



**FY2020
ANNUAL
REPORT**


MindLeaps



Our Mission

MindLeaps creates educational paths for the most vulnerable children in the world through a creative arts program that is built on data-driven metrics.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Note	4
By the Numbers	5
FY2020.....	6
COVID-19	7
MindLeaps Virtual Academy	8
Tracker	10
Story of Emmanuel	11

PROGRAMS

Rwanda	12
Guinea	17
Uganda	20
Mauritania	23
Kenya	26
North Macedonia	28
International Artists' Fund	30
Train The Trainer	32
Performances	33
Our Supporters	34
Financials	35
Press	36
Leadership & Board	38
Organizational History	39

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

MindLeaps remains strong in the face of global uncertainty. In FY20, MindLeaps served 2,000 youth in fourteen programs across six countries. Just six years ago, when MindLeaps opened its first center in Rwanda, we had 100 children and six youth in our school sponsorship program. In FY20, we enrolled 603 children in our sponsorship program. Our local staff, many of whom are now graduates of the MindLeaps program itself, are advancing the mission of MindLeaps to build paths to education and lifetime success for the world's most vulnerable children.

The year 2020 has been transformative for the entire world. In mid-March, MindLeaps had to react to the closing of schools and programs, leaving youth without protection, education or hope. Our solution was multipronged: emergency relief operations, a grassroots system of homework distribution delivered by local staff, and most pivotally for the organization - MindLeaps Virtual Academy. MindLeaps Virtual Academy is a series of five subjects delivered through low bandwidth internet connections on smartphones to low-resource areas.

This year and forever, MindLeaps is amplifying its voice in the Black Lives Matter movement. We are building out international learning opportunities and exchanges to help Americans and the world learn from the successes of reconciliation in the places where we work. MindLeaps asserts its deep commitment to the global fight for justice, especially for people of color, in the USA and abroad.

Going into next year, MindLeaps is building out its newest program in North Macedonia, which is serving 450 youth to develop social-emotional learning and build interethnic relationships in divided communities. We are continuing to learn from our 105 local staff in East Africa, West Africa and the Balkans as we look to respond to the needs of youth during and after the pandemic - ensuring each child will still leap forward in life.

We would like to share our heartfelt gratitude to our many friends, supporters, staff, volunteers, foundation partners, and corporate donors who continue to help us to fulfill our mission of helping vulnerable youth overcome adversity. We know that this year has been hard on each of you, and we are incredibly grateful that you are thinking of our children.

In Solidarity,



Rebecca Davis
Executive Director





IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

2,324 Students Served

229 Enrolled in the Virtual Academy

603 School sponsorships

108 Local staff employed

14 Programs

6 Countries served



In December 2019, an international group of dance teachers convened at the MindLeaps Center in Guinea for Tier 2 of MindLeaps' Train The Trainer program. The group was instructed by local Guinean teachers and practiced teaching MindLeaps students.

December



In March 2020, MindLeaps launched its newest program in North Macedonia. Located in Skopje, MindLeaps has partnered with Youth Community Center Cair and is using its model to attract vulnerable youth to this safe space.

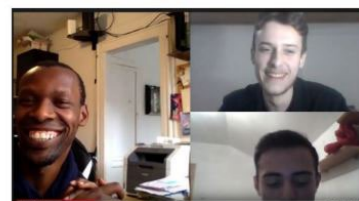
March

COVID-19 OUTBREAK



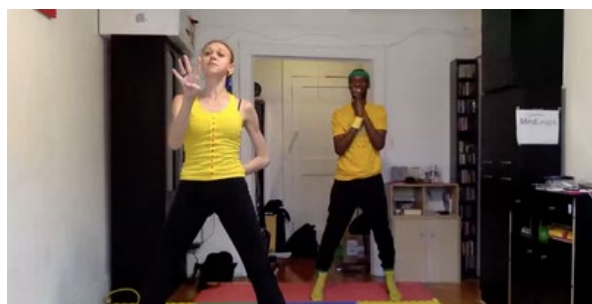
In response to COVID-19, MindLeaps created an emergency food and sanitation distribution program. Local staff delivered food and supplies to families in Rwanda, Guinea, Uganda and Mauritania each month from March through September 2020.

April



In April 2020, MindLeaps launched the Virtual Academy to continue the skills building and digital access of its youth during COVID-19 and beyond.

July



Dancers from the US, Canada, and Nigeria participated in a virtual version of Train The Trainer, July 27-31, 2020.

August



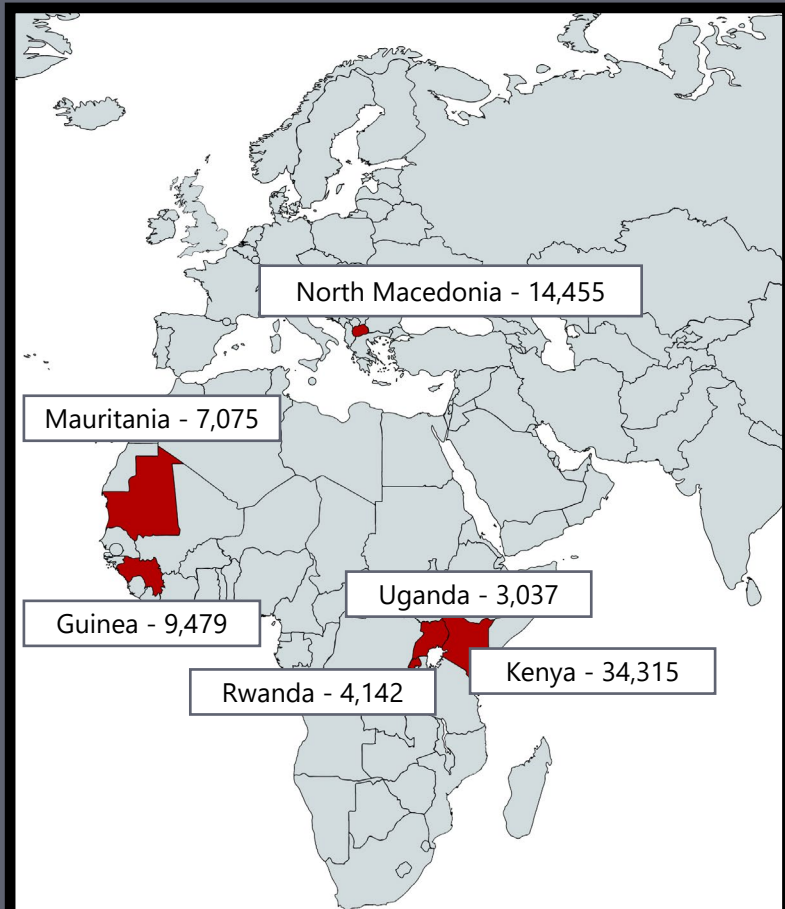
Executive Director Rebecca Davis speaks on the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies panel on "Arts in education during COVID-19: Illustrating the value of creativity and adaptability", with a dance performance by MindLeaps Uganda.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 cases appear in all six MindLeaps countries. In order to protect our children and staff, program adaptations have been made in all country locations. Our local staff is on the frontlines providing much needed assistance in new ways. MindLeaps' staff is working around the clock to keep our kids fed, healthy and safe.

