



SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA NEWSETTE

Official Project of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Issue 5 • Guinea-Bissau

Includes: *FOCUS ON GUINEA-BISSAU ... a child's personal success story, a fundraiser idea and information about this African nation*

UNICEF/U.S. FUND RESULTS: Guinea-Bissau

This issue highlights a UNICEF/U.S. Fund resource that focuses on each of the 13 sub-Saharan countries connected with PHASE III of the Schools for Africa project. The **RESULTS** postings at <http://schoolsforafrica.org/results> feature stories of children in each country benefitting from donations made by individuals around the world, including DKG members. Share these stories with your chapter members in meetings to personalize the SFA project and to illustrate their donations at work. Special thanks to the UNICEF/U.S. Fund for granting permission for use of this material/photo.



Children attend a class in Sembé Djassi Orphanage in the town of Catió, capital of Tombali Region. The private orphanage provides care and shelter for 36 children and consists of three classrooms, a playground, children's dormitories, a kitchen and a storehouse. UNICEF provides educational supplies and supports a water point and handpump, latrines and a hand-washing station at the facility. The orphanage also receives other donor support as well.

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HOW DO SFA CONTRIBUTIONS ASSIST THE CHILDREN OF GUINEA-BISSAU?

Here are just two ways that SFA funds help:

- UNICEF assists in developing training programs for teachers on behavioral-change themes including hygiene, water, sanitation and the correct use of latrines.
- As a result of UNICEF-supported training, child trafficking has been recognized as a serious problem. Dozens of children have been saved and a number of trafficking networks have been exposed and disrupted.

“When I grow up I want to be a nurse.”

Mariama, 13 years old, became an orphan when she was a little girl. Today, she divides her time between her home at her grandmother's house in the rural village of Tassilima and her primary school. Mariama's story is one of hope. Her life so far has been marked by the loss of both her parents and a change of homes, but despite the instability and challenging circumstances, Mariama has remained determined to go to school.

Mariama used to live in Guinea-Bissau's Bafata region, until her father died, soon followed by her mother. She was then handed over to an aunt. “I wasn't going to school because they could not afford to buy the materials I needed to study,” Mariama recalls. “One day, I went to visit my grandmother in Tassilima and saw ... a beautiful school.”

Tassilima Primary School counts 176 students including 80 girls. The school is part of the Child Friendly School project, supported by UNICEF to promote quality education to children in a supportive and holistic environment adapted to their needs. The project encompasses not only primary education, but also adult literacy and Early Childhood Development for pre-school aged children.

UNICEF has supported Tassilima Primary School with newly constructed classrooms, a safe water point and separate latrines for boys and girls. It also provided the school with educational supplies and solar panels for the adult literacy initiative which takes place in the evenings for adult and adolescent villagers who are illiterate. As part of the child-friendly school model, UNICEF has also helped train teachers, coordinate community awareness campaigns and involved parents in the village's school.

Last year, Mariama's aunt asked her to return to Bafata to marry an unknown man. “I said no, because I wanted to continue to study,” Mariama explains. “I love this beautiful school, which has all the needed learning materials, including textbooks, clean water and a canteen. It has everything!” she concludes.

Despite being orphaned, Mariama is determined to complete her education to help her find a better future in life. “I want to continue to study so that I can become a nurse and support my brothers and family,” she tells us.

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FOCUS ON: GUINEA-BISSAU ... Info about this African Nation

Share this information with your chapter when promoting the Schools For Africa project.

Location: West Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea and Senegal.

Area/Population: 36,125 sq. km. (slightly less than three times the size of Connecticut) with a population of 1.7 million. Median age is 19.8 years. Life expectancy at birth is 49.87 years total (47.87 for males and 51.93 for females). The people of this nation are called Bissau-Guineans.

Terrain: Guinea-Bissau's terrain is mostly a low-lying coastal plain with a deeply indented estuarine coastline rising to a savanna in the east. There are numerous off-shore islands including the Arquipelago Dos Bijagos with 18 main islands and many small islets.

Climate: Guinea-Bissau's climate is tropical; generally hot and humid with a monsoonal rainy season (June to November) and southwesterly winds. The dry season, running from December to May, is noted by northeasterly winds.

Capital: Bissau (423,000 inhabitants, 2011).

Government: Republic; since independence from Portugal in 1974, Guinea-Bissau has experienced much political and military upheaval. President Yala was assassinated in March 2009. Malam Bacai Sanha was duly elected president, but died of a pre-existing illness in January 2012. A military coup in April 2012 prevented completion of the presidential election to determine Sanha's successor. Until June 17, 2014 the country had been ruled by a junta-selected Transitional National Council. The latest elections resulted in Jose Mario Vaz becoming president. The transitional prime minister, Rui Duarte Barros, is still in that position.

Languages: Portuguese is the official language. Crioulo and other African languages are widely used.

Mortality Rate: Infant mortality rate – 90.92 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Literacy: Definition/age 15 and over can read and write ... 55.3% (total pop.); 68.9% (male); 42.1% (female); school expectancy is 9 years (2006) with 57% of children, ages 5-14 working.

Trafficking in persons: Guinea-Bissau is a country of origin and destination for children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking; boys reportedly are taken to southern Senegal for forced manual and agricultural labor; girls may be subjected to forced domestic service and child prostitution in Senegal and Guinea; both sexes are forced to work as street vendors in cities in Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

Major Infectious Diseases: Major diseases in this country include: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, schistosomiasis and rabies.



RESOURCES:

- **Information from www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pu.html**
- **Flag and map image from www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pu.html**
- **SEE ALSO: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/guineabissau_statistics.html?p=printme**

FUND-RAISER IDEA

A chapter in North Carolina supported Schools for Africa by having members design table themes for their "Parade of Tables" DKG meeting. Members voted on their favorite table design by contributing US\$1 per vote. All proceeds went to the Schools for Africa project.

Has your chapter used a creative approach to raise donations for Schools for Africa? Share your ideas with state organization leaders and the international Educational Excellence Committee so others can use them to support this international project.