

April 2019 Featured Grantee MindLeaps



Nouakchott, Mauritania

Introducing MindLeaps



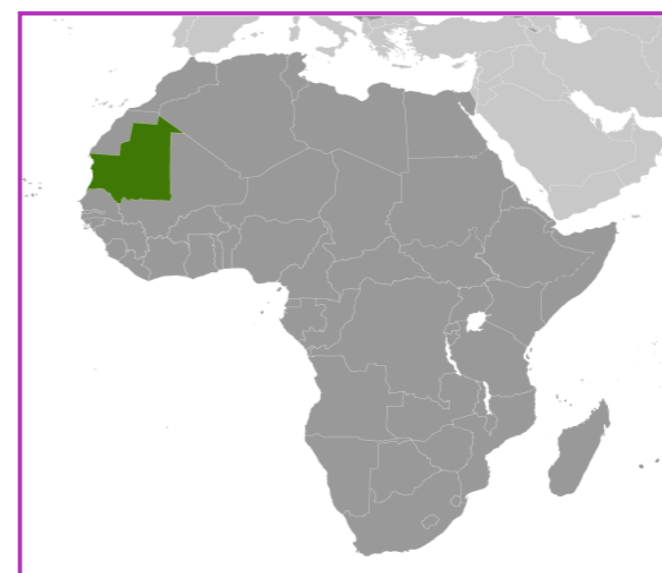
MindLeaps' mission is to develop the minds of the most vulnerable youth in Africa to ensure they reach self-sufficiency. MindLeaps uses dance to develop the cognitive skills and social-emotional learning of at-risk youth to ensure that they can succeed in school, enter the workplace, and leap forward in life.

About the Featured Grantee

- **MindLeaps is the second iteration of an organization founded by social entrepreneur Rebecca Davis. From 2005-2010, it was a dance company with the mission to produce original works about social justice issues.**
- **In 2014, after a 4-year period of research and development to create a data-driven curriculum, the company became “MindLeaps.”**
- **This is a unique program, based on a standardized dance methodology, that helps out-of-school and vulnerable youth undergo behavioral transformation, catch up on basic cognitive development, and learn work-ready skills.**

Where in the world?

- **Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania has a population of 1.2 million. Mauritania is located in Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Senegal and Western Sahara.**
- **The literacy rate is only about 50%, with 63% of males being literate, and 42% of females being literate.**
- **With a sustained total fertility rate of about four children per woman and almost 60% of the population under the age of 25, Mauritania's population is likely to continue growing for the foreseeable future.**



Life Challenges of the Women Served



- MindLeaps youth are either out of school or at risk of dropping out of formal education. Some are involved in prostitution or restricted to labor chores in a house.
- About 90% report eating “once a day or less” (not including the meals provided by MindLeaps).
- About 75% have only a mother, and approximately 10% are orphans or in child-headed households.
- Some MindLeaps youth are HIV+ and most display signs of malnutrition.

Life Challenges of the Women Served

- 16% of children ages 5-14 are categorized as “child laborers.” This prevents them from attending school and developing critical skills they need to succeed in life.
- 37% of girls are married by age 18 and 14% are married by age 15.
- If a girl without schooling is not married by age 18, odds increase that she will not be able to support herself in any other way except through prostitution.



What are we supporting?



MindLeaps is using education to break through the cycle of poverty in Mauritania. It uses a unique dance-based approach that attracts girls to safe spaces and then provides education, psychological health counseling, and nutritional support.

Direct Impact: 120; Indirect Impact: 600

Budget

DFW's grant of \$47,840 will be used for the following:

Item	Description	Total
Education	Enrollment of 50 children in formal education Education coordinator and reporting Project Coordinator for Building Our Bodies & Our Lives	\$21,060
Psychological Health	African-trained dance instructors Tablets Project Coordinator	\$10,100
Nutrition	Full Meal Program (30 girls per month) Community Leaders (2) Project Coordinator	\$14,100
Project Staffing	Project Coordinator for Building Our Bodies & Our Lives	\$2,400
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$47,840

Share Your Thoughts

1. How do you think this project promotes gender equality?
2. Why is the use of dance important?
3. What do you think are the keys to developing cultural acceptance of education for girls?



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April's Sustained Grantee: Women's Microfinance Initiative

Empowering Village Women Through Business Ownership (Uganda)



- Expand financial access for rural village women who are considered “un-bankable” through a two-year cycle of four consecutive, 6-month term loans of up to \$250
- Training, support, and education to ensure the women succeed in their business and can successfully repay these loans.
- Includes WMI’s regular loan program, a jumbo loan program for alumni who are experienced businesswomen, construction/solar and technology upgrades.

Direct Impact: 1,360; Indirect Impact: 13,600 – 25,000