

MINDLEAPS GUINEA

Contact: Ansoumane Conde
Title: MindLeaps Guinea Country Director
Phone: (+224) 664 276 601 / (+224) 620 143 759
E-mail: conde@mindleaps.org

MINDLEAPS USA

Contact: Rebecca Davis
Title: Founder & Executive Director
Phone: (+1) 215 840 3890 / (+1) 646 902 1295
E-mail: davis@mindleaps.org

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2021

Orange Foundation and MindLeaps make Women's Digital Education Possible in Guinea

MindLeaps Guinea is taking action with the Orange Foundation to address three fundamental challenges facing women in Guinea-Conakry: low literacy rates, lack of secure employment, and inadequate access to digital tools.

According to the most recent statistics from UNESCO, only 27.7% of women in Guinea over the age of 15 know how to read and write, compared to 54.4% of men. According to the International Labor Organization, 97.5% of women are either unemployed or have insecure/vulnerable employment. Providing access to digital literacy tools and training can motivate women with the skills needed to activate literacy and increase employment opportunities.

Through a project called *Women's Digital Dreams* supported by the Orange Foundation's "*Maisons Digitales*" initiative, MindLeaps Guinea will provide literacy opportunities to 75 unemployed young women between the ages of 16 - 35 years in Conakry, Guinea. The "*Maisons Digitales*" program aims to empower women and promote their digital inclusion through the provision of digital equipment and training.

This week, Orange Foundation will deliver the digital learning lab materials to the MindLeaps Center in Guinea, including 20 new tablets, 10 computers, 2 WIFI antennas, a projector, printer, and more. MindLeaps will then train the 75 women in digital literacy courses.

On Saturday October 23, 2021, the Women's Digital Dreams Center will be launched at the MindLeaps Center with an unveiling ceremony attended by *Fondation Orange Guinee* and members of the community.

The general public can follow the launch of the Center on social media, under the hashtags: #MaisonDigitale, #DigitalCenter and #FOG on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The *Women's Digital Dreams* learning lab and project builds upon MindLeaps Guinea's unique program offerings for both children and the community, especially young women:

- A registered international NGO, MindLeaps Guinea has been active since 2011, with a MindLeaps Center in Conakry operating since 2017. The main mission of the organization is to use dance to improve the cognitive and social-emotional learning skills of vulnerable youth better preparing them to succeed in school and life. Currently, MindLeaps Guinea sponsors 203 children in formal education who have completed the MindLeaps dance program, and MindLeaps serves between 100 – 125 children weekly at the MindLeaps Center in Conakry.
- Additionally, MindLeaps serves the wider community's needs through the holistic support of the family unit. In addition to dance classes, MindLeaps Guinea offers a range of holistic support services including sanitation and hygiene programs, academic support and sponsorship (including English classes for students and unemployed women in the community), and sexual and reproductive health training and supplies. MindLeaps Guinea has a 14-member local Guinean team that works in coordination with MindLeaps USA's international team. MindLeaps Guinea receives support from a range of donors including Ruben's Shoes, the U.S. Embassy, and Orange Foundation.

More About MindLeaps USA

MindLeaps USA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in the USA. Since 2014, MindLeaps has changed the lives of 10,000+ at-risk youth in Rwanda, Guinea, Uganda, Mauritania, Kenya, and the Balkans (North Macedonia). The program equips youth to take their places in society, helping them to build seven specific key life-skills: language, memorization, teamwork, grit, creativity, self-esteem and discipline ("respect and tolerance"). Carnegie Mellon University Africa's study showed that these skills increase on average by 35% after 7 to 10 weeks in the dance program (www.mindleaps.org/research). Overall, 66% of MindLeaps' youth perform in the top 20% of their academic classes once enrolled in school. Approximately 75% of youth affected by homelessness who attend the MindLeaps program permanently reintegrate into homes and communities.

<https://mindleaps.org>

Videos from MindLeaps Guinea:

<https://youtu.be/pJ-VGzUGOc8>

<https://youtu.be/Nps8UMKmgeY>