

Jolly Phonics

ENGLISH IN GUINEAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS: JOLLY PHONICS ROLLOUT IN CONAKRY, BOKE, AND KINDIA REGIONS – CE1 TEACHER TRAINING REPORT BY: OLUFUNMI BANKOLE March 2023



REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE
Travail – Justice – Solidarité



MINISTRE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT PRE – UNIVERSITAIRE ET DE
L'ALPHABETISATION.

Project Aim, Objectives & Beneficiaries

Project Aim

The overall aim of this project is to ensure that CE1 (Cours Élémentaire 1- equivalent to primary 3) pupils in government primary schools in Guinea acquire essential foundational English literacy skills that will facilitate future academic achievement, amongst other benefits.

Project Objectives

- To provide CE1 (Cours Élémentaire 1- equivalent to primary 3) teachers in Conakry, Kindia and Boke regions with the knowledge and skills to effectively teach children to read and write in English using Jolly Phonics.
- To provide CE1 teachers with high quality Jolly Phonics teaching and learning materials.

Beneficiaries

This Jolly Phonics training and the donated materials should benefit the following schools, teachers and learners:



Introduction

The Jolly Phonics roll out training to CE1 (Cours Élémentaire 1- equivalent to primary 3) teachers in Guinea was declared open in Conakry on Tuesday, 8 November 2022, by the Minister of Elementary School and Alphabetization Mr. Guillaume Hawing, supported by the Secretary General (SG), Dr. Julien Bongonou, the National Director for Primary Education, M. Pierre Toure,

the Regional Inspector for Conakry region, Thiapato Barry and the 5 districts directors. The venue was Lycée Donka in Conakry.

The aim of the training was to equip CE1 teachers in Conakry, Boke, and Kindia regions with skills to deliver effective English language teaching to their pupils, using the Jolly Phonics method.

In his speech, the Minister highlighted the importance of English language in a fast-developing world. He mentioned that the Jolly Phonics training was approved as a phase in the English language extension plan in all primary schools of Guinea Republic because of the role of English in the world. According to him, this is a very important phase in the country's development process because 750 million globally use English as an official language while 2 billion of the world's population speak English. It is therefore urgent to secure a future for the Guinean children by giving priority to integrating English language in the academic program. He also acknowledged the Jolly Phonics trainers and expressed his thanks to Chris Jolly for his aid.

The Secretary General added to this, saying that Jolly Phonics aligns with the reforms and teacher development currently going on in the Ministry of Education.

THE TRAINING

International trainers from four countries were supported by translators who provided help with translation.

TRAINING ATTENDANCE SUMMARY:

- CONAKRY: 290
- BOKE: 250
- KINDIA: 456
- 50 Ministry Officials and English Inspectors were also trained.

In total, 1,050 teachers and officials attended the training. Although this was a good number, they represent only one third of the number of CE1 teachers in these regions.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

The Primary Education team requested for support initiating work to develop the English language curriculum for primary school. The Jolly Phonics team worked with INRAP in providing a start-up draft for CE1 within the period we were in Guinea.

TRAINEE FEEDBACK FROM THE TRAINING

The CE1 teachers said that at the outset they were unsure of attending a training in English, but their evaluation feedback shows that they found the training easy to understand and were confident to teach their pupils English. When trainers visited some classrooms before their departure from Guinea, they found many of the teachers delivering Jolly Phonics lessons confidently and the pupils were engaged in the fun multi-sensory approach. In 2023 the training

will continue to ensure that all school Head Teachers and Officials will be trained in Jolly Phonics. This will enable them to monitor and mentor the teachers implementing the programme to ensure sustainability.

FRENCH JOLLY PHONICS TEACHER BOOK

The translated portion of the teacher book was provided to the trainees, in addition to the English version. This contributed to the feeling of ease that the teachers expressed.

THE JOLLY PHONICS TEAM

Seven professional Jolly Phonics trainers, from four countries, delivered the training. A special thanks to Dr. Olubusola Eshiet, Olufunmi Bankole, Emile Akpa, Jeremie Ohanete, Kesiena Adeniyi, Emefa Gyamfi and Thelma Edet Ebah for this delivering these trainings.

MATERIALS

Extensive materials were donated by Jolly Learning Ltd to the government, to give to teachers and pupils, under the philanthropic Jolly Futures Programme. The table below sets out the materials that were donated for all CE1 teachers and pupils in Conakry, Kindia and Boke Regions and the value of these donations:

*the cost of teacher and officials training was donated in addition to the materials.

Material	Number Donated	Value Per Unit	Total Value of Donation
Jolly Phonics Pupil Book 1	120,000	\$3.50	\$420,000
Jolly Phonics Pupil Book 2	120,000	\$3.50	\$420,000
Jolly Phonics Teachers Book	5000	\$5	\$25,000
Jolly Phonics Letter Sounds Poster Set	3000	\$12	\$15,000
Jolly Phonics Tricky Words Poster Set	3000	\$12	\$15,000
Jolly Phonics Alternative Spelling and Alphabet Poster Set	3000	\$12	\$15,000
Jolly Phonics Big Books Set	3000	\$40	\$120,000
Totals:		---	\$1,045,000* (8978264845 Guinean Franc)

POST TRAINING DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTRY

TIMETABLE

The requirement for successful implementation is that it is taught to the pupils once a day, every school day. We advised the Ministry that timetable of CE1 should now include English daily, at an early hour, preferably the second period of the day. This should be the same time in all the three regions, and nationwide, when all the regions have received training.