MindLeaps has been providing daily meals to students at our centers every day since 2014. The pandemic forced the centers to close, and the students could no longer come to eat the food they relied on.

Since March, **MindLeaps has provided over \$30,000 in emergency COVID-19 relief supplies**, including food - rice, sugar, and oil - and sanitation supplies - soap and bleach.



Number of COVID cases on August 31, 2020

COVID-19 has shut down all schools interrupting the formal education for 603 students who MindLeaps sponsors in school.

To help these students continue their studies and stay on the path towards graduation, MindLeaps has initiated a system of homework distribution and created the MindLeaps Virtual Academy.



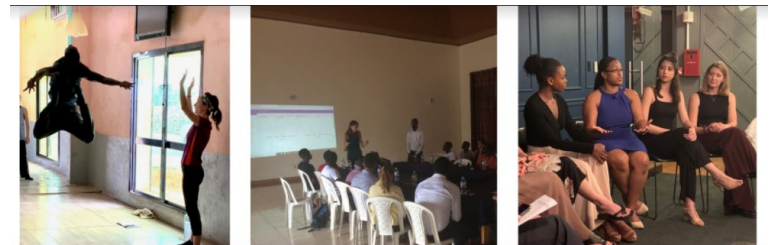
MINDLEAPS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Before COVID-19, there were 263 million out-of-school children in the world. With COVID-19, there are an additional 1.5 billion youth that now find themselves temporarily without their traditional learning environments (Brookings, "Beyond Reopening Schools", 2020). The risk of school dropout (especially with teenage girls), decreased socio-emotional skills, and increased domestic conflict are deep concerns for MindLeaps and the 2,000+ youth we serve in East Africa, West Africa and the Balkans.

MindLeaps has launched a **Virtual Academy** that is different from other online learning programs: it is entirely delivered on low bandwidth connections, and it leverages the power of community to maintain engagement.

To accommodate low bandwidth locations, minimal electricity and poor living conditions, the classes are delivered through WhatsApp classes and by low-resolution videos on smartphones.

Through this format, the Academy brings experts to teach culturally modified content in five core subjects: Business Entrepreneurship, Project Management & Budgeting, Child Development, Communications, and Inclusion.



Entrepreneurship

A Teacher's Guide to Business Skills Development



HOW IT WORKS

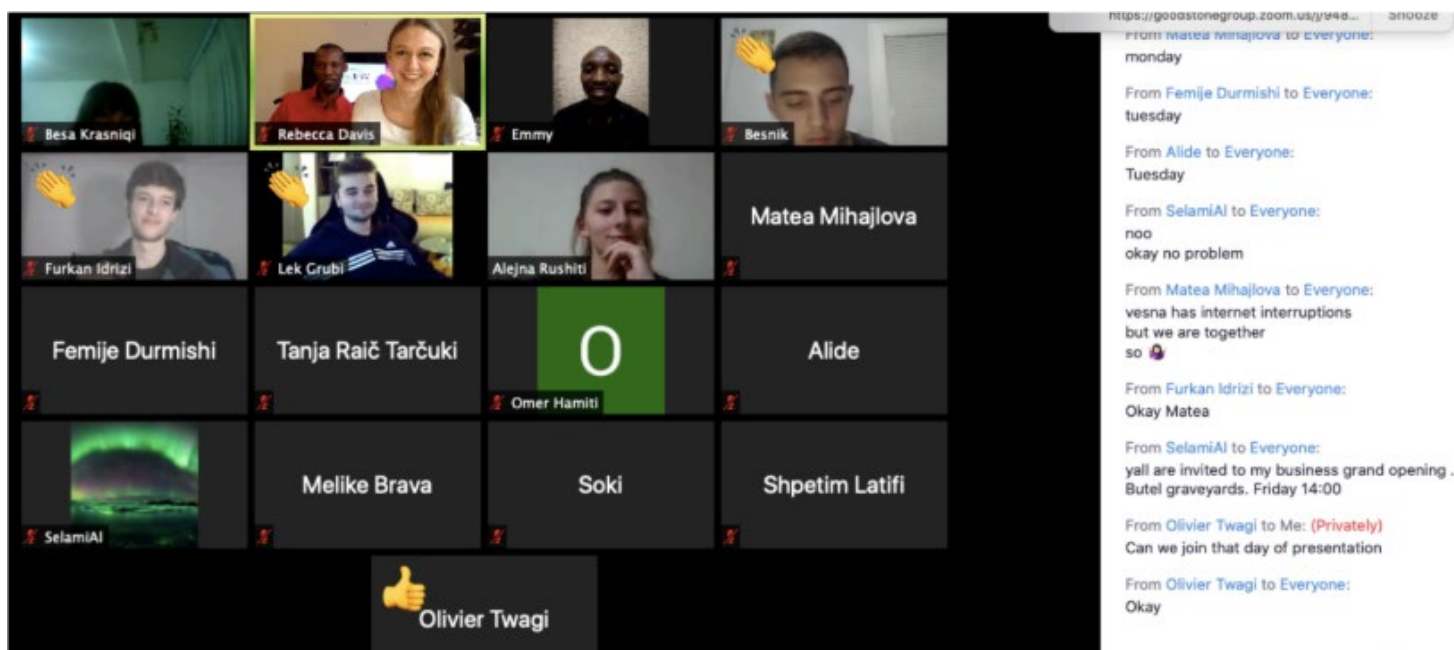
- Each subject runs 4-5 weeks
- MindLeaps provides smart phones and data packs for the youth to connect to the internet
- Youth are organized into groups of 8-25 students in WhatsApp
- One expert guides the course with weekly real-time voice message lecturing on WhatsApp and supplemented by occasional Zooms
- Students learn through fun, engaging TikTok videos in English and in their own languages

