



GAIA Vaccine Foundation

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L'espoir c'est un vaccin ~ Hope is a vaccine

WOMEN AND FAMILIES WELLBEING

Dining for Women Interim Report

January 11, 2021

The Women and Families Wellbeing in Mali project aims to train women in Bamako, Mali as community healthcare workers using a new storytelling cloth that focuses on how to prevent the spread of infectious disease, especially COVID-19. This campaign focuses on reinforcing common knowledge while also ensuring that families know where they can receive the appropriate testing, medical care, and nutritional support. The expected outcomes for this project are to reach 4,500 women and their families through outreach with the storytelling cloth which would increase participation in GAIA Vaccine Foundation's ongoing programs.

Specifically, we aim:

- **To test 4,500 mothers for HIV through our Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention Program**
- **Reach 1,224 girls and 224 boys through our Teen Peer Education program**
- **And offer 2,000 meals to families through Espoir Association's Nutrition Program.**

While the project was originally drafted to focus on HIV, the global COVID-19 pandemic demanded our attention instead, so GAIA Vaccine Foundation altered the original proposal to target the spread of COVID-19 instead by designing a new storytelling cloth that focuses on ways to prevent infection. The new cloth has 5 different images: a virus, a hand with water running over the top to encourage hand washing, a mask, and two banners created from tape measures to encourage social distancing. The banners read in Bambara, "To protect one's self and one's family", and in French, "Better to protect than to cure". We also received an additional mini grant of \$2,500 from Dining for Women to turn the storytelling cloth into masks.



Unfortunately, the pandemic, combined with political turmoil in Mali and government sanctions over the summer, decreased our progress on this project. The fabric printer that GAIA Vaccine Foundation has partnered with for years is closed, leaving us to find someone new to print the fabric in Mali. With so many West African fabric printers closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this proved to be a difficult task. After looking for a printer for months, we eventually had to start the project without the fabric. Although we still have no fabric printed, outreach is set to begin this month (January) with COVID-19 protocols in place. The two pictures below are of the outreach worker's training about COVID-19.





Although we have not printed the fabric. Many women and girls have already benefited from Dining for Women's support of GAIA Vaccine Foundation's ongoing programs. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we are on track to reach all of our objectives. Between January and November of 2020:

- **1,240 pregnant women accepting HIV testing through our Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Prevention Program**
- **334 additional women were tested through our Free HIV Testing Program**
- **3,353 meals were served through Espoir (Hope) Association's Nutrition Program**
- **And 955 girls and 305 boys were reached through our Teen Peer Education Program.**

While participation in the Mother-to-child Transmission Prevention Program is quite a bit lower than our expected outcome of testing 4,500 mothers, we are still awaiting an annual report from our partner clinic in Banconi where a much larger population is served. As a note, over 3,000 mothers were tested in Banconi in 2019.



Differently, the Espoir (Hope) Association's Nutrition Program already served 1,353 more meals than we expected. The Malian women who run this program received constant support despite both the coup d'état this summer and the pandemic, and have worked tirelessly to provide vital, nutritious meals to families twice a week. Sadly, the dramatic increase in demand for this program, despite the lack of outreach, suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a huge increase food insecurity in Mali. The two pictures below are of the women preparing for the nutrition program





The Teen Peer Education program is also on track to reach our objectives, even with new COVID-19 protocols in place. If attendance remains the same for the rest of the project, we will not only reach the number of girls we hoped to reach, but also reach far more boys. Like the nutrition program, COVID-19 may also be responsible for this increase in attendance despite the lack of outreach since this program provided not only essential reproductive health and sex education, but also the latest information about preventing the spread of COVID-19 as well as a nurturing and stable environment to teens during a time of much uncertainty.

Budget Item	Budget	Used	Remaining
Program Management	\$5,760	\$4,000	\$1,760
HIV Pharmacist	\$5,760	\$4,000	\$1,760
Mother to Child HIV Transmission Prevention	\$8,200	\$4,014	\$4,186
Espoir Nutrition Program	\$3,480	\$2,970	\$510
Teen Peer Education	\$2,940	\$2,896	\$44
Community Educators Stipends	\$10,714	\$0	\$10,714
Espoir Association Terrace	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Training	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Textile Printing	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Mini Grant	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$52,354	\$17,880	\$34,474