



Leadership Training Initiative for Middle School Students in Senegal's Casamance Region

This program is supported by USAID's Africa Education Initiative

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From the President's Desk...



Leadership Africa USA (LA USA) is pleased to provide information on LA USA's work in Senegal and other relevant issues related to economic development in Africa and the Diaspora.

Leadership Africa USA's vision of enabling the youngest generation of Africa's leaders to overcome the challenges they face in their societies (which are often post-conflict societies) through leadership training has resulted in Leadership Africa USA programs spanning over 10 countries in Africa.

Leadership Africa USA recognizes that it is incumbent that Africa's youth are exposed to the concepts of positive and effective leadership as they are being called upon to assume roles of leadership in their schools, communities and countries.

This update highlights milestones in Leadership Africa USA's current program in Senegal's Casamance Region.

Train the Trainers for Leadership in Middle Schools in Casamance, Senegal

Leadership Curriculum Training Workshop for Teachers and Principals



Leadership Africa USA in partnership with Senegal's Ministry of Education hosted a 3-day leadership development training workshop for teachers and principals from the 20 middle schools that are serving as a pilot for the youth leadership development initiative in Senegal's Casamance region.

The objectives of the workshop for teachers and principals included:

- Sharing and understanding the key concepts of the leadership curriculum in order to develop leadership competencies in their students
- Identifying effective methods to apply the newly developed leadership curriculum in middle schools.
- Enhancing teacher & principal professional experience and adapting teaching methods to innovations such as a leadership curriculum into the educational system.

In addition to the 44 principals and teachers who participated in the workshop, Ms. Shehnaz Rangwala, Program Director, Leadership Africa USA; Mr. Lamine Coly, Regional Representative, USAID; Mr. Malick Diop and Mr. Louis Ciss, School Inspectors, Ziguinchor; Ms. Tacko Daffe, Program Supervisor; and Mr. Daouda Gueye, Program Coordinator were also in attendance.

The workshop consisted of plenary session, break-out sessions and various group activities which focused on:

- Preparing a Lesson Plan
- Leadership Types & Styles
- Identifying Effective Teaching Methods
- Developing Evaluation Methods

Feedback from the participating teachers and principals on the workshop was positive: 80% were very satisfied with the content of the training and all participants were satisfied with the resource materials made available to them and how the workshop was organized. Each teacher and principal received a certificate of participation and a sample lesson plan.

Preparing Youth to Excel: Leadership Essay Competition

In December, the program held an essay competition for students on the topic of leadership with over 80 students from 20 middle schools participating.

Here is what some of the winners had to say:

Fatou Kakene Badiane is 17 and in her fourth year at Coubalon Middle School. Fatou lost her mother just as she began elementary school. She is a very strong student but feels that her shyness keeps her from getting her good ideas across to others. In her essay, Fatou expressed her hopes for the leadership training she'll be receiving. They include: "that I will be able to successfully accomplish the tasks entrusted to me... be able to take charge of any given situation... and have the courage to speak confidently in public."

Third-year student Alpha Omar Ba writes, "A leader is a courageous person who can get up and put forth a vision in uncertain times. He encourages others to change. A leader sets a goal, is very energetic and manages his time. He makes sure that everything he does makes sense; he is dynamic and tries everything possible to make sure that his work succeeds."



Student essay competition participants

Vincent Mendy, a fourth-year student, wrote an example of a student government campaign speech. "If you agree," he told classmates, "I will lead a campaign to solve our school's problems.... Currently, there is no water near our classroom ... So I think each class should have a container of drinking water... Also, I think that we can use the land around our building to grow a garden. If each class works in a section of the garden, we should be able to produce a lot... We also need a library... Dear classmates, these are my dreams that I want to share with you."

*Excerpt from a USAID Success Story,
Students Develop Into Leaders. Available at
www.leadershipafricausa.org.*

Leadership Summit for Peace Stakeholders

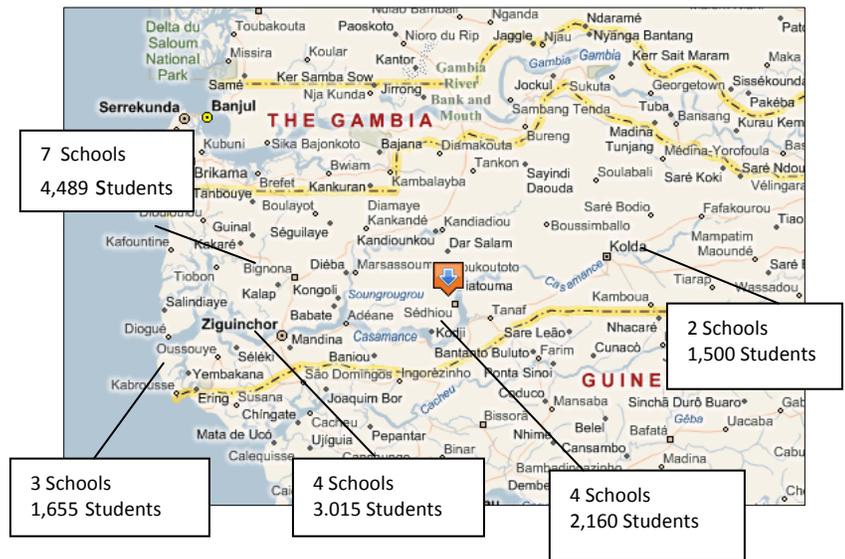
The Leadership Training Initiative in Casamance had its official beginning at the Leadership Summit for Peace Stakeholders held October 2008 in Ziguinchor. All peace stakeholders, along with academic authorities and community leaders, were invited to contribute their observations and recommendations for the initiative.

In preparation for the summit, Leadership Africa USA entered into an alliance with the University of Ziguinchor and also formed strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Education's department of middle school education, the School Inspection Authority of Ziguinchor, local NGOs, and local media.

The dialogue with the stakeholders provided insightful conclusions which highlighted the importance of the leadership initiative in Casamance:

- The current generation of young people grew up in a culture of violence
- There is the potential for immediate change such as breaking the tradition of student strikes in middle schools by strengthening mediation capabilities
- Middle school students are at a time in their lives when they seek to define their identities and assume their roles in society; therefore it is important to harness their leadership qualities at this time.

Participating Casamance Youth in the Leadership Initiative



Major Objectives of the Leadership Initiative in Casamance, Senegal

- To enable Casamance middle school students to learn about the importance of effective leadership through the development of a leadership curriculum. The curriculum and accompanying teachers' guide will be contextualized locally and derive most of its content with local consultations among various stakeholders.
- To provide students with training and technical assistance within their schools.
- To bring students in contact with global partners for leadership training.