



- <http://www.malirisingfdn.org>
- @malirisingfoundation (Instagram/Facebook)
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Since 2004, we have partnered with the people of Mali to provide access to a quality education for more than 13,000 children.



## Our Vision & Mission

Mali Rising Foundation envisions a quality middle school education within walking distance for every child in Mali's rural villages. We focus on middle school education as a key but weak link in the opportunities for Mali's children to build better, healthier lives and communities.

Our mission is to empower the children of Mali, West Africa by expanding and improving educational opportunities for them within their own villages. We see this education empowering children to go on to futures that improve their own lives, but also the fate of their villages and of Mali as a whole.

## Current Fundraising Initiatives

1. **Building our next school in the village of N'Goko** and every gift helps add a brick to the school
  - 1 brick = \$4, and every \$100 donation is entered to win naming rights!
2. **Book Fund** - We are always building up the stocks of textbooks in our schools (many schools have zero textbooks in Mali!) and each \$10 gift to the Book Fund allows us to provide a book that will last for years and help dozens of students.

**Education takes time to show its real return -- empowered individuals building a strong future for themselves and their country. But we are dedicated to monitoring and evaluation along the way to make sure our help is really helping.**

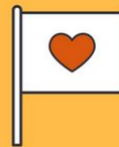
In the 17/18 school year, our schools educated nearly 3,500 children. Since our founding, more than 27,000 students have benefited from our donors' support.

During the last year we also opened one new school and established partnerships with two additional villages where we will build schools for the 18/19 school year.

To the right you'll find some basic stats about our work. To explore the programs and work behind these numbers, visit our [Educational Quality Program page](#).

Please also explore our [student spotlights](#) to understand the benefits of education for individual children. This is where the real results of our supporters' investments are demonstrated -- in the dreams our students can now pursue for themselves and their country.

## LOOKING BACK AT THE 17/18 SCHOOL YEAR



**3,495**

Children in school and learning.



**100%**

Of Girls Project participants stayed in school.



**39**

Teachers trained and supported.



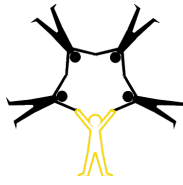
**59%**

National exam pass rate...9% better than last year!



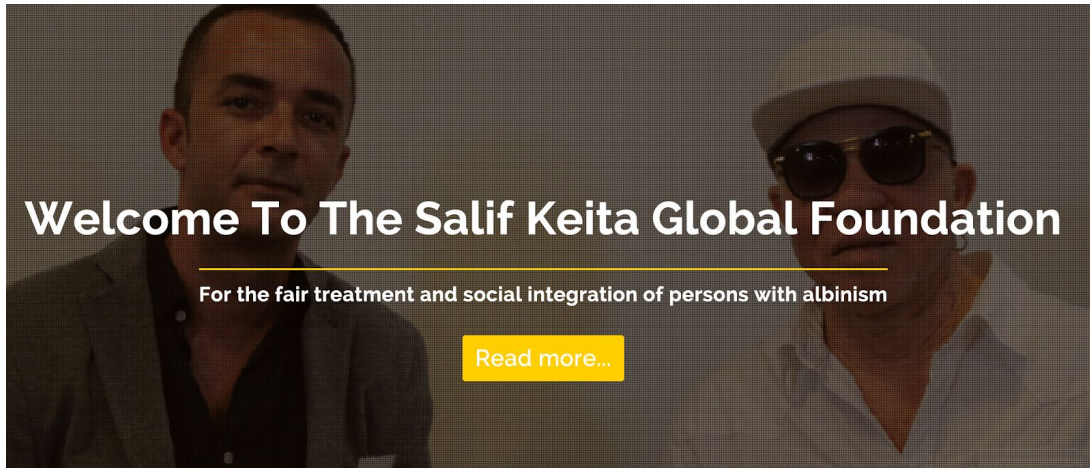
**2,293**

Textbooks distributed.



**SALIF KEITA**  
Global Foundation

- <http://www.salifkeita.us>
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## The Heart of the Issue

In the US, people with albinism are often teased for their appearance and have limited support groups and information about their condition. In many African nations, albino infanticide is a relatively common practice. Even those who escape death at birth are still vulnerable to discrimination and/or violent attacks. On the opposite spectrum in some countries, like [Panama \(Kuna people\)](#), albinism is considered to be the blessing which it truly is!

About one in 13,000 babies in the world are born albino. In Africa, the ratio can be as high as 1 in 1,000 babies in certain countries. Unfortunately, albinos in many African nations are simply [killed due to superstition and ignorance](#) about the skin condition that is caused by a partial or complete lack of pigmentation, or more simply said, they die *“because they are black people who have white skin”* said Mr. Keita, *“whether it’s due to discrimination or the hot sun, they are in perpetual danger. Creating thoughts of love towards those with the condition is the first priority and the strongest power in changing the lives of those with albinism. After that, every other positive change will have to follow automatically.”*

## Key Facts

Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that effects melanin production.



