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INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN MALI

OFFER A CHANGE FOR AN EDUCATION

Disabled children are particularly at risk of being out of school. This is due to various factors, including parental poverty, social stigma and discrimination, and the lack of capacity of the system to meet their needs. A recent evaluation by USAID’s implementing partner in Mali, Sightsavers, has found that social attitudes towards children with a visual impairment had significantly improved, but also pointed out that negative attitudes persist among some school officers.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The project, in collaboration with the Union of Blind Persons in Mali (UMAV) and the Committee of Blind Women in Mali will raise awareness amongst local stakeholders on the educational rights and capacities of children with disabilities. Through a participatory approach, the project will promote inclusive education for Children with Vision Impairment in six demonstration schools. In order to encourage parents to enroll Children with Vision Impairment in schools, the project will advocate with Parent Teacher Associations and school management committees of demonstration schools; and support the parents of children with visual impairments by exempting them from paying annual fees to the school management committees. The activities aim at:

- Increasing the number of children with visual impairments attending mainstream primary schools in three regions of Mali;
- Introducing an Early Grade Reading Assessment system for blind and low vision students; and
- Increasing the capacity and commitment of the Ministry of Education and other partners to support inclusive education for children with visual impairments.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHILDREN IN MALI GOALS

BUDGET: \$293,135

TARGET AREAS: Bamako, Koulikoro, Segou and Gao

PROJECT CYCLE: June 2017 – Dec 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 252 children with visual impairments have been enrolled and supported in schools.
- 252 children have been provided with a UMAV card certifying a visual impairment and exempting them from paying any fees in school.
- 301 children with low vision have received their glasses in conformity with prescriptions provided by an optometrist.
- 75 braille paper reams, 75 braille writing frames and slates, 75 styluses, 2 braille printers, and 3 TV monitors have been provided to UMAV for children with visual impairments.
- 1,004 teaching and learning materials distributed to visually impaired children.
- 57 school administrators and new teachers were trained on the inclusive education module.