



Misioneros de la
Preciosa Sangre

Study Grants Project

Creation of Study Grants for children and young people of Guinea – Bissau (Safim-Bissaquel).

Introduction

Guinea - Bissau is a Portuguese - speaking country located on the west coast of Africa, bounded on the north by Senegal and on the south by Guinea - Conakry, with an area of 36,125 km² and **an illiteracy rate of around 60% of the population.**

It is noteworthy that today education is extremely important for the socioeconomic development of any country, but to achieve this goal it would be good for everyone to collaborate in this difficult struggle. This fact has been a motivation to develop the **program / project to support the education of children without possibilities.**

This initiative is created thinking about the difficulties that parents and caregivers of children are facing. **Some children immediately abandon basic and secondary education,** and others do not continue university education, as they lack financial support to continue their studies.

The **Safim sector** is located in the region of Biombo, 15 km from the capital Bissau, but it is in the poorest region of the country, with a very high percentage of children who do not have the possibility to go to school in the first years or, in some cases, later.

Justification

The reason for the creation of this initiative, on the one hand, has to do **with the economic and financial difficulty of parents** and those in charge of education in investing in the education of their children, and on the other hand, parents are not sufficiently aware about the importance of education for the future of their children.

Many of the parents give more value to domestic work, since traditional agriculture is the only way that many have to support their families. We are faced with the fact that parents and caregivers are unaware of the value of education. Children should not continue to suffer because of that, we think there is an urgent need to act decisively in order to minimize their difficulties. **Most of these children show a strong desire to study** with a view to achieving their future, their long - awaited dreams: to be trained men and women. The most vulnerable part are girls who end up being subjected to early marriage before finishing their studies.

In recent years we have received requests from students to cover school expenses, as well as school materials. From this fact we judge that **there is a great need to help them** to guarantee a better future. It is true that we want to do it, but we do not have the possibility of supporting them all. We want to do it, but we lack the financial means.

Our intention is **to give opportunity to disadvantaged children and young people, those who have no financial means to pay for their studies, food, transportation and health insurance) from primary school until the completion of the university.**

The majority of children and young people in our country live in a situation without a prepared and guaranteed future, due to the shortages of parents, families living with **less than 1 euro per day**, of traditional agriculture, with difficult situations.

Some children, as well as young people, have parents who are public operators, but who **do not receive their salaries at the end of the month**, and the main concern of the parents is to guarantee first the daily lunch, not thinking about the "small - lunch" (breakfast) and dinner. Only later do they think about the studies of the children.

In addition, **the education system in Guinea - Bissau is very poor**, with a lack of quality teaching, especially in public schools where, stricken by constant strikes, the State no longer has the ability to control education. In all of this, who suffers the most is the rural population.

Nowadays **the communities, Dioceses and missionaries** working in the country are the ones taking responsibility for public schools (called self - management, which is a concerted system), in order to keep their children in school. Most of them are administered by the Catholic Church and the missionaries who work throughout the territory.

The school belongs to the State (building / pavilion - classes), but as it can not maintain it without strikes, **the Church, together with the local community**, assume the management through a contribution for each student, to ensure the teachers' monthly salary. In this way, teachers' strike is avoided. On the other hand, parents are encouraged to take responsibility for the education of their children. Thus, the risks of young people staying without future expectations, the appearance of addictions, delinquency, etc... are avoided.

Our region (Biombo / Safim) is not immune to this situation, especially since it is close to the capital Bissau (where the risks of social exclusion or crime are greater). Most families live of the "*castanha de cajú*" (cashew), from traditional agriculture and they have **enormous difficulties in keeping their children in school**. In addition, they can not guarantee daily food, because they are large families with many economic needs.

In this situation, financially support the studies of some children in Safim, contributes first to **save a life, build a better society, ensure the education** of this child or young person and, finally, end the existence of disadvantaged children and young people in this third world country that is still struggling to develop.

This is an initiative of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and the local community with the aim of mobilizing the Iberian Community (Portugal and Spain) and the people of good will, to support the work with students (children and youth) in Safim and Bissaquel.

All support, beyond the amount contributed, will act as a multiplier effect on the projects that are already being executed in Bissaquel and Safim.

The operation of these supports is under the responsibility of the Missionary of the Precious Blood in Guinea: Lima da Silva. C.PP. S.

General Objective

To cover tuition fees for school fees, school fees and school supplies for children of families with low financial resources.

Activities

Support the education of children, follow them, guide them and train them.

Estrategy

Our strategy is to support the education and training of children, to raise awareness of the parents and caregivers of children about the importance of education for the future of their children.

Location

The present project is located in **Guinea - Bissau**, sector of **Safim - Bissaquel**, where the Missionaries of the Precious Blood work.

Expected results

We hope for progress and well - being in the future of these children; We expect an acceptable use by the beneficiaries of this program.

Recipients

The beneficiaries are children / young people with economic difficulties in the sector of Safim-Bissaquel.

Monitoring and evaluation

We will create a team to monitor the evaluation of children during their student journey. We will follow the beneficiaries to university training or professional training, such as courses in mechanics, carpentry, electricity, agriculture, civil construction, etc...

*“Si bu djuda un mininu na bai pa escola, bu djuda na kumpu un sociedadadi mindjor”
“If you help a child go to school, you help build a better society.”*