MINDLEAPS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

OUTCOMES

- **Tracks** some of the most vulnerable youth during COVID-19.
- Keeps an **active line of communication** with youth who are in danger of falling into risky behavior or, especially in the case of teenage girls, may need additional interventions to stay safe.
- Maintains interest in learning and a sense of "schooling" and **structure**, with regular class times, required assignments and daily feedback from teachers and peers.
- The participants have **access to education**, despite being in a refugee camp, slum or low-income community.
- **Communities** have started to build in – and between – these virtual groups. The students attend presentations and "pitch days" from other groups, usually in other countries. They are using more international languages in their communication, particularly English, and are expressing their ideas and concerns freely.

The Academy is available in English, French, Kinyarwanda, and will be available in Arabic and Swahili by the end of the calendar year.



The Virtual Academy launched in April 2020 and now has **229 youth enrolled**.

As the Academy continues, we are asking enrolled students to generate their own videos about the course content. The vision is to eventually replace the teacher videos with entirely youth-made content in these five subject areas.

TRACKER

MONITORING & EVALUATION

All of MindLeaps' dance programs use Tracker, a data-driven Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system that measures changes in cognitive skills and social-emotional learning.

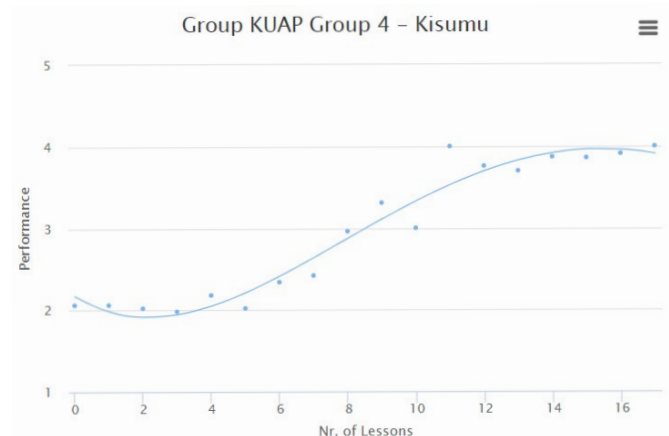
Developed in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, psychologists and software engineers, Tracker is an innovative assessment tool to measure a child's learning development. It is a software system that uses a kinesthetic-based rubric to capture and graphically display changes in seven particular skills: memorization, grit, teamwork, discipline, self-esteem, creativity and language.

Tracker is unique because it gathers data from a child's execution of dance moves to visually graph changes in behavioral patterns. Since the assessment relies on actual movements the child performs in the dance space, it reduces subjectivity.

The Tracker system consists of an Android tablet containing the rubric and an online analytics website. The data from the tablets sync to a front-end web application that stores student and class information. A mathematical model is applied to the data to generate graphs demonstrating learning curves of individuals' achievements.

In April 2020, MindLeaps launched the Virtual Academy. Now, MindLeaps' lead researcher, Dr. Janelle Junkin, is working with the software engineers that built Tracker to look at an automated way to collect data on participation of the students.

This graph is a sample analytics report from Tracker. It displays the progress of one group of kids at the MindLeaps program in Kenya over 16 classes in late 2019. The x-axis is the number of dance classes taken and the y-axis is the average of the seven skills across all kids in the class on a scale of 1 to 7.



MindLeaps
Tracker

Thank you to the ongoing work of lead software engineer Tomislav Pesut to iterate and manage the system for improvements and optimization.

THE STORY OF EMMANUEL



Emmanuel and his family fled Burundi as refugees and have been living in Mahama Refugee Camp in Rwanda since 2015. For Emmanuel and for thousands of other refugee youth, this trauma has left them without hope.

In 2018, life began to change when Emmanuel was selected to join the MindLeaps training program. His natural technical abilities and exemplary character quickly became apparent. He became the lead trainer of his camp. Still, he lacked the experience and skills necessary to run his program.

Last November, Emmanuel was selected by MindLeaps, UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda to receive a scholarship to travel outside of Rwanda. For six weeks, Emmanuel lived in Guinea, West Africa, where he trained intensively and taught over 100 children at the MindLeaps Center in Conakry.

Emmanuel returned to Mahama Refugee Camp in January 2020 with a profound eagerness to empower more refugee children. He taught classes in January and February with his enhanced technique and pedagogical skills.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, there are nearly 150,000 refugees currently living in Rwanda (UNHCR Reporting, 2019). The majority are from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, including 51% under the age of 18. Emmanuel's story reflects that of our refugee trainers across six different refugee camps in Rwanda and in Oruchinga Refugee Settlement in Uganda. Becoming a MindLeaps trainer has helped these youth support their families and make positive life decisions.



RWANDA



Dance Training

Dance training stimulates changes in behavioral patterns and increases cognition. MindLeaps' dance curriculum targets seven skills: memorization, teamwork, creativity, discipline, self-esteem, language and grit.



Digital Literacy



IT classes are provided to introduce children to technology and the outside world, providing skills essential for the 21st century workplace. These classes help to close the technology gap that continues to serve as a barrier for children in developing countries.

Academic Enrichment

An academic enrichment program helps children catch up to their grade level. School sponsorships are provided to fully reintegrate the children back into formal education and ensure school completion.



RWANDA

PERMANENT CENTER

MindLeaps Rwanda's Jim Bell Centre in Kigali opened in 2014. From September 2019 through March 2020, MindLeaps continued its weekend program providing holistic services to support the development and health of 168 children.

