

# INTEGRATING POSITIVE CULTURAL VALUES INTO SCHOOLS

In collaboration with the Velingara District Education Office in southern Senegal

## CHANGE THROUGH CULTURE APPROACH

- Builds on cultural roles and values
- Involves elders, especially grandmothers
- Strengthens intergenerational communication
- Increases confidence and capacity of local leaders
- Encourages dialogue for critical reflection and consensus-building

## AIMS OF INTEGRATING POSITIVE CULTURAL VALUES INTO SCHOOLS

- Improve the quality of education for children by making it more culturally relevant
- Strengthen collaboration between schools and communities
- Increase involvement of parents and grandparents in children's upbringing and education in schools and in families
- Increase school enrollment and attendance

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Teacher workshops to increase commitment to teaching cultural values
- Grandmother-teacher workshops to strengthen collaboration regarding children's education at school and in families
- Innovative teaching materials on positive African values, including reading booklets and teachers' guide
- Grandmothers in classrooms for story-telling and teaching positive cultural values

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Story-telling contests between schools to revive this disappearing cultural tradition
- Intergenerational forums with parents, grandparents, community and religious leaders, teachers, and adolescents to discuss education and positive cultural values
- Under-the-tree participatory learning sessions for children with mothers and grandmothers

54

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 2 COMMUNES

239

TEACHERS TRAINED

156

GRANDMOTHERS ENGAGED

8,526

STUDENTS IMPACTED

## ACHIEVEMENTS

According to an assessment of the school program conducted by education sector experts Mr. Hamidou Soukouna and Dr. Anneke Newman in 2015 and results of national end of primary school exam in 2017



- School curricula are now more culturally-appropriate, thereby improving the quality of education
- Improved attitudes of communities toward schools with families more motivated for girls to stay in school
- Increased school enrollment and decreased drop-out rates, especially for girls
- Increased participation and improved oral expression of children in class
- Increased respect for community elders by teachers
- Dramatically increased success rate on the national end of primary school exam

## SUCCESS RATE ON THE NATIONAL END OF PRIMARY SCHOOL EXAM

NATIONAL LEVEL 57%

KOLDA REGION 53%

VELINGARA DEPARTMENT 57%

GRANDMOTHER PROJECT SCHOOLS IN KANDIA COMMUNE

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| TOTAL | 76% |
| GIRLS | 79% |
| BOYS  | 73% |