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### Senegal Sponsorship Program COVID-19 Update, August 27, 2020

After months in quarantine, restrictions recently lightened significantly for a while in Senegal. The Muslim holiday Eid-al-Adha, known as Tabaski in West Africa, was celebrated on July 31, and is an important celebration in Senegal. Tabaski is the Festival of the Sacrifice, which remembers the story of Abraham and Isaac, in which the Lord provided a ram for the sacrifice. The curfew in Dakar was lifted and travel between regions in Senegal was opened so that people could travel to be with their families for the holiday. Just recently, further restrictions were put in place again in order to combat the spread of COVID-19. While the death rate in Senegal is fairly low, the country lacks the resources to help those infected recover from the virus. For this reason, the government has been quite strict with regulations.

With the closure of schools in March, the government had to make a decision about how to move forward with the finishing of the school year, and administering of the national exams for students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. After months of back and forth and lots of debate, students just in those grades returned to school on June 25<sup>th</sup>. They have been preparing for their national exams and will take this test in September. This will help the government make further decisions about the 2020-2021 school year. At this point, the new school year is set to open later than usual, in early November.

Through the generosity of donors to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, GO has been able to send funds to all of our partner schools! These funds have provided for food kits for families in need, teacher and staff salaries, and sanitation and medical supplies for the schools. When the exam students returned to our partner schools, they were provided with masks and hand washing stations, as well as hand sanitizer throughout the day, making their learning environment safer.

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 [goonthemission.com/donate](http://goonthemission.com/donate).

Preparing to distribute food kits at Le Bon Samaritain



A family receives a food kit at Georges Flattery