For students who have previously been through the MindLeaps program, MindLeaps is now sponsoring their tuition fees to attend local schools. MindLeaps is sponsoring all 168 children in Rwanda to attend a variety of primary and secondary schools, as well as vocational training programs.

The kids are served by a staff of ten Rwandans, who manage all aspects of the program from administration to dance classes to IT, as well as support staff. The staff understand the challenges faced by their communities, and they are important role models for the students, providing emotional support and positive encouragement to build confidence.

Health Awareness



Health and reproductive classes and hygiene and sanitation services are provided. Children learn about their anatomy, how to practice safe sex, and prevent diseases and unwanted pregnancies. The increased awareness destigmatizes the topic of sex.

Daily Meals

A daily meal program improves learning capacity and reduces the issue of food insecurity that many children and their families face. The program allows for children to remain healthy through access to nutritious meals, which are essential for their growing bodies and minds.



Family Strengthening



MindLeaps offers home visits, access to social workers, and opportunities for families of children to receive social service help. 100 parents of our students participate in the Family Strengthening program, enabling them to take out microloans to build businesses.





kate spade

on PURPOSE

NEW YORK

Rural Masoro

In 2019, MindLeaps launched “Masoro Leaping”, a project aimed at developing the health, economic and educational opportunities in Masoro. Following the successful pilot program, MindLeaps launched an ongoing program. MindLeaps trained and hired eight local youth to run the dance classes. From September 2019 through March 2020, these trainers provided daily dance classes to 100 children in Masoro. The program was funded by kate spade new york’s *on purpose* Fund, which supports and empowers women, girls and their community to be the heroines of their own stories. In November 2019, MindLeaps was honored to welcome Peter H. Vrooman, the United States Ambassador to Rwanda, to visit the program in Masoro.



Refugee Camps in Rwanda

MindLeaps is continuing its partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to bring MindLeaps programming to six refugee camps throughout Rwanda. After an initial Train The Trainer program in November-December 2018, thirty-eight youth from the six camps were employed to teach the MindLeaps program. After the training, the teachers returned to their camps to implement the MindLeaps program and formalize the structure of dance education in the camps. From September 2019 through March 2020, over 800 refugee children living in these camps received daily dance classes from these trainers and demonstrated improved social-emotional learning and life skills. MindLeaps’ intervention has also encouraged the children to access the schooling that is available to them in the camps, and MindLeaps is tracking and supporting the kids’ success in these educational programs.



RWANDA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 shutdowns closed MindLeaps dance classes, but the needs of our vulnerable youth and kids were more urgent than ever. In response, MindLeaps initiated emergency food and sanitation supply relief, homework distributions, and increased the services of our Family Strengthening Program.

In Rwanda, MindLeaps serves students and their families in Nyarugenge District from three sectors: Rwezamenyo, Nyakabanda, and Nyamirambo. With the shutdowns, MindLeaps students could no longer come to the Center to have the daily meals they relied on. In response, MindLeaps created a **monthly distribution of food and sanitation supplies**.

MindLeaps supports 148 families with a one month's supply: 10 kg of maize flour, 5 kg of beans, 5 kg of sugar, 5 kg of rice, and 3 large bars of soap, each month from March through September.



COVID-19 caused schools to shutdown and interrupted the education of 168 children that MindLeaps was sponsoring to attend school in Rwanda. To help these students continue their studies, MindLeaps has initiated a system of **homework distribution**. Our teachers create lesson plans in subjects such as History, Biology, and Geography in primary and secondary school levels, hand deliver them to each student's household, and pick up and review the previous week's assignments.



MindLeaps students' families were hit particularly hard by COVID-19. Many of these family members work as street vendors, and the lockdown prevented them from making money to provide for their children and to cover basic needs. Thanks to support from Jewish Helping Hands, MindLeaps has **increased the micro-loans and micro-grants provided** through the Family Strengthening Program. The parents can use these to adapt their businesses and address immediate needs, such as health insurance.

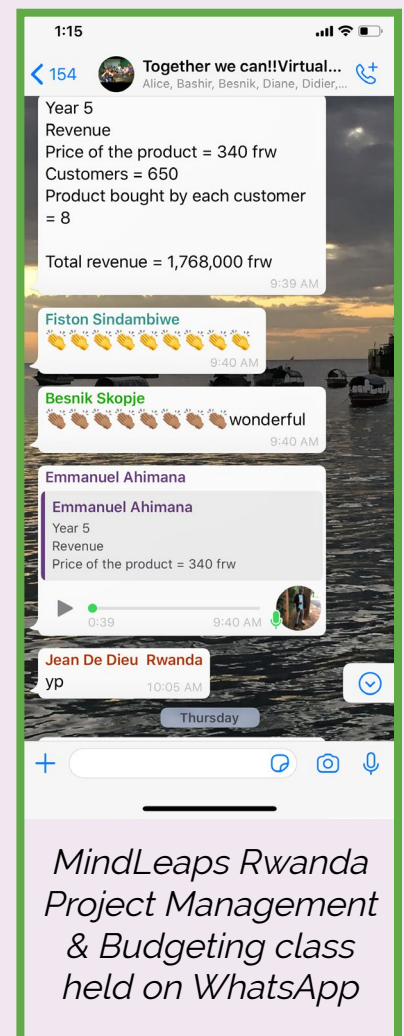
MindLeaps rolled out its Virtual Academy in English and Kinyarwanda in Rwanda. There are 96 participants from Rwanda – 36 MindLeaps dance trainers from the six refugee camps, 25 students from Masoro and 35 in Kigali. Each group has taken the modules on Business Entrepreneurship, Communications, Child Development, and Project Management and Budgeting. In October 2020, they will begin the fifth and final module on Inclusion.



In August, MindLeaps Rwanda began the module on Child Development taught by creative arts therapist and researcher Dr. Janelle Junkin. The course covered the different stages of child development, studied trauma and its impacts, as well as cognitive behavioral therapy interventions. This course was particularly relevant to our trainers from the refugee camps. Every child they work with has experienced trauma, and as refugees themselves, the understanding of trauma has helped generate the self-awareness needed to work constructively with others.

