



Impact Report

2023 URBOND Volunteer's Trip to The Republic of Guinea on our Child Education Programme.



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Image: Martina and baby Bouba outside the library and the computer room in Dubreka.

Summary

On Thursday 5th October, eight of our dedicated volunteers took the annual charity trip to the Republic of Guinea for thirteen days.

Sixteen suitcases, eight hand luggages and eight backpacks full of books and over two thousand sanitary kits to be distributed to young girls to try and keep them in school.

“It’s my third time, it’s great to be back in Guinea, serving those in need.” – Kingsley Digby

Campaigns for the Volunteers’ Trip

- Building a new school in Koutaya
- Library and the computer room renovation in Dubreka
- Play area renovation in Dubreka
- Information & Technology (IT) Classes
- Teacher Training Workshops
- English Classes
- Menstruation workshops in Coyah
- Media & Videography workshops
- Child Education Awareness events

The trip was challenging, but impactful. With the help of our supporters in the UK and the headline sponsor Richmond Motor Group, we have been able to provide life changing opportunities to children and the locals in Dubreka, Coyah and Koutaya.



Image: Volunteers first day in Dubreka (Guinea) ready for a hard day of work

About URBOND



URBOND is a charity working to advance racial harmony and diversity, thereby promoting a community which is strong, cohesive and inclusive, both domestically and abroad.

Through its Youth Development Programme, the charity is driving opportunities, wellness and success for the youth and their future.

The charity was founded with the primary purpose of helping local communities to integrate and support each other in overcoming key issues affecting society.

In the Republic of Guinea, the Child Education Programme¹ is achieving this by working with partners and local communities to provide educational support and resources to children who would otherwise go without.

Read [what we do](#).

¹ URBOND Child Education Programme is a programme to improve access to primary education within communities. Read more [here](#).

Impact of 2023 volunteers

The volunteers had three key areas to address in two different cities (Dubreka and Coyah) and in the village of Koutaya. For thirteen days in the Republic of Guinea, the volunteers would come together, work hard on these projects thus positively impacting children, young people and the locals in these underprivileged communities.

The impact areas were: education, infrastructure, and sensitization campaigns.

A. Education

1. Training in menstruation

This project was delivered in partnership with the British Embassy to Conary (Republic of Guinea) targeting the city of Coyah, which is 18.4 miles from Dubreka and 29.1 miles from the capital (Conakry), to support young girls to stay in school and not risk dropping out of school because of menstruation.

The Republic of Guinea is one of the top 10 countries with the lowest literacy rates, and statistically it is girls who suffer the most with this educational problem. The adjusted 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. Between social and cultural problems which contribute to this, it is estimated that 1 in 10 school age girls in Africa will skip school during menstruation or drop out because of lavatory sanitation. The majority of schools are not equipped with sanitary facilities which means it is difficult to keep girls in school.

During the volunteers' trip, 20 workshops were delivered between Monday 9th October and Monday 16th October. 500 young girls, 720 boys, 173 parents and 81 teachers received training on menstruation, sexual violence and self-defence. In addition, 2,000 sanitary pads were distributed to girls from underprivileged communities in Coyah with our effort to keep them in education.

Ongoing training and equipment is to be provided to young girls with our effort to keep them in school. We have already formed a working group in Coyah which includes students, teachers and parents. Their goal is to work together and prevent young girls from skipping or dropping out of school due to menstruation.



2. English Language classes

Over 500 children and over 150 members of the local community benefitted from intensive English classes. Children that couldn't speak, are getting fluent in English.



Image: Carlos, Andrew, Abigail, Drame and Abi delivering English Language classes to young people.

B. Infrastructure

1. Library and computer room / Richmond Building – Koutaya

In February this year (2023) Portsmouth family run business Richmond Motor Group, our long-term partner, agreed to sponsor the educational building in Koutaya. The building will comprise of a library, computer room, teachers meeting room, head teacher's office and internal toilet facilities.

Koutaya is a village in Dubreka (with a population of around 3,000 people) which currently has no available schools situated locally. To attend the nearest schools children must walk distances of 8km-10km each day, with many of those also having to make a dangerous water crossing.

With our plans to start teaching in September 2024, we are looking to complete building six classrooms by February 2024. The Richmond Building is nearly complete, with £44,000 spent so far, with only the ceiling, the flooring, the windows and painting left to finish.

