

# Building Scientists: Quality Education through science in Mali

with the support of the Dutch NatCom





# OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

Objective: Support school retention and quality of education through the study of sciences for adolescent girls and boys

- Targets:
- 5,600 adolescents
- 375 science teachers
- in 125 schools



## Key Results Update:

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September 2021-February 2022

# Pre-project Activities

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- Diagnostics Test: Assessing children, especially girls' interests in science
- Inventory of existing science materials
- Information sessions conducted by the Ministry of Education

# Result 1: Obstacles to adolescent boys and girls school attendance are lifted

## Activity 1.1: Provision of learning materials (**Already purchased**)

- 5,000 school kits
- 4,500 dignity kits for adolescent girls (purchased)
- 1,125 science manuals approved by the MoE (purchased)

## Result 2: Quality of science education and learning outcomes in science is improved for adolescent girls and boys

### Activity 2.1: Creation of Science Clubs (in progress)

- Three (3) science clubs are being created per target school.
- 375 science clubs will be fully functional by the end of February

### Activity 2.2: Teacher trainings

- Revision of teacher training modules taking into account the science curriculum in vigor
- 47 National Science Teacher trainers trained (11 women and 36 men) in life skills and science instructional strategies to train teachers so they can better convey the necessary skills to their students
- 375 Science teachers and science club mentors trained (**56 women and 319 men**) in methodology and instructional approaches to better teach life skills( leadership, community management, living together / notion of solidarity, citizenship and human rights) and sciences, including physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics.

# THE WAY FORWARD



# Upcoming Activities

## Activity 1.1: Provision of learning materials (**Distribution mid/end February** release order being processed)

- 4500 dignity kits
- 5000 basic school kits
- 1,125 approved science manuals

## Activity 1.2: Psychosocial support ( **by end February**)

- Listening Centers will be set up in every target to ensure psychosocial support for students (50% of girls) identified as at risk of dropping out.
- Youth clubs engaged in themes-based activities, including sport, debates, gender-based violence, traditional arts and intergenerational dialogue

## Activity 2.1: (Second part)

- Annual Science Fair will be held by May 2022

# Implementation Challenges

- School closure because of teacher strikes
- Alteration of the school calendar which has caused the project to start somewhat later than anticipated.
- Uncertainty about the school calendar for the remainder of the school year remains a looming challenge

# Impact of the Project

- Teachers expressed appreciation for the in-service training received: some of these teachers have not received any in-service training for the last 10-15 years.
- Beginning of improvement in teachers' instructional practices as reported by the monitoring team (use of participative approach).

# Training - pictures



In-service training for science teachers and science club mentors to:

- improve their instructional skills in the areas of **Sciences** ( physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics) and **Life Skills** (leadership, community management, living together / notion of solidarity, citizenship and human rights)
- develop their abilities to coordinate/supervise the activities of 375 science clubs in 125 schools

**The trainees have exhibited real interest in the activities. Most of these trainees have not participated in any training for the last 10-15 years.**

# Training - pictures



Mrs. **Kone Rakiatou Dia**,

Head of the Teaching Academy of the Left Bank,  
Bamako.

She is giving directions during the training  
of national trainers right before trainees  
are divided into groups.



THANK YOU