

5: ENCOURAGING THE KEY ACTORS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

This scholarship program is built upon the accountability of key actors who seek out local, sustainable solutions to promote girls education and improve their academic performance. Engaging key actors and making them accountable is one way to ensure that activities like the following are kept going:

- ✓ Strong network involvement through local resource mobilization activities in the goal to continue to support girls academic performance,
- ✓ Using the AMEs for guidance and moral support to scholarship girls, and
- ✓ Suitability of the local NGO partners in each of the three regions in order to have greater involvement in the sensitivities presented in each locality.

With this level of accountability and commitment, World Education was able to establish a bridge-gap between the primary school scholarship program and secondary school education for girls who would otherwise not be able to continue their studies. These girls have the added advantage of being able to take part in activities under the primary school scholarship program such as regional girls' days or AME mentoring (at schools where AMEs are in place).



6: HOW TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability of a scholarship program like this, which offers material and pedagogic support, is based on:

- ✓ Strong leadership and dynamic groups within the network which are able to negotiate, mobilize resources, advocate for girls' education at many different levels,
- ✓ The role of guide, technical advisor support and management of school structures like Association des Mères d'Elèves (AME), Comité de Gestion Scolaire (CGS) and Association des Parents d'Elèves (APE), and
- ✓ NGOs partners are able to take on a representative role.



NORTHERN MALI SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS SCHOLARSHIPS

Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal



World Education through funding from the U.S. Ambassador in Mali executed during the school year 2004-2005 in 99 schools in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal a girls' primary school scholarship program. This sponsorship is the first of its kind to offer basic education opportunities in Mali and it has been received with great success by the recipients, school authorities, and the communities in these regions. Of the total number of sponsorship girls in 6th grade (989) in 2004-2005, 659 passed the entrance exam and were eligible to continue onto 7th grade. For this reason, World Education was presented with the challenge of finding means which would allow this cohort of girls in to continue their education.



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1: WORLD EDUCATION TAKES INITIATIVE

To build upon the momentum created by these girls, the community structures, (AME, CGS, APE), local NGOs, and the decentralized governmental education agencies, World Education decided to pursue sponsorship support for the cohort of girls who had just completed primary school and were eligible to continue to continue to 7th grade. This idea was greeted with great energy and enthusiasm by the local partners on the ground who unanimously agreed to accompany World Education in this project.

2: PROJECT PARTNERS

Exceptional to this project is that World Education's three local NGO partners have agreed to pay their own operating costs. These partners are: Sahel Etudes Action pour le Développement (SEAD) in Gao, Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel (AMSS) in Tombouctou, Aide à l'Enfance du Désert du Sahel (AEDS) in Kidal) and their contribution includes:

- ✓ Taking out administrative costs (which lower the budget by 10%),
- ✓ Assuming responsibility for salaries and other recurring costs, and
- ✓ Sponsoring activities to raise money to sponsor other girls outside of the AGSP cohort.

This dynamic partnership implements the program in 33 target second cycle schools in Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal and involves AEs, regional CAPS, communities via their Associations de Mères d'Elèves (AME), Comités de Gestion Scolaires (CGS) and Associations de parents d'Elèves (APE). The mobilization of these structures, to exchange and facilitate ideas and activities supporting girls'

education, is called "the reseau" (network). It was put in place in Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal.

3: STRATEGIES

The secondary school scholarships include:

- ✓ Material assistance for the girls in the form of a school kit (including the school manuals in themes like math, physics, chemistry, English and French), school supplies,
- ✓ Payment of school contributions and other miscellaneous costs (soap, lotion, lamp petrol),
- ✓ Pedagogic support in the form of additional tutoring or at-home group exercises, and
- ✓ Guidance on how to cope with different challenges (i.e., HIV/AIDS awareness, etc.).



4: ACHIEVEMENTS

World Education convened a "cadre de réflexion" in Timbuktu

Commitment from World Education's Africa Division VP and Staff led to conception and mobilization of the initiative. They began to contribute their own money and raise funds in

their communities but it was not enough to support the entire cohort into 7th grade. A reflection team was convened by World Education in Timbuktu in October 2005 to give local key actors a forum to find local sustainable solutions.

Action plan and budget created by the NGO Partner

During this reflection, the participants, aside from an in-depth reading of living conditions and studies of girls in second cycle, were starting from a thorough reading of and the study living conditions of the girls to the second cycle, gave off on the one hand the immediate thrust pins to the school performance of the girls and on the other hand the activities of perpetuation through the reinforcement of the capacities of the Community structures (AME, CGS, APE) and the mobilization of resources by the networks.

This exercise led to the development of an action plan and budget in each region which would convey the efforts made by each of the participants towards improved academic performance of this 7th grade cohort of girls. These efforts range from project implementation to resource mobilization. The budgets recount level of contribution from each actor:

	% Contributed			
	WED	ONG	Community	Sponsorship
Gao	61,10%	25,42%	4,49%	8,99%
Tbt	65,98%	18,84%	12,56%	2,62%
Kidal	50,67%	41,92	7,41%	0%