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Senegal Sponsorship Program COVID-19 Update, November 23, 2020

In the early days of the pandemic, schools in Senegal closed on March 16. They did not reopen fully until just this month. Over the summer, school resumed for students in grades 6, 10, and 12 in preparation for their national advancement exams. The exams took place in August and September, with enough students passing that the government felt confident to move forward rather than having students repeat last school year. We were thrilled to hear that the students in exam years at all of our partner schools did very well!

On November 12, the new school year started in Senegal and all of our partner schools were able to reopen and welcome students back. At the beginning of every school year, including this one, students trickle back to school over a few weeks and schools are not full until about a month into the new year. This is due to many factors – travel distance, family circumstance, the agricultural schedule of villages – and is simply a cultural difference from the US. With the classes now settling in for a new school year, GO anticipates a big update from our partners on student retention rates and students in need of sponsorship. We believe more students than ever will need sponsors.

Over the summer, through the generosity of donors to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, GO was able to send funds to all of our partner schools! These funds provided for food kits for families in need, teacher and staff salaries, and sanitation and medical supplies for the schools. Recently, through the generosity of sponsors, GO has been able to send funds for Christmas parties to all of our partner schools as well. This will bring much need celebration and joy for the children in December. The needs of families are still high and your support, both financial and in prayer, is still very much in need.

The GO COVID-19 Relief Fund is a great way to continue to support our partners globally. They have been incredibly grateful for your support and prayers. If you are interested in donating to the Relief Fund, please visit our website at goonthe mission.com/donate.

John Huffman School



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