Completing this project will vastly improve the educational opportunities for communities in Koutaya and surrounding areas and make learning accessible to children who are currently very much in need.

Upon completion more than five hundred children will be educated yearly, upwards from fifteen locals will be employed and the project will empower around three thousand members of the community in Koutaya and nearby villages.



Image: Richmond Building.

2. Renovation of the multi-sport facility for young people and the community

The designated sports facility was built and inaugurated on the 12th October 2022. For the past eleven months, over eight hundred young people and members of the community have been using the facility daily.

Due to the facility being overused, the surface was damaged and the basketball hoops were broken. Renovating the facility was not part of the budget plan this year but we had to anticipate and renovate it so that young people and members of the community can keep using the facility. The renovation of the facility cost £3,700.

The full-size basketball and volleyball court is the pride of the children, promoting safe playing conditions for the children and the community.



Image: Volunteers checking newly renovated facility and coach Carlos running a session.

3. Renovation of the library and the computer room

In 2021 the primary purpose of the trip was to build a library and a computer room which has had a massive impact on local lives. Over 15,000 children, young people, teachers and members of the community have been accessing the building yearly. Community members have been obtaining jobs through the IT classes and children who have never used computers before are now doing coding and programming thanks to the building and the classes.

This year the building was renovated by the help of our dedicated volunteers. In addition new air conditioning units have been fitted and over 2000 books have been added. The renovation, which was not planned but required due to the condition we found the building in, cost £2,600.

C. Workshops and sensitization campaigns

1. Irregular migration workshop

This is a major rising issue in the Republic of Guinea, and other parts of North West Africa: irregular migration to mainland Europe. Between January to October 2019, 28% of irregular migration from West Africa was made up of Guinean nationals (IOM, 2019). Since May 2022 we have been working with parents and children helping tackle these issues as many children have lost their lives trying to cross the sea to come to Europe.

To help support parents and young people, URBOND has partnered with Microsoft to provide a Gig Academy which provides technology training to the locals, ultimately giving them skills for jobs when they are certified after six months. In Dubreka, from December 2023, the centre will take on twenty young people as a pilot, to ensure the system works smoothly. Its capacity will subsequently increase to an intake of eighty young people every six months. Disabled people face particular barriers to employment, and so URBOND aims for disabled people to comprise of 30% of beneficiaries.

We are planning to bring more opportunities to young people so they can contribute to the development of their country.



Image: Young people and the locals benefiting from Gig Academy classes

2. URBOND Ambassadors

We have formed a team of 42 ambassadors in Coyah to help tackle issues preventing young girls from attending school. The group of ambassadors are made of parents, teachers, and students. Some of the issues we are planning to tackle are FGM², domestic violence, sexual violence, rape, child marriage and child labour. We have seven school partners in Coyah, our plan is to increase girls' attendance with our partner schools by 15% by the end of 2024.

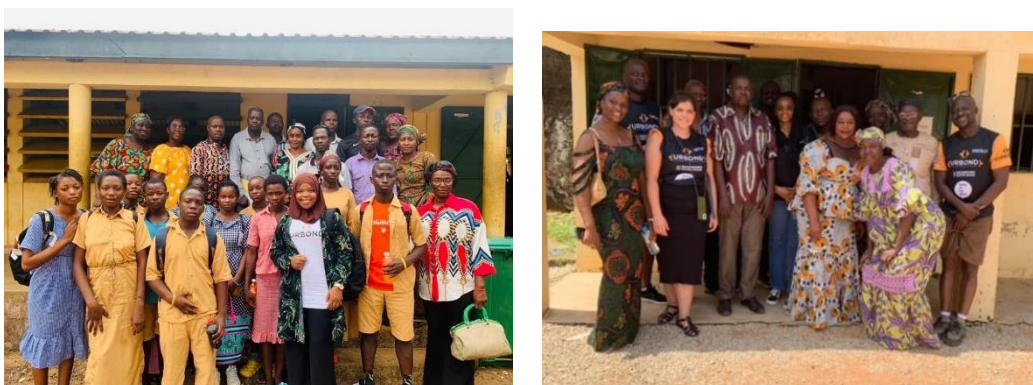


Image: URBOND ambassadors at training

3. International Girls Day celebration

We celebrated International Girls' Day on Saturday 14th October: over six hundred people attended the event. We were joined by some incredible and inspirational women to help empower the young girls, and sensitise them on the need for

education. It was also great to see the girls taking part in the computer programming competition which is traditionally a male dominated area.



