



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN MALI

*The Baobab Learning Center assists people in Mali
to prevent infection by the COVID-19 virus.*

The main actions families and communities can take to prevent getting sick are:

- Wear a cloth mask when away from the home. This protects you and all people you meet in case you might be already infected with no symptoms.
- Maintain distance of at least two meters from other people when out of the home. More distance if people are singing, shouting or exercising. The breath carries tiny droplets.
- Avoid crowded places and touching people outside the home (no handshakes or hugging).
- Wash hands regularly especially after touching people or surfaces in public. If no soap and water, disinfect hands by rubbing with ashes on papaya, melon, or locally available fruit or vegetable skins.
- Don't touch your face when out of the home.



A Baobab tailor makes fabric masks

Baobab Learning Center donates masks to children, staff and volunteers at our center and supplies the community at half the price of pharmacies to generate income for the Center's work.

How to make a mask without sewing (English): <https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4>

How to make a mask by sewing (French): <https://www.linternaute.com/actualite/guide-vie-quotidienne/2491977-fabriquer-un-masque-quel-mode-d-emploi-les-tutos-de-l-afnor-21-04-et-les-videos/>

Public talk on Covid-19 prevention

Teachers, medical professionals and government officials participated with Baobab Learning Center volunteers. The public has been responsive and the local and regional officials were pleased.





Demonstrating the Public Hand Washing Station in the Market

The washing station is easy to make. It has a stand, a refillable water container and a soap dispensing bottle. The community or support group must refill the water and soap daily.

National, regional and local governments are urged to:

- Hold public education events in health centers, schools and markets about Covid-19 and the need for distancing, hand washing and wearing a mask.
- Work to provide basic water and electricity services where there is infrastructure to do so.
- Install water taps around towns so people can wash their hands easily, with provisions to prevent disease transmission through the tap heads. In areas without water lines, install and maintain hand washing stations.
- Provide hygiene kits and cloth or paper masks to all who cannot afford them. This reduces the spread of infection.
- Provide daily public education via radio, posters and other media on why & how to protect against spread of the virus.

BLC Covid-19 Volunteers Engage with the Public on Market Day

In one day the BLC team at a market spoke with 318 people from 30 villages including some from neighboring Burkina Faso.





Baobab Learning Center has trained over 60 village women in shea butter production.

They now wear BLC made masks to protect each other and their families from the virus. They are forming cooperative teams and BLC provides the ovens and machines to produce the shea butter.

To emerge into more sustainable societies in a post Covid-19 world, national and regional governments are encouraged to promote and implement policies that:

- Emphasize education and literacy for children, men and women including those in rural areas.
- Build capacity for entrepreneurship and cooperation among men, women and youth to increase basic income.
- Encourage cultivation of local plants and trees to raise living standards while reducing ecological destruction.
- Address corruption and allocate budgets to meet the urgent and basic needs of citizens to alleviate suffering.
- Invest in and promote best nutrition and sanitation practices to reduce potential of future diseases.
- Prioritize and fund health measures for the general population, to prevent the spread of new diseases.
- Support transition from a carbon-based economy to reduce climate change, desertification and famine.

BLC staff, volunteers and students, participate in a workshop on the virus sponsored by BLC

The instructor is wearing a BLC made mask. Our experience has been that with education on the virus, people are willing to change behavior to reduce their risk and risk of their families contracting the Covid-19.





BLC Covid-19 Volunteers received certificates and stipends at a public awareness event

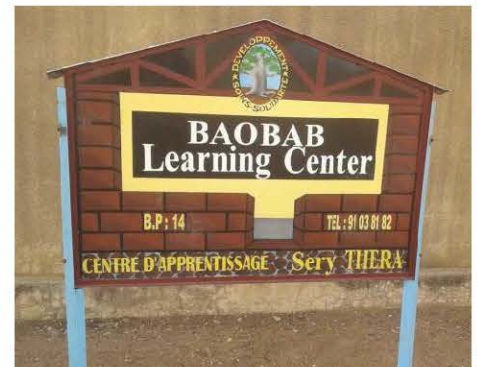
BLC supports capacity building of citizen leaders in a post Covid-19 world. We continue to train youth and adults in literacy and to provide vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities to women and youth.

About the Baobab Learning Center

The Baobab Learning Center, established in 2016, is dedicated to bringing positive change, care, and development to communities in rural Mali by providing rural children with improved primary and secondary education and their parents with literacy and skills training for employment.

Building a Brighter Future for Underprivileged Children

Children who live in rural areas in the poorest countries of the world often have little access to education. The children of Mali are no exception. Our goal is to create an environment that ensures the success of the children in school, empowers them and prepares them to be good people in their communities, good citizens of their country, and good stewards of the planet. Children (boys and girls) are the center of our program. We provide nutrition and tutoring so they do well in the superior city school. We also provide bicycles to youth so they can ride to town to continue their education beyond the primary schools in their villages.



Empowering Women

We have programs empowering women through income generation via entrepreneurship and shea butter processing, training in community organizing and business management.

Enabling Youth to Earn Income

BLC provides skills training and civic education to young adults.

