German Technical Cooperation. School communities are closely involved in the construction of schools in order to foster a sense of responsibility for future use and maintenance of the school buildings. Further measures aim at raising awareness among parents and teachers for education and children's rights.

The project is implemented over a period of four years and is expected to be completed by June 2017.

Impact

By the school year 2015/16, 88 out of 141 schools were finished and consigned to the communities; the remaining 53 schools will be completed by the start of the school year 2016/17. Hence, access to primary educa-

tion in the Faranah region has improved: about 7,900 girls and boys were enrolled in the newly constructed schools.

In order to improve the quality of teaching, teachers shall participate in special trainings. In total about 1,000 teachers, a third of them women, have been trained in didactics, mathematics and pedagogy. So far a total of 174,000 textbooks and 3,000 handbooks has been distributed among the teachers in the Faranah region.

Since the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic, Ebola prevention and hygiene measures have been integrated into the implementation of the programme, e.g. by informing the communities and providing schools with sinks and hygiene kits.

Currently, the greatest challenge for the success of the project is the provision of teachers by the Guinean government. The construction of teacher housing units is intended to support the government's efforts in incentivizing teachers to work in remote areas. A high share of the Programme's school communities presently finances their own teachers on a temporary basis through parent contributions. They want to ensure that classes for their children can take place and overcome the teacher scarcity in Faranah, a problem which at present cannot be solved by the Ministry of Education.

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