MONITORING

- Monitoring and mentoring teachers' implementation of Jolly Phonics will contribute to success of the intervention. The Ministry were advised that monitoring should begin immediately.
- A sample of schools in Conakry have been monitored. The team currently consists of 6 monitors and should be expanded.
- It is recommended that monitoring should continue, not just in Conakry, but in Boke and Kindia to maximise the impact of the training and materials.

CE1 TRAINING in the remaining five regions.

- 2023 – Dr Chris Jolly, through the Jolly Futures Offer, will continue to provide training and free resources to the rest of the five regions.

RESOURCES FOR CONTINUITY IN CE1 IN CONAKRY, BOKE, AND KINDIA REGIONS FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

- Jolly Futures provides the resources to the regions only once. After this, the license to reprint the black and white materials is given to the government to print for subsequent years.
- ONLY for the government schools and the number needed per year.
 - This permission is in perpetuity.
 - The advice to the ministry was to begin the process of getting the permission immediately, so that the ministry gives itself sufficient time to apply for the permission and to print the workbooks for the next CE1 in good time for the start of the next academic session.

CONTINUITY IN CE2

The CE1 pupils who are receiving English training in the three regions will move through the grades, and CE1 pupils in those 3 regions next academic session.

- There will be the need for training for CE2 Teachers who will receive the CE1 pupils and for teacher books and workbooks for CE2 pupils. Trainer expenses, pupil and teacher resources will have to be provided by the government. As mentioned earlier, the Jolly Futures offer is only for the first level; in the case of Guinea, CE1. Dr Chris Jolly is keen

that the English project continues through all the other grades and becomes a permanent part of the Guinean education system. This is why he insists on a condition of continuity. The offer is extended to provide for the CE1 in the remaining five regions on the condition that the government is committed to sustaining the programme.

TRAINING FOR PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

While implementing this project from the pilot phase until now, we have received a request for training for pre-service teachers. This is an excellent idea and a way to ensure the sustainability of the English language project in Guinea primary schools.

POST TRAINING VISIT - FEBRUARY 2023

In February 2023, Chris Jolly suggested a follow-up visit to Guinea.

The Ministry agreed that two Regions, Nzerekore and Kankan will be the beneficiaries of the September 2023 rollout. During the follow up visit it was then possible to receive and verify the data for these two regions in good time for Guinea to be included in the Jolly Futures resources' order for 2023 rollouts.

From school visits in Kindia region, it was noticed that monitoring has been going on, as well as in Boke. The outcome in Kindia showed the support that the teachers had received. The pupils are excited to learn English and six of the seven teachers showed evidence of good teaching. The Regional Director would ensure that they follow up on the teacher who lagged behind, and any other. However, school visits in Conakry showed poorer outcomes and further enquiries revealed that little or no monitoring had been done in Conakry. After the Minister was made aware he has assured that monitoring will begin immediately to close this gap.

During the visit, the Minister gave instruction for Jolly Phonics to be included in the time table.

The Jolly Futures offer is a partnership between the Ministry and the Jolly Phonics Delivery Partner. Both parties have roles and responsibilities to ensure that the training and materials reach all intended and to a high standard. Due to financial constraints for the Ministry of Education the training in Conakry, Kindia and Boke regions for Head Teachers and Officials has yet to be conducted.

The Director of Primary Education and his assistant proposed that the training be given in September 2023 when the two new regions will receive training.

CONCLUSION

The Minister, SG, and the Directors have committed to the Jolly Phonics programme and pledged to ensure adequate monitoring as well as English periods for Jolly Phonics is now on

the school timetable daily. It is expected that the government's desire 'to secure a future for the Guinean children by giving priority to integrating English language in the academic program' will be a success due to these efforts and the support of the Jolly Futures offer.

GRATITUDE

We are grateful to Dr. Chris Jolly for his support, encouragement, and provision of this Jolly Futures project.

We thank Dr Olubusola Eshiet for the good foundation she laid for the work in Guinea. Many of her early contacts remain helpful and she has remained supportive.

We also thank the Jolly Futures Team for their valuable support and contribution towards this project.

Special thanks to the trainers who were flexible through periods of booking, cancellation, and rebooking. They delivered training with Jolly fervour. Some of them took up learning French and were able to delight the trainees with their newly gained French skills. It was a privilege to work with such a committed team.

Our gratitude to the Guinea Primary Education team, English Inspectors, INRAP team and all interpreters who contributed greatly to the success of the training.

Thanks to the SG and the Minister of Education for making provision for the training and releasing the teachers to attend.

The roll out will continue in September 2023 to Nzerekore and Kankan regions; and for Head Teachers and Officials in Conakry, Boke and Kindia regions.

PHOTOS



Minister encouraging participants to give in their best



Trainee making simple phrases on cardboard



Trainee blending sounds to read the word **pig**



Trainee creating flashcards



Trainees making simple phrase on cardboard



Participant blending sounds on flashcards **pant**



Participants discovering how to use Pupils' Book 1



Participants group work in preparation for teaching /s/



Trainees in group practicing /p/ with action



Participants in group preparing to present /d/



Participant creating her flashcards



Trainees using bottle covers to blend sounds and read **nap**



Participants getting acquainted with the French Teacher's Guide



Participant asking trainees if they can identify /s/ in sun



The Minister of Elementary Education and Alphabetization during his speech



The Minister (at the center), Jolly Phonics Trainers and Minister Staff



Jolly Phonics Trainer with Director and Assistant Director: Primary Education and Head of English: INRAP



Minister addressing participants



Secretary General at the Ministry of Elementary Education and Alphabetization



Jolly Phonics Trainer from Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire



National Director's staff participating in the training



Participants in Kindia writing simple phrases using the 42 sounds and tricky words

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL VISITS