One of the trainers, Joseph, from Gihembe Refugee Camp said, **"There are times that a child acts out, and being patient is difficult and we overreact to the child. But now, we are aware of our thoughts and emotions that lead to our reactions and are able to be better teachers."** And Ninette from Mahama Refugee Camp said, **"I now know how a child develops in different stages and how I can help a child who has experienced trauma. Now, I have the confidence that I can help my community and my students."**

Students from MindLeaps Rwanda pitch their business ideas on Zoom as the final project for the Business Entrepreneurship class



MindLeaps Rwanda Project Management & Budgeting class held on WhatsApp



GUINEA

GUINEA

PERMANENT CENTER



In FY2020, 150 new students joined MindLeaps' program in Conakry, Guinea. Since 2017, MindLeaps Guinea's eleven member staff has taught dance and English classes inside our Center in Nongo. Children come to the center to attend a "fun dance class", but are actually participating in a carefully structured kinesthetic-based curriculum targeting critical learning skills that prepare them for entry into school or vocational training. From September 2019 to March 2020 prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, MindLeaps Guinea provided these ongoing programs:

Sanitation Program

All children receive a sanitation kit and workshops on basic hygiene and health practices. In addition, the center provides clean water and electricity for the children to bathe, wash their clothes, and brush their teeth.

Social Services

MindLeaps conducts home visits and provides opportunities for families to receive social services.

Dance Training

MindLeaps codified dance curriculum helps stimulate changes in behavioral patterns and increase cognition.

Daily Meals

A daily meal program improves learning capacity and reduces the issue of food insecurity that many children and their families face.

Academic Sponsorship

Students take part in English classes. After completing the MindLeaps program, sponsorships are provided for students to enter formal education. 68 students were sponsored in FY2020.

The US Embassy in Guinea is generously supporting two projects at our center. "Rhythm of Peace" is designed to reach youth in the most volatile areas of Conakry and involve them in dance-based activities that teach critical thinking, political plurality, and media literacy. Through "Building Communication One Step at a Time", MindLeaps Guinea has become a destination location for artist and cultural exchanges through international trainings. The project also instituted Communications courses at our center to develop broader skills and encourage critical thinking in Guinean youth. In addition, the Embassy gave a donation of books and school supplies for our students (*pictured right*).



GUINEA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The MindLeaps Center is located in the Nongo neighborhood of Conakry, serving kids in that community. The shutdown and economic fallout from the pandemic caused many work activities – which were the source of survival for poor families – to stop suddenly, which has greatly worsened the poverty MindLeaps families are facing.

MindLeaps staff quickly pivoted from being dance teachers into being emergency relief workers. They initiated a system of **monthly distributions of food and sanitation supplies**. Since March, MindLeaps staff have been hand delivering rice, sugar, and sanitation supplies to 130 local families.



MindLeaps Guinea is sponsoring 68 students to attend local day schools. In mid-March, all schools were shut down across the country. To help our students continue their education, MindLeaps Guinea teachers created a **homework distribution system**, where they create lesson plans, deliver them to each student, and pick up and review the previous month's assignments.

UGANDA



MindLeaps operates two programs in Uganda, one in Kampala and the other in Oruchinga Refugee Settlement. The programs served 525 students in FY2020.

Since 2017, MindLeaps has operated programs in the capital, Kampala, in order to help kids in extreme poverty, street children and refugee children, get on a path to education, positive life decisions, and community integration. In Kampala, MindLeaps works in partnership with Save Street Children Uganda, M-LISADA, Agape World Mission, and Agape World Ministries. At each of these partnership locations, MindLeaps operates dance classes five times per week. MindLeaps employs six local Ugandan young adults as dance trainers to teach all the dance classes.

Uganda has accepted 1.4 million refugees - the third highest refugee population in the entire world. Refugee children are among the most vulnerable, having been through trauma, forced relocation, and interrupted schooling. In partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), MindLeaps launched a program at Oruchinga Refugee Settlement. MindLeaps trained and hired eight local youth from the settlement to become MindLeaps dance teachers. Every three months, 150 new children were enrolled in the program. At the end of 2019, the program reached 450 children. In addition, MindLeaps sponsors 280 of these children to attend formal school inside Oruchinga Refugee Settlement.



UGANDA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The pandemic closed all MindLeaps dance classes at our partner locations in Kampala and in Oruchinga Refugee Settlement. At the same time, the pandemic forced the UN's World Food Programme to make a 30% budget cut in its regular food relief for refugees. MindLeaps stepped in to help its students and their families by providing \$5,000 in food supplies to the Oruchinga Refugee Settlement.

UGANDA

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

16 dance trainers from both the Kampala program and Oruchinga Refugee Settlement are currently enrolled in the Virtual Academy. Yves, a MindLeaps dance trainer in Oruchinga Refugee Settlement, said he has learned most of his dance skills, and now digital skills, through MindLeaps. He believes "the goal of the Virtual Academy is to help us become self-reliant in our lives and to make our communities better places."



Yves participating in the Virtual Academy at Oruchinga Refugee Settlement



MindLeaps Uganda trainers in Kampala participating in the Virtual Academy

MAURITANIA



MAURITANIA PARTNERSHIP

MindLeaps has partnered with SOS Pairs Educateurs since 2017, providing MindLeaps dance program to vulnerable youth in Nouakchott. In 2019, with support from the global giving circle Dining for Women, a new program was launched to serve 120 girls. These girls were given MindLeaps dance classes for psycho-social development, daily meals, and school sponsorship. In January 2020, the program expanded to now serve 225 boys and girls. In addition, MindLeaps has trained and hired six local Mauritanian youth to become MindLeaps dance trainers, who



now teach the MindLeaps dance classes on an ongoing basis. During the pandemic, MindLeaps is continuing the training of its Mauritanian dance teachers through the Virtual Academy, to build their skills as project managers and leaders.



SOS Pairs Educateurs is MindLeaps' local partner in Mauritania. They provide a safe space for children, share project staff, leverage their female community leaders to recruit girls into the program, and facilitate school sponsorships. Pictured are MindLeaps students in dance class, at home, and going to school.



