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## Unlocking Education | UNICEF

Highway Child, YouTube chanel

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### **Sidi, 19 years old**

French is a foreign language  
but it's really very important to learn French in  
Mauritania.

But some kids have this false impression that French is  
difficult to learn.

But actually, it's very easy.

You just have to try hard and be curious to learn.

### case study Mauritania

### **Adama, teaching assistant**

Here is Mauritania, French is an intermediary language.  
It's a working language.

People use French at the workplace.

### **Elisa Despreaux, UNICEF Mauritania**

We found that after a year of school,  
some children couldn't manage to describe things  
or to master things that you supposed to after one  
year.

Thanks to the Akelius project the children either learn  
French to get into school or try to improve their French  
in order to pursue their studies.

### **Ramla, 13 years old**

From last year, since September 2019,  
we've been coming here every morning.

**Hadou, 11 years old**

*I didn't even know alphabet.  
I couldn't even recite my ABCs.*

**Sidi, 19 years old**

The students are really determined because they've come from afar.  
And then you have older ones who are thinking of their futures.

**Elisa Despreaux, UNICEF Mauritania**

Introducing the Akelius platform into the classroom allows us to liven up the lesson, to introduce different media, to steer the class in a certain direction towards songs and games, and it makes learning more fun.

**Ramla, 13 years old**

It's good to listen to the words  
and when we go back home,  
we can recite them so that we don't forget them.

**Thomas Dreesen, UNICEF Innocenti**

Conducting research on digital technologies and their use in education is incredibly important because what has become clear in recent years – is that the mere introduction of a tablet or a piece of hardware doesn't have much of an impact on children's actual learning.

It's how you actually use that digital technology and integrate it within an education system for the use of teachers and learners.

**Adama, teaching assistant**

I don't think you can progress now without new technology because everybody works with it now. But it's also good that we can incorporate traditional methods.  
We still also use blackboards and we also organize children in groups and work with drawings, cutouts and posters.  
And children like those a lot as well because they're practicing and they're interested.

### **Thomas Dreesen, UNICEF Innocenti**

In Mauritania, we collect data from teachers and students giving feedback on how they're using the programme within their classrooms as well as different challenges that they face.

Using the data, we're able to inform ongoing decisions in the partnership itself and how the programme works and achieves outcomes.

### **Elisa Despreaux, UNICEF Mauritania**

Thanks to the Innocenti Centre's statistics we were able to see that the girls worked harder and got better marks than the boys.

Once we noticed that, we decided to work more with the boys and to get the boys more involved and also to encourage the girls because they can be proud of the fact that they have better marks and take their lessons more seriously than the boys.

### **Thomas Dreesen, UNICEF Innocenti**

Through ongoing research, we're able to make insights that can help improve the implementation of the programme as it scales to new contexts.

For instance, fairly early on in the programme it was easy to see that there was a great need to invest heavily in developing the programme to be offline. And this subsequently allowed for its use across a number of different settings where delivering the programme offline was a necessity.

### **Elisa Despreaux, UNICEF Mauritania**

The fact that the platform is available offline is not just a plus I would say it's essential.

This is a first in Mauritania: the introduction of a digital tool in the classroom.

It's a first for teachers and students alike.

The fact that the Akelius platform is developing in Mauritania is a huge advantage for the population, for Mauritaniens.

### **Sidi, 19 years old**

I want to be a cardiologist.

There aren't many in my country, maybe just three or four.

The poor, the deprived...  
It interests me because helping those people,  
it's about civilization and about humanity.

For every child,  
Answers  
UNICEF  
Office of Research-Innocenti