



June 26, 2018

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. From December 2016 to June 2018 we are able to both successfully launch and complete the Female Adult Literacy program in ten villages. I was personally on hand to be able to see this program in action myself in three different villages in February 2017. What follows, below, is the Final Grant Report.

1. Information

Organization Name: Caravan to Class
Project Title: Female Adult Literacy Program
Grant Amount: \$42,260
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 ten villages of Kabara Sans-Fil, Koriome, Samdiar, Koura, Kakondji, Tedeini, Bantam, Tesheq, Koiria and Tombouz 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, Songhai and Tamashek, but only one language per course).

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The first five programs were launched in December 2016 and finished in June 2017 with 4 programs in the local Songhai language in the villages of Kabara Sans-Fil, Koriome, Samdiar, Koura and one in the Tamashek language in the village of Kakondji. In December 2017 that finished in June 2018, we launched three programs in Songhai language, Tedeini, Bantam, Tesheq and two in Tamashek, Koiria and Tombouz.

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 for the first set of programs, December 2016 – June 2017, 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

- Results for the first set of programs, December 2017 – June 2018, per village / per skill acquired were as follows:

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Songhai language, Tedeini, Bantam, Tesheq and two in Koiria and Tombouz.

	<u>Written/Reading</u>	<u>Numeracy</u>
Tedeini	17/20	19/20
Bantam	15/20	18/20
Tesheq	16/20	17/20
Koiria	15/20	18/20
Tombouz	16/20	16/20

- Two students from Koriome and Koura, Ms. Hawa Djitteye and Ms. Koua Cisse, were facilitators for the 2nd set of programs from December 2017 to June 2018
- 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.” (mother, Kakondji)
 - the program has changed a lot in our lives in the sense that before the program we know neither read nor write, much less make computing operations in our own language. It feels nice to know that at our age we can go to school like our children do and learn. (mother, Tesheq)
 - “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!” (mother, Kabara San Fils)
 - “*Caravan to Class helps assure a good education for all students which guaranties us a better future. But now I know that not only am I learning to read and write but my mother is also. This gives me pride for my family.* (student, Tedeini)
 - “*The feeling of inequality is still present, but now we are more committed than to changing this and have the confidence to do it.* (mother, Samdiar)

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 $10 * 20 = 200$ women in ten 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 ten programs, were as follows:

• School Materials (pen, paper, chalkboards, etc)	\$ 2,895
• Study Materials	\$ 5,650
• Food	\$ 18,742
• Salaries (teaching)	\$10,664
• Evaluation	\$ 1,329
• Administration	<u>\$ 5,939</u>
Total	\$45,218
Dining for Women grant	<u>(\$42,260)</u>
Funded out of reserves	\$ 2,958

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Final Thoughts:

"Today, thank God 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 200 women directly, through the acquisition of basic literacy in local language, without the funding of this program by Dining for Women members. We have also found through our interventions in education that our Female Adult Literacy program is impactful in sensitizing women to the importance of education of their children, particularly their daughters. We have seen attendance increases for the children in villages after implementing this program for the mothers. We have been grateful for your support and advocacy for important womens' rights issues and look forward to the next Female Adult Literacy programs. As a result of your important support for this program Caravan to Class earned the prestigious World Food Program USA Catherine Bertini Trust Award for our work in Female Adult Literacy 2017. Together this award and the support from Dining for Women has cemented our Female Adult Literacy program as an important part of our package of a support in education for a village in the region of Timbuktu.

Sincerely,

Barry Hoffner

Founder and Executive Director, Caravan to Class

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