MAURITANIA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

When the pandemic broke out, the dance classes and services shut down, but the need to continue serving these girls was more essential than ever.

In response, our partner SOS Pairs Educateurs, with support from ExxonMobil, distributed emergency relief supplies, focusing on the Lekreiga section of El Mina. In Lekreiga, the average household size is between 7 and 8 people.



SOS Pairs Educateurs, led by Executive Director Sy Djibril, worked with the local government of Mauritania to coordinate the distribution of over 400 kits to MindLeaps students and to all families in the Lekreiga district.



The relief supplies distributed to each family included:

- 25 kg of rice
- 10 kg of sugar
- 5 liters of oil
- 2 liters of bleach
- 5 bars of soap



KENYA



KENYA

PARTNERSHIP

MindLeaps launched a program in Kisumu, Kenya, for children with special learning needs. The program marked the launch of a new inclusive curriculum. The new curriculum allows MindLeaps to work with a larger range of children with greater and more diverse learning needs. In November 2019, the program was expanded to the refugee camps in Rwanda.

The program in Kenya was created in partnership with Kisumu Urban Apostolate Programmes, which works with the local communities of Kisumu to improve the standard of living by integrating cultural, economic, environmental, health, and educational values. It is funded by Chance for Childhood, a charity working in Africa to support the most vulnerable children, such as street children, disabled children, and children affected by conflict. MindLeaps' program in Kenya served 235 children this year.



While dance classes are halted during the pandemic, four of the trainers from Kenya will be enrolled in **MindLeaps Virtual Academy** in Fall 2020.

NORTH MACEDONIA



NORTH MACEDONIA PARTNERSHIP

MindLeaps launched its newest program, "Peaceful Rhythms", in Skopje, North Macedonia, in March 2020.



The program focuses on developing skills that are essential for youth of North Macedonia, helping them make positive life decisions and be a part of community-building. Objectives include demonstrably improving social-emotional learning through dance and data, developing communication and entrepreneurship skills among youth, and reducing the risk of radicalization among youth in Cair. Youth had the opportunity to take courses on business entrepreneurship at the premises of the project partner – the Youth Community Council of Cair – during the month of March, as well as online during the COVID-19 lockdown. The project will reach up to 450 youth. So far, 46 participants have successfully completed the course on business entrepreneurship, and another 7 have been trained in MindLeaps' dance curriculum and data collection.



On July 16th, graduates received certificates at Youth Community Council of Cair in an award ceremony for completing the program.



INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' FUND

MindLeaps' International Artists' Fund (IAF) is a way for artists to use their own gifts to bring hope and recovery to future generations. The artists travel to MindLeaps' programs where they see in practice how dance is being used to attract youth to safe spaces and to help them succeed in formal education. They learn about the country's history and see first-hand the impact of investing in at-risk children. The artists invite their followers around the world to follow their journey and bring a critical level of awareness to these children's plight.



MindLeaps' IAF artists include Misty Copeland (American Ballet Theatre), Nicole Corea (Lar Lubovitch Dance Company), Hope Easterbrook (Hamilton), LaMar Baylor (Broadway's The Lion King) and many more accomplished dancers from around the world.



INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' FUND

While our international artists are unable to travel due to the pandemic, they continue to share their passion and knowledge with us online through Moments with MindLeaps and virtual dance classes.



Moments with MindLeaps interviews artists and educators working with vulnerable communities, anywhere in the world. The interviews take place via IG Live on Fridays at 4:30 P.M. ET. Guests have included:

Javier Aranzales
LaMar Baylor
Mark Francis Caserta
Caitlyn Casson
Nicole Corea
Deanna Cormier
Chloe Davis
Andee Dooley
Hope Easterbrook
Ssali Eugene
Cassidy Giordano
Sheila Grant

Toshia Jackson
Chase Johnsey
Janelle Junkin
Bashir Karenzi
Kenna Kosh
Adam McKinney
Carlos Renedo
DuJuan Smart Jr.
Cassandra Trenary
Tracy Vogt
Royce Zackery
Guilia Coti Zelati

During the pandemic, many dancers have led virtual classes for the public to continue to support MindLeaps from afar. MindLeaps is grateful to Cassandra Trenary, Anna Defent, Caroline Biondo, Melissa Demers, Caitlyn Casson, Mark Caserta, Nicole Corea, Tracy Vogt, Deanna Cormier, and Ariana Dewing for giving their time and talents.



TIER II - CONAKRY

An international group of dance teachers convened at the MindLeaps Center in Guinea, West Africa, in December 2019, for Tier II of MindLeaps' Train The Trainer program. This followed their participation in Tier I in June 2019 in New York City. The dancers came from the USA, Canada, Italy, and the UK. The group learned MindLeaps dance curricula and pedagogical methods, and practiced teaching MindLeaps students. They were instructed by the local MindLeaps Guinea teachers and staff, as well as Executive Director Rebecca Davis and Lead Trainer Caitlyn Casson. While there, the trainees also visited students' homes and learned about their challenges.



“

I have been teaching dance for 16 years, and this training is by far the most rewarding thing I have ever done. You get to work with students dealing with some of the most difficult life situations, yet they come to class some of the happiest, hard-working people you will ever meet. It has been a humbling experience.”

Deanna Cormier, Dance Faculty at St. Lawrence College in Ottawa



VIRTUAL TRAINING



The pandemic delayed the 2020 Tier I training which normally takes place the first two weeks of June in New York City. In its place, MindLeaps ran a virtual training July 27-31, 2020. Nine dancers from the US, Canada, and Nigeria came together virtually to practice MindLeaps' curriculum, learn about the program countries, speak with MindLeaps staff and meet alumni of the previous trainings. This year's cohort included: Calvin Martin, Emmanuel Osahor, Shauna Tyser, Melissa Demers, Meimei Weston, Andee Dooley, Elyssa Sena, Jacqueline Calle, and Nicole Diaz-Pellot.

UBUMUNTU

INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Ubumuntu Arts Festival is an annual celebration of the arts and humanity. While it normally takes place in Kigali, Rwanda, this year the festival was a series of virtual performances and conversations from across the world.

