

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE REPORT

COMIC

«L'EXPÉRIENCE DES GRAND-MÈRES:
POURQUOI FAUT-IL DEMANDER CONSEIL
AUX GRAND-MÈRES ? »

"THE GRANDMOTHERS' EXPERIENCE: WHY
SHOULD WE SEEK ADVICE FROM
GRANDMOTHERS?"

By: Maude Jodoin Léveillé, Social Connectedness Fellow, 2021

THE PROJECT

The Grandmother Project was already working with educational booklets that are used by teachers in the commune of Vélingara, to educate children and adolescents about the role of grandmothers in Senegalese societies. This short comic book is intended to be a fun and educational tool that complements the booklets and can be used by teachers with whom GMP already works. Its main purpose is to illustrate that grandmothers have accumulated many life experiences and are therefore an important source of advice for young people.

Making young people aware of the importance of grandmothers and especially inviting youth to confide in them not only benefits the children, but also contributes to develop positive relationships with grandmothers, value them and ultimately increase their social connectedness with youth and the community at large. In rural communities with limited access to the internet, comic books are a way to reach more children and adolescent through the school system.

THE IMPACT

Nearly 10,000 public school children in the commune of Vélingara, with whom the Grandmother project is already working, will have access to a printed version of the comic book in their school.



SAMUEL CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
CONNECTEDNESS

GRANDMOTHER
PROJECT CHANGE THROUGH CULTURE

THE CREATION PROCESS

1

READING ABOUT THE WORK ALREADY DONE BY THE GRANDMOTHER PROJECT

As part of my fellowship, I first had to read several reports produced by or in collaboration with the Grandmother Project (GMP). This gave me a better understanding of GMP's activities, their impact on communities, and the issues of greatest concern to the organization. In particular, I read a booklet entitled "Le rôle des aînés dans les sociétés africaines" [The Role of Elders in African Societies], which is one of a series of five booklets developed by the GMP in collaboration with communities, teachers, and the Vélingara Education and Training Inspectorate (IEF).



From May to July

2

WRITING THE SCRIPT AND DIRECTIONS TO THE ILLUSTRATOR

After meeting with two members of GMP on skype, I wrote a story to demonstrate that 1) grandmothers have many experiences that enable them to better advise young people who are going through the same stages of life and 2) grandmothers have many roles in Senegalese society that need to be recognized by children and adolescents.



During the month of July



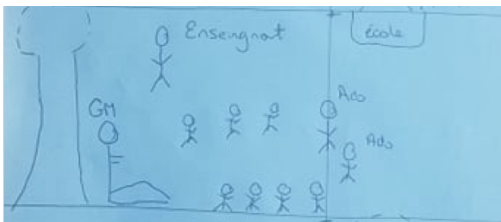
3

ILLUSTRATOR'S WORK

From the indications I gave him, Daona Deonta, a very talented Togolese illustrator with whom I worked several times during my stay in Togo, drew and finalized the comic.



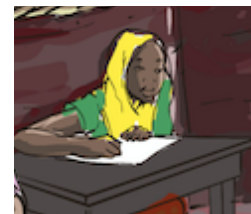
During the month of August



4

ADJUSTMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS OF THE COMIC

The first draft done by the illustrator was already excellent. However, I proposed to make changes to standardize the colors of the characters' clothes to facilitate the understanding of the story.



Mamadou Coulibaly, the program manager in Velingara, also proposed modifications to the script to better adapt it to the local Halpulaar culture.



In August



yassa poulet



maafe hako



5

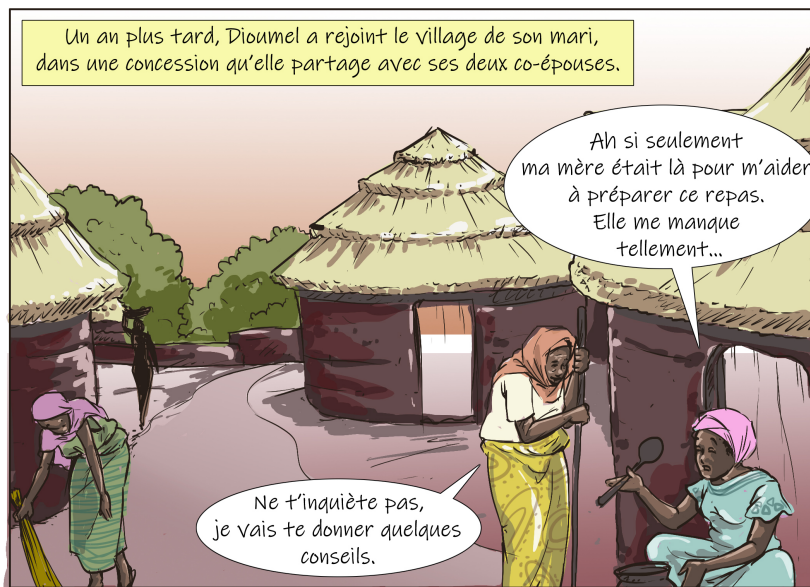
FINAL RESULT

Once the modifications are completed, the final version of the comic book will be printed in Dakar (Senegal's capital), laminated and distributed to teachers in the schools of Vélingara.



Expected date: At the end of September, after the Senegalese team returns from vacation.

L'EXPERIENCE DES GRAND-MERES : POURQUOI FAUT-IL DEMANDER CONSEIL AUX GRAND-MERES ?





Un an après le rétablissement d'Awa, la fille aînée de Dioumel vient la voir avec un nouveau problème.

Mais maman, il m'avait dit qu'on ne pouvait pas tomber enceinte la première fois...



Oh, il est arrivé la même chose à ma sœur, je devrais peut-être écouter l'histoire de la vieille femme.

Quelques mois plus tard, Fatimata a donné naissance à une petite fille.

Fatimata, ça fait quelques mois déjà que ton bébé ne boit que du lait, il faut maintenant que je t'apprenne quels aliments il doit manger pour devenir encore plus fort.



Aujourd'hui Dioumel a bien grandi. Je suis maintenant une grand-mère qui rassemble les enfants du village pour leur raconter des histoires et les aider à résoudre leurs problèmes

Oh, c'est elle Dioumel ! Elle a déjà été une adolescente comme moi !



Wow, elle a vécu tout cela ! C'est presque une super-héro.

Après la séance de conte à l'école, un enseignant s'approche de Dioumel et des enfants.

Bonjour les enfants, comment s'est passée la séance de conte d'aujourd'hui ? Avez-vous appris de nouvelles choses ?

Oui, les grand-mères sont comme des super-héros, elles peuvent résoudre plein de problèmes.

C'est vrai, les grand-mères ont vécu les mêmes problèmes que nous, elles peuvent maintenant nous conseiller lorsque la même chose nous arrive.

Je comprends mieux pourquoi il faut respecter les grand-mères. Ce sont des sources de connaissances importantes et une aide précieuse pour les jeunes.

J'ai beaucoup apprécié notre collaboration d'aujourd'hui, vous rendez mon travail plus facile !

FIN