

School canteens and contract farming



Eliminating hunger in school settings through local, short supply chains.

Project duration:	3 years
Project dates	July 2025 to June 2028 (canteens launched in 2024)
Funding amount	€431,559 (€125,000 secured to date)



CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES



In Guinea, an alarming proportion of children suffer from chronic and acute malnutrition, driven by persistent food insecurity, widespread poverty, and limited access to basic public services.

At the same time, local farmers struggle to sell their produce, due to a lack of organized market outlets and effective distribution channels.

To help address these two challenges, WAKILI* is setting up functional, locally-supplied school canteens. These canteens provide schoolchildren with access to a balanced diet, while creating sustainable economic opportunities for local producers, whom WAKILI has been supporting since 2022.

*Wakili is a social enterprise created and incubated by Entrepreneurs du Monde, active in Guinea since 2016.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

for the 2025–2026 school year

44,770 meals served

476 beneficiary pupils and 20 adults

7,045 GNF cost per meal, including WAKILI's supervision costs
(€0,70)

+72% increase in enrollment across the two schools between the 2023–2024 and 2025–2026 school years

20 to 30% of supplies in Koffion are sourced directly from local producers supported by WAKILI

+25% increase in the exam pass rate (from 66% to 82%)

+71% increase in Diaworiah in the girls' exam pass rate (from 55% to 94%)



ACHIEVEMENTS



Two school canteens have been operational since October 2024, in two primary schools in the sub-prefecture of Moussayah (Koffion and Diaworiah). These villages were selected based on the dynamism of WAKILI's micro-entrepreneur groups, the number of children enrolled in the schools, and the distance between children's homes and school.

In each village, a **management committee (COGES)** has been set up to oversee the canteen's day-to-day running. Six cooks per canteen, drawn from the local community, prepare meals every day; they are paid 25,000 GNF per cook per day, providing them with a regular income and enabling them to support their families.



Canteen supplies are sourced locally wherever possible. **Supply contracts have been signed with 8 producers**, and 24,219,000 GNF (€2,417) has been paid to them since the start of the 2025–2026 school year.

The project thus offers these producers secure market outlets and guarantees them a weekly income. Wherever possible, canteens are also supplied with rice from producers in the region. During harvest periods, local rice purchasing days are organized with the School Canteens Officer (RCS) and COGES members to promote this alternative to imported rice. **Each week, 250 kg of rice is needed to fill the 500 daily plates.**

For products that cannot be purchased locally, a supply contract has been signed with a trader in each village.

Lastly, **2 boreholes** have been built to provide children with quality drinking water at mealtimes and during recess.



OUTLOOK

Following the success of this first phase, the project's ambition is now to **introduce a parental contribution toward the cost of meals** (around 20%). This contribution is intended to strengthen the project's sustainability and demonstrate its ownership by beneficiaries.

Information sessions have been held at each school, bringing together around thirty parents each time and generating rich discussions. **A payment trial then began in late March 2026** and continued through the end of the school year, in June.

Finally, the objective is to **increase the share of food on schoolchildren's plates that comes directly from the farmers supported by WAKILI**. Outreach to new vegetable producers is ongoing, and information sessions will be held with WAKILI groups to identify interested market gardeners.