MindLeaps participated in the festival again this year on July 17th with a panel discussion on Arts & Resiliency. Panelists Reggie Van Lee (Chief Transformation Officer at The Carlyle Group), LaMar Baylor (Broadway Dancer with "The Lion King"), Royce Zackery (Head Coordinator of Dance Arts at Howard University), and MindLeaps Executive Director Rebecca Davis discussed the ways in which communities have used the arts to stay connected and resilient during COVID-19 and during the social justice movements.

Additionally, Ssali Joseph Eugene, MindLeaps Rwanda's Kigali Program Manager, was the choreographer for the MindLeaps performance. In a live interview, Ssali discussed the unique virtual performance this year as well as his work with MindLeaps over the past several years in Rwanda and Uganda. Finally, on July 18th, eight MindLeaps Rwanda students performed his piece "Breath of Life".



OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank our institutional supporters for helping us in providing more children with the access, programs, opportunities, and education that they need to succeed and leap forward in life.

Foundations



Broadway Cares



United Nations
Federal Credit
Union



The ChangeBox
Foundation



Communities
Foundation of
Texas



GlobalGiving
Foundation



Issroff Family
Foundation



Jewish Helping
Hands



Lacewing
Foundation

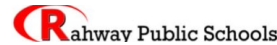
American Chamber of
Commerce in Rwanda



The Tides
Foundation



Segal Family
Foundation



Rahway Board of Education

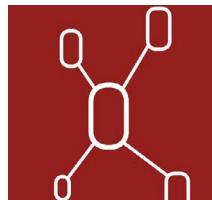
Tirosh Family Foundation

Freedom Church
Hereford

Corporations



AllianceBernstein



Axiom Networks



Under Armour



WeWork



Goldman Sachs



AmazonSmile



Pentland
Graphics



GLOBAL ALTERNATIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Carlyle Group

Government



U.S. Embassies in Guinea, Rwanda, Mauritania and North Macedonia

FY20 FINANCIALS

AUDIT IN PROGRESS

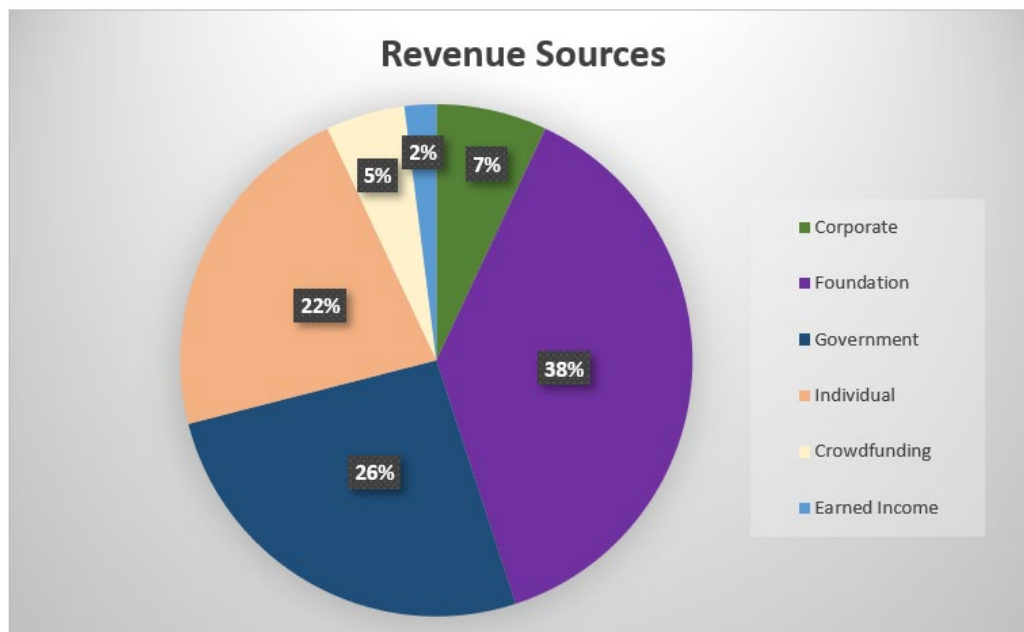
MindLeaps
Statement of Activity
September 2019 - August 2020

	Total
<i>Revenue</i>	
Unrestricted Donations	\$299,593
Restricted Donations	\$453,694
Earned Income	\$14,529
Non-Contribution Revenue	\$197
In kind donations	\$13,142
Total Revenue	\$781,155
<i>Expenditures</i>	
Rwanda	\$179,722
Guinea	\$105,554
Uganda	\$80,460
North Macedonia	\$60,525
Mauritania	\$34,473
Kenya	\$2,544
Foreign Teacher Training	\$22,676
Research and Tracker	\$2,770
Fundraising	\$40,651
G&A	
Salaries	\$49,444
Taxes & Govt registration	\$8,409
Rent (New York Office)	\$12,044
Equipment, fees, and other G&A	\$22,957
Total Expenditures*	\$622,230

MindLeaps
Statement of Financial Position
As of August 31, 2020

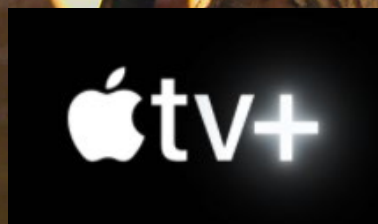
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$122,712
Prepaid Expenses	\$538
In-kind donations	\$31,316
Current Assets	\$154,565
Fixed and Other Assets	\$10,126
TOTAL ASSETS	\$164,692
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses	\$4,351
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	\$32,257
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$0
Net Revenue	\$128,084
Total Equity	\$160,341
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$164,692

*MindLeaps entered into three no-cost extensions for adjusted programs during COVID-19. Cash is being held until activities are able to resume post-shutdown.



