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INCLUSIVE EDUCATION OF DEAF AND BLIND CHILDREN INTO MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

CHILDREN RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In Mali, educational opportunities for children with disabilities are limited, as communities and families fail to recognize their potential, and educational services are not prepared to meet the children’s specific needs. Despite the government of Mali’s political commitment to promoting and ensuring children with disabilities’ right to access quality education, there are still very few initiatives addressing inclusive education. In Sikasso, children with disabilities are out of school primarily due to the long distances between specialized schools and their homes. Moreover, there is no specialized school for children with visual impairment; and the cost of adapted school materials is prohibitive compared to the cost of regular class material.

INNOVATIVE AND EFFICIENT STRATEGIES

The Inclusive Education of Deaf and Blind Children into Mainstream Schools Activity works to increase access to quality education for disabled children, especially deaf and blind children. This activity—implemented by Handicap International—tests adapted, innovative and efficient strategies to successfully enroll deaf and blind children into mainstream schools, and ensures learning achievements in reading and writing. Moreover, the project collaborates with the Ministry of Education to ensure the Policy and Action Plan on Special Education is updated and effectively implemented.

THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION OF DEAF AND BLIND CHILDREN INTO MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS GOALS

BUDGET: \$550,000

TARGET AREAS: Sikasso

PROJECT CYCLE: April 2017 – November 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 51 disabled children—35 deaf and 16 blind—have been enrolled in mainstream primary schools in Sikasso.
- All parents of deaf and blind children have been trained either in sign language or in Braille.
- 55 teachers, school principals and pedagogical advisers (28 men and 27 women) were trained in sign language, Braille, on differentiated pedagogy and on the development and use of inclusive lesson preparation sheets.
- Each of the 51 deaf and blind children received school kits.