



September 20, 2017

Dr. Veena Khandke
Dining for Women
PO Box 25633
Greenville, SC 29616

Dear Dr. Khandke:

I would like to again thank you and Dining for Women for the important Female Adult Literacy program, in ten villages around Timbuktu, that Caravan to Class was able to launch with your support. In 2016-17 we are able to both successfully launch and complete the Female Adult Literacy program in five villages. I was grateful to be able to see this program in action myself in three different villages in February 2017. What follows, below, is the Interim Grant Report.

1. Information

Organization Name: Caravan to Class
Project Title: Female Adult Literacy Program
Grant Amount: \$42,260 (first disbursement \$21,130)
Contact Person: Barry Hoffner
Address: 1001 Bridgeway #730 Sausalito, CA 94965

2. Recap of Outcomes

The process we used to launch the Female Adult Literacy program in the villages of Kabara Sans-Fil, Koriome, Samdiar, Koura and Kakondji was as follows:

Facilitators were chosen in discussed and were certified by the Timbuktu Ministry of Education. Preparation for the opening of the Literacy center in the above villages of involved working with the Timbuktu Ministry of Education to design the curriculum of the program. This was followed by a meeting in each village with their Women's Association which was attended by an average of about 45 women per village. During this meeting, the program and obligations of participants were explained. In addition, the selection criteria for 20 women/village was decided. Some of the factors in making this decision were priority to residents of that village, level of involvement with local Women's Association, knowledge and level of spoken language for course (we conduct the course in two local languages, but only one language per course).

The program was launched in December 2016 and finished in June 2017 with 4 programs in the local Songhoy language and one in the Tamashek language.

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Outcomes anticipated, before the program was launched, were as follows:

- Achievement of basic literacy in reading, writing and computation for at least 60% of the 20 women in each program.
- Create new opportunities for women who achieve basic literacy to be teachers of Female Adult Literacy programs in the future (through Timbuktu Ministry of Education accreditation).
- A strong expectation that all of the women, even the ones who have not passed the evaluation to achieve basic literacy, will have the chance to take on more leadership roles in their communities and be better advocates for education within their family....thereby increasing school attendance rates in the village medium-term.

Outcomes , post evaluation, were as follows:

- Combined results, from examination conducted at the end of the program was 77% sufficiency in writing/reading and 89% in numeracy, for a combined 83%
- Results per village / per skill acquired were as follows:

	<u>Written/Reading</u>	<u>Numeracy</u>
Koriome	18/20	17/20
Kabara Sans-Fil	14/20	18/20
Kakondji	16/20	20/20
Samdiar	15/20	18/20
Koura	14/20	16/20

- Two students from 2 different villages, Koriome and Koura, Ms. Hawa Djitteye and Ms. Koua Cisse, will be facilitators for the coming 5 new Female Adult Literacy programs
- Anecdotally, we have received a lot of praise from the women and leadership of the villages for the program with a few quotes from participants as follows:
 - “Today we thank God because of the literacy program we can read a simple book or letter, do arithmetic from 1- 1000. I never thought the feeling of being in school would be so powerful.”
 - “From this program, we are very committed to encouraging our girls to go to school and that we should work harder to recruit all the girls in our village to attend school. Caravan to Class and their donor really thought about us!”
 - “The feeling of inequality is still present, but now we are more committed than

Additional feedback from the Ministry of Education, which made a number of supervisory visits was as follows:

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- In general, the facilitators were animated and well-regarded by the attendees
- Attendance was strong and in accordance with our expectations.
- Attendees were progressively able to distinguish between vowels and consonants.
- Attendees were able to write calculations for mathematics.

Please note below the process of the evaluation:

- “After the customary greetings Facilitator NORDEV, the counselor of the academy in turn explained to the audience the background and conduct of the evaluation, and also its importance.
- Then the work started by checking the presence of listeners, age, marital status of each.
- Then the passage of each listener for reading.
- A sheet of distribution for each listener the calculation, writing and counting

following results were communicated by the advisor of the Academy

As stated, the first set of Female Adult Literacy programs were executed exactly as planned, directly impacting $5 * 20 = 100$ women in five villages where Caravan to Class has built schools. We have seen and certified the acquisition of specific literacy skills by a large majority of these women also as expected. Our programs are run on a fixed-cost budget in local currency. However, due to the large decline in the USD vs Euro since the elections of November 2016 (roughly 10%) and the Euro link with the West African Franc, the program in USD was roughly 7% more expensive than planned. However, we funded the difference out of reserves that we had accumulated in previous years when the West African Franc was weak. One of the major expenses was food, roughly 50% of the budget, which we believe was a strong draw for women. The food also created the kind of environment that collectively made the women enjoy coming to class regularly and enjoy the learning process. Expenses, for the five programs, were as follows:

• School Materials (pen, paper, chalkboards, etc)	\$1,353
• Study Materials	\$2,640
• Food	\$8,758
• Salaries (teaching)	\$4,983
• Evaluation	\$ 621
• Administration	<u>\$2,775</u>
Total	\$21,130

Final Thoughts:

“The program has changed our lives a lot in the sense that before the program, most of us really had no concept of reading and writing in our language...but today, thank God

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for this literacy program we can read, write and make calculations in Tamashek. This has not only given us such practical gifts, but as importantly ideas in our minds to go and seek out the Director and find further ways of learning... (Ms. Fadimata Mohamed, Female Adult Literacy attendee, Kabara Sans-Fils village).

This quote sums us, for us, the success of the program...For the first time, women were able to come together to regularly attend literacy courses and gain practical skills which will help them in the future. As notes in our rationale for the program "The Female Adult Literacy program is designed to both provide practical literacy skills to women but as importantly once the experience for themselves the acquisition of knowledge via literacy they will be important advocates for education within their families." This final quote encourages us as well "*We are now committed to encouraging our girls to go to school. As a result of the literacy program, we have a lot of trust in our partners NorDev and Caravan to Class because they thought of our children and us women equally.*" (Ms. Kadidiatour Wallet Mohamed Mossa, Female Adult Literacy program attendee in Koriome village).

Our Female Adult Literacy Program could not have been expanded nor could we have materially impacted the lives of 100 women directly, through the acquisition of basic literacy in local language, without the funding of this program by Dining for Women members. We, again, our grateful for your support and advocacy for important womens' rights issues and look forward to the next Female Adult Literacy programs.

Finally, the following link is a short video of our Female Adult Literacy program in action (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLODC1VC--s&t=5s>). We are working on a more detailed video featuring this program together with our student programs which I will share with Dining for Women when finished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barry Hoffner'.

Barry Hoffner

Founder and Executive Director, Caravan to Class

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