Most people with albinism have white or pale skin, redish to blond hair, low vision eye conditions, and are extremely sensitive to the sun.



People with albinism in Africa have a life expectancy of less than 30 years old due to high occurrence of skin cancer.



Up to 1 in 1000 people in Africa have a form of albinism.



Albinos are often killed, persecuted or isolated in Africa due to ignorance about the origin of their skin color.



Body parts of people with albinism are sold on black markets for up to \$75,000 for use in witchcraft potions.



More that 400 cases of albinos murders in over 26 countries in Africa have been reported.





## **Build Awareness**

Salif Keita is a world renowned musician from Mali. He is the first African to receive a Grammy nomination for his album “AMEN” and has been cited as “one of the greatest talents Africa has ever produced”. Through his fame as an international icon, Mr. Keita has raised awareness about the plight of albinos in Africa around the world to millions of people with the help of campaigns, albums, interviews, books, social media, and mainstream media. His foundation is the leading organization in raising global awareness for the cause of albinism in Africa.

## **Provide health care services**

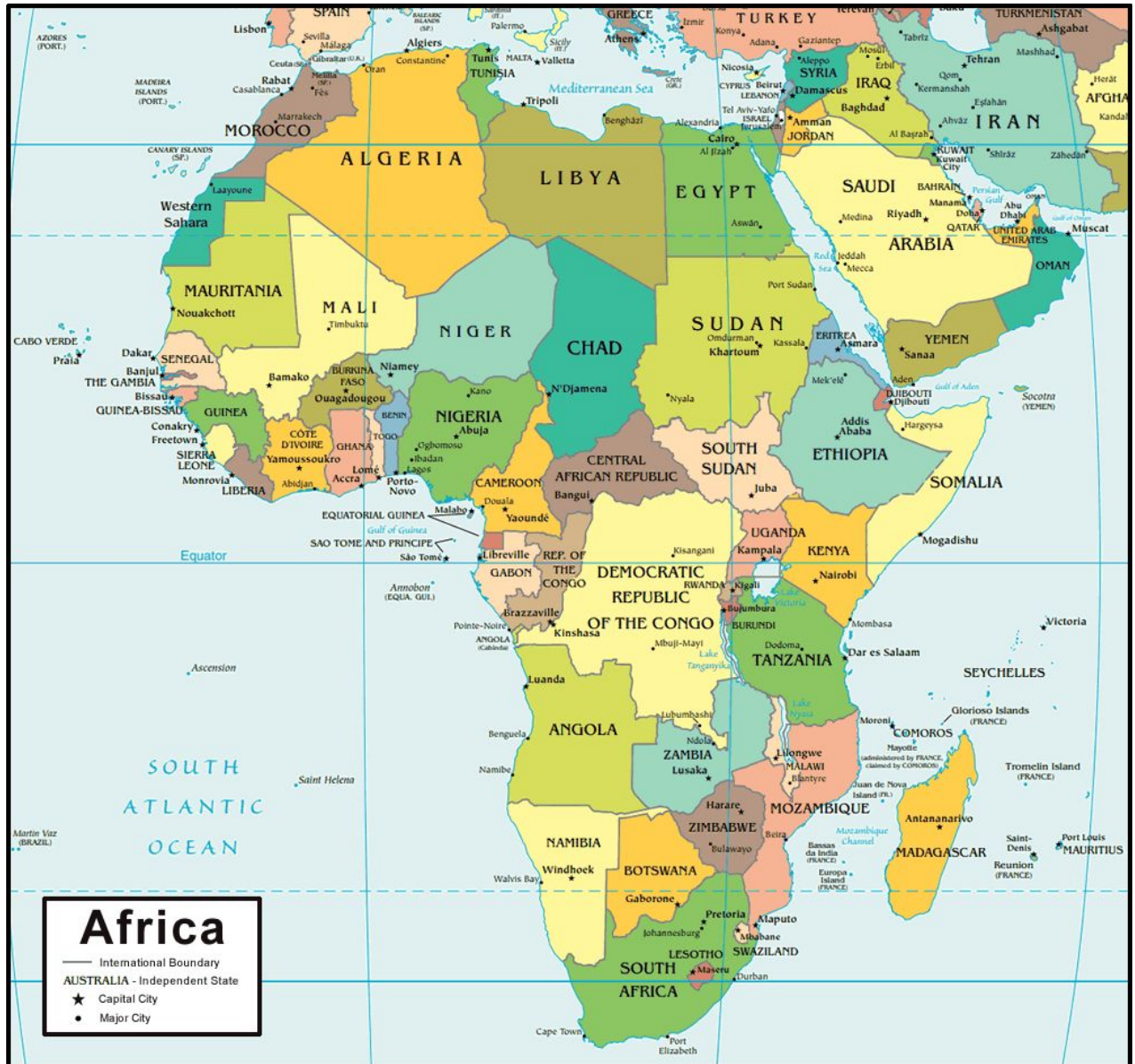
The Salif Keita Global Foundation Inc.(SKGF) provides free healthcare services to hundreds of people with albinism per year. The main health concern for albinos is skin cancer prevention. SKGF conducts skin cancer screenings, pays for prescriptions and doctors visits, along with surgeries and evacuations. Albinos have little or no melanin production, which leaves their skin vulnerable to contracting skin cancers at young ages and often leads to a reduced life expectancy of less than 30 years old.

