



URBOND

Child Education Programme

Volunteers trip 2022

www.urbond.org

UK Registered Charity Number: 1184273
Republic of Guinea Registered Charity Number: 8304

About us:

URBOND is a charity helping to advance racial harmony, equality and diversity in the City of Portsmouth. Through its Youth Development Programme in the UK, the charity is driving opportunities, wellness and success for the youth and their future. Fast forward 9 years, and over 35,000 people spanning 77 nationalities have benefitted from URBOND's community integration activities and its youth development activities.

In the Republic of Guinea, URBOND is providing educational support and resources to children who will otherwise go without.



The Child Education Programme was founded at the back of issues in the education system. These include:

- Cost associated to education
- High drop-out rate
- Lack of funding for schools
- Improper school facilities
- Poor sanitary facilities
- Gender disparity
- Forced child labour

With the help of our supporters, we are working to address these issues and improve access to primary education within communities.



Since 2019 URBOND's Child Education Programme has benefitted:

- **2280+** children
- **1230+** local people
- **2000+** study materials donated
- Partner school pass rate increased from **45.5% to 70% + (2019 - 2021)**

In 2021, URBOND took 12 volunteers to the Republic of Guinea with a primary goal of building a library, a computer room and identifying the key barriers preventing young girls from going to school. All objectives were successful and have greatly impacted the local community.



New library and computer room built in October 2021 to benefit 10,000+ locals yearly



Volunteers and members of the local community at a workshop on need for girls' education

Findings from our 2021 Volunteers' Trip

- Cultural attitudes along with widespread poverty are significant barriers to girls' education with instances of child labour, forced early marriages and child prostitution sadly common place in the region. These dire situations drive down attendance and literacy rates massively.



- Young girls' attendance reduces heavily at the stage of puberty. This is because there are no decent toilets and sanitary facilities they can use, and that leads to embarrassment amongst peers. This results in young women not returning to school, and often to start families at a young age.



- The education system comes at a cost to families. Being one of the poorest countries, families cannot afford to send their children to school. On top of this, the facilities are unsafe for children to exercise which jeopardise their physical health and mental well-being.



- Many school facilities do not have the means to accommodate disabled pupils and most of them tend not to go to school for the entirety of their lifetime.



URBOND's action plan for 2022:

The library and computer room were the first step to helping advance the education of young people in Guinea. Over 10,000 people per month are benefiting from the facilities, which are completely free of charge.

In addition to this, three main objectives have been set for this year:

1. Designated sports facilities to be built on the grounds of the school. This would massively benefit the children and the locals as there is nothing in existence in the region. Also, the safety of the children would increase as many are hit by vehicles as result of playing in open door spaces.



2. Workshops to identify and eliminate barriers around girls education. During the volunteers trip last year, successful workshops were held in partnership with the British Embassy which benefitted 364 young girls, 490 young boys, 329 parents and 53 teachers. More workshops will take place this year to help change this dire situation.

Work carried last year demonstrated that more work is needed to help improve young girls' education. This year we have qualified nurses traveling with sanitary equipment to run workshops on menstruation to help improve girls attendance in school.

3. Build toilet facilities with clean running water. This would provide privacy to girls and proper sanitary facilities to keep them in school. Some of the feedback we received from young girls are: toilets facilities are not good, they are forced to miss classes one week every month due to their period. In Guinea net attendance for girls drops from 66% in primary school to 29% in lower secondary school, dropping even further to 11% in upper secondary school (UNICEF, 2021). UNICEF estimates that 1 in 10 school age girls in Africa will skip school during menstruation or drop out because of lavatory sanitation (Coleman, 2017).



Our Child Education Programme in images