Image: Celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child.

4. Semi-marathon to raise awareness on Need for Child Education

URBOND successfully organised its second edition of the semi-marathon on the 15th October. The event was organised to raise awareness on the need for child education. The event was a great success: over one thousand people from Conakry, Dubreka, Coyah and surrounding areas were in attendance.



Image: Young people and members of the community taking part in the semi marathon.

5. Other sporting events for child education awareness

We organised football, basketball and volleyball events across three different days, in total 1,500 people attended these events. At every given opportunity, we stopped the event to express how important it was for children to attend school.



Image: Andrew, Mariam and the locals enjoying the sporting events

6. URBOND Conference

On the 11th October we held an URBOND conference at the British Embassy in the Republic of Guinea.

We were joined by the British Ambassador (John Marshal), UK Embassy staff, Rio Tinto, members of Guinean government, UNICEF, many more institutions and businesses. This was a great opportunity to introduce URBOND and the work we do in Guinea which is providing education to children who may go without it.

37 people were in attendance. We were able to network with businesses, institutions, and organisations. We are hopeful the outcome of the conference will be positive and more partnerships will be created off the back of this impactful meeting.



Appendix 1: Some images from our 2023 volunteers' trip



2023 IMPACT

Over 3,000 locals to benefit from a new school being built

Over 1,000 children will benefit from a newly renovated multi-sport court.

A newly renovated library and computer room is forecast to benefit over 1,000 children and locals.

Over 5,000 people sensitised on the need for and the importance of educating children.

Over 15,000 textbooks, bags, study materials and other useful items are donated to children.

Intensive English classes benefit over 2,000.

URBOND supports over 20,000 primary school children.

Menstruation workshops have benefitted over 10,000 young girls.

3,850 sanitary pads have been distributed to girls from an under privileged background.

Over 12,000 young boys benefitted from girls' protection and sexual violence workshops.

246 parents were sensitised on girls' education.

Over 300 teachers received training on supporting young girls during menstruation.

A brand new meeting room and office benefitted over 100 teachers.

URBOND's support has enabled 11 locals to get certified and obtain jobs in IT.

37 benefitted from the first edition of URBOND's conference in the Republic of Guinea.

URBOND partners with 20 schools across three cities for further impact: Conakry, Dubreka and Coyah.

2022 IMPACT

Built a new designated sports facility that will benefit the entire city of Dubreka.

Built a brand new toilet facility that benefit over 600 young girls daily.

150 young girls, 150 boys and 30 teachers received training on menstruation.

1500 sanitary pads were distributed to girls from under privileged background.

Over 600 children and over 100 members of the local community benefitted from intensive English classes.

350 and 17 teachers benefitted from the dental hygiene workshops.

129 young people and 26 women benefitted from workshops on female genital mutilation (FGM)

123 girls and 36 parents benefitted from irregular migration workshops.

10 disabled young people benefitted from 1-2-1 support.

2021 IMPACT

Built a new library and computer room that will benefit over 10,000 children, and locals yearly.

15 people benefitted from free health checks and consultations during a 1-day health clinic.

7 workshops organised on the need for girls' education.

364 Young girls benefitted from the workshops.

329 Parents benefitted from the workshops.

53 Local teachers benefitted from the workshops.

The local volleyball team received great support in the form of equipment.

Volunteers are so important to the work of URBOND. Without our dedicated volunteers, dedicated sponsors and corporate partners URBOND's great achievements would have never been possible. Our volunteers did an outstanding job and we are extremely proud of their achievements. With their support we provided life changing events and activities to the children and the locals. The impact the charity and its participants are having in the Republic of Guinea is just the beginning of what can be achieved by bringing people together to form stronger communities. Thank you to our volunteers, dedicated supporters, and corporate partners for helping provide life changing opportunities to children and the locals from underprivileged communities.

Ousmane Drame, Chief Executive

2023 PARTNERS



**British Embassy
Conakry**