Dear...
Season 1, Episode 10

Misty Copeland



June 5, 2020

MindLeaps is featured in the episode about Misty Copeland on Apple TV

June 8, 2020

US Embassy in Rwanda showcases American companies supporting Rwanda during COVID-19

June 13 & 16, 2020

Rebecca Davis, Shpetim Latifi, and Bashir Karenzi appear on North Macedonia National Television stations TV21 and Alsat-M to discuss the project "Peaceful Rhythms"



#TogetherWeRemember

AN ALL-DAY, GLOBAL EVENT
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH



@tghrweremember

24-HOUR VIRTUAL VIGIL

STREAMING LIVE: facebook.com/TogetherWeRemember

April 30, 2020
Together We Remember
Live Virtual Vigil

July 17, 2020
Ubumuntu Arts Festival
Panel Discussion: Arts & Resiliency



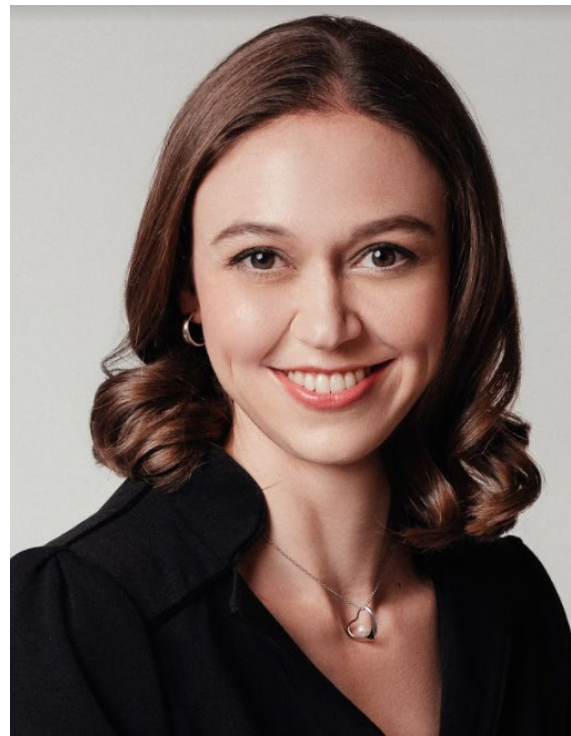
August 11, 2020
5.6.7.EIGHT Podcast
Episode 69:
Giving Hope, Around the World

August 25, 2020
Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)
Arts in education during COVID-19: Illustrating the value of creativity and adaptability



LEADERSHIP AND BOARD

In founding and serving as the Executive Director of MindLeaps, Rebecca is responsible for the strategic direction, fundraising and management of an organization currently operational in six countries and with headquarters in New York City. Prior to MindLeaps, Rebecca worked for The Carter Center, Stage Holding Russia, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. For five years, she ran a professional dance company and a pre-professional training program in Philadelphia known as RDDC: Rebecca Davis Dance Company. Rebecca graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor's in Business Administration in Entrepreneurship from Temple University, and she holds a Master's in International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping from American Military University. She received a post-graduate certificate in Ballet and Choreography Studies during her Fulbright year in Russia. A sought-after speaker whose accomplishments are frequently noted in various news media, Rebecca has most recently spoken at The World Bank's Human Development Week (2019) and Segal Family Foundation's Annual General Meeting (2019), and chaired the Arts & Resiliency Panel for Ubumuntu Arts Festival with panelists Reggie Van Lee, LaMar Baylor and Royce Zackery.



Rebecca Davis
Founder & Executive Director

MindLeaps' Board of Trustees & Advisors provides essential guidance, strategic planning, and oversight. Among the Board's activities are fundraising, financial management, legal counsel, strategic planning, and monitoring & evaluation.

Board of Directors

Ramie Arian - Ramie Arian Consulting
Dr. Kathleen Bakarich - Hofstra University
LaMar Baylor - Broadway's The Lion King
Rebecca Davis - MindLeaps *ex-officio
Kathy G. Gallo - Goodstone Group
David Hartman - Attorney
Julia Henkels - Keystone
Michael Maguire (Board Chair) -
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Richard Abeeku Mills-Robertson -
Greenberg Traurig LLP

Thea Parent - Cozen O'Connor
Richard Paulson - Bank of America
Catherine Smith - Dance Facilitator

Board of Advisors

Misty Copeland - American Ballet Theatre
Neil Kleinman - University of The Arts
Joel E. Soffin - Jewish Helping Hands

MindLeaps' volunteers provide considerable and vital support to its operations in the U.S. and internationally. The many roles they undertake include graphic design, translation, research and analysis, video editing, and much more. The Board is grateful to the following for their commitment and wonderful contribution:

Giselle E. Connell, Adriana Curto, Angela Gervasi, Arnold Glick, Sean William Kirby, Nick Lallo, Lily Reardon Lovinger, Anne-Sophie Matichard, Najmul Miah, Suzanne Miller-McFeeley, Susan Pasley, Jean de Dieu Rurangira, Christelle Smith, Hana Smith, and Marie Windal.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY



The present international orientation of MindLeaps is the company's second growth phase. The company was founded in 2005 as "Rebecca Davis Dance Company" with a focus on developing original, full-length contemporary ballets based on famous literary works, significant historical events, and modern social issues. In 2010, it underwent a mission change to reflect today's international work serving children.

The stimulus for the mission change began in 2008 when Rebecca Davis choreographed a full-length ballet about the genocide in Darfur. The creative process of transforming Brian Steidle's book "The Devil Came on Horseback" into an aesthetic presentation was an all-consuming experience and left Rebecca wondering what happens in post-genocide countries. She traveled to Rwanda to answer her lingering questions about genocide and reconciliation. Instead of finding answers, she found hundreds of kids living on the streets who loved the same thing she had built her entire company around – dance. Since that trip, Rebecca has committed her life to getting kids off the street and educated in order to break the cycle of poverty. By 2010, she had piloted projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea and Rwanda.

From 2011 to 2013, Rebecca traveled in Africa and the Balkans working with educators, dancers, and psychologists to build the current dance curriculum and methodology that is used by MindLeaps. This curriculum targets learning skills that are essential for success in a formal educational environment. In 2014, the company changed its name to MindLeaps to better reflect the mission of the organization and the collective effort put forth every day to help advance children in need. In 2015, in collaboration with staff from Carnegie Mellon University and Drexel University, MindLeaps concentrated on developing a rigorous Monitoring & Evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of its program. As of 2020, the company serves over 2,000 children annually.



Photos by:
Miki Powell
&
Stacy Acker

MindLeaps

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