## **Advocacy**

“Being born albino in Africa is a true tragedy,” says Salif Keita. Why? Because people with albinism are isolated, persecuted and sometimes murdered because of occult beliefs regarding the origin of their white skin color. Specifically, strong spiritual beliefs that albino body parts used in magic potions can lead to success and wealth have created a black market for albino body parts. In addition, the severe heat of the Sub-Sahara region makes it almost impossible for people with albinism to lead normal lives without assistance with alternative professions and protective sun gear. The foundation advocates for people with albinism to exercise their full human rights through the passing of protective laws for their general physical safety, professional insertion and medical treatment with international and government

## **Education**

Education is an important aspect in stopping the difficult existence of people with albinism in Africa. In countries like Mali, the rate of illiteracy is as high as 65%. Many people, including those with albinism and their families, rely on past traditions and beliefs about albinism in order to understand the reasons why black parents can give birth to a black child with white skin. Unfortunately, these archaic beliefs are not favorable to helping albinos because they relate to spiritual explanations rather than the reality and truth of science and genetics which explains that albinism is simply an inherited genetic disorder that occurs in all races. The foundation’s goal is to provide the proper information about the condition, its causes and how to properly care for people who are affected by it.



## Mali Facts (Thanks Wikipedia!)

- **Mali**, officially the **Republic of Mali** (French: *République du Mali*), is a [landlocked country](#) in [West Africa](#).
- Mali is the **eighth-largest country in Africa**, with an area of just over 1,240,000 sq Ks (480,000 sq mi).
- The **population of Mali is 18 million**.<sup>[8]</sup> 67% of its population was estimated to be under the age of 25 in 2017.<sup>[9]</sup> Its capital is [Bamako](#).
- Mali has **12 national languages besides French** and [Bambara](#), namely [Bomu](#), [Tieyaxo Bozo](#), [Toro So Dogon](#), [Maasina Fulfulde](#), [Hassaniya Arabic](#), [Mamara Senoufo](#), [Kita Maninkakan](#), [Soninke](#), [Koyraboro Senni](#), [Syenara Senoufo](#), [Tamasheq](#) and [Xaasongaxango](#). Each is spoken as a first language primarily by the ethnic group with which it is associated.
- **The name Mali** is taken from the name of the [Mali Empire](#). It was originally derived from the [Mandinka](#) or [Bambara](#) word *mali*, meaning "[hippopotamus](#)", but it eventually came to mean "*the place where the king lives*".<sup>[18]</sup> The word carries the connotation of strength.<sup>[19]</sup>
- The country's economy centers on agriculture and mining. Some of Mali's prominent natural resources include gold, being the third largest producer of gold in the African continent,<sup>[10]</sup> and salt.<sup>[11]</sup>
- **Malian musical traditions** are derived from the [griots](#), who are known as "Keepers of Memories".<sup>[123]</sup> Malian music is diverse and has several different genres. Some famous Malian influences in music are [kora](#) virtuoso musician [Toumani Diabaté](#), the [ngoni](#) with [Bassekou Kouyate](#) the virtuoso of the electric [jeli ngoni](#), the late roots and blues guitarist [Ali Farka Touré](#), the [Tuareg](#) band [Tinariwen](#), and several [Afro-pop](#) artists such as [Salif Keita](#), the duo [Amadou et Mariam](#), [Oumou Sangare](#), [Rokia Traore](#), and [Habib Koité](#).
- **Food**: Rice and [millet](#) are the staples of [Malian cuisine](#), which is heavily based on cereal grains.<sup>[133][134]</sup> Grains are generally prepared with sauces made from edible leaves, such as [spinach](#) or [baobab](#), with tomato peanut sauce, and may be accompanied by pieces of grilled meat (typically chicken, [mutton](#), beef, or goat).<sup>[133][134]</sup> Malian cuisine varies regionally.<sup>[133][134]</sup> Other popular dishes include [fufu](#), [jollof rice](#), and [maafe](#).
- **Sports**: The **most popular sport in Mali is Association Football (Soccer)**,<sup>[128][129]</sup> which became more prominent after Mali hosted the [2002 African Cup of Nations](#).<sup>[128][130]</sup> Informal games are often played by youths using a bundle of rags as a ball.<sup>[129]</sup>
- **Basketball is another major sport**;<sup>[129][131]</sup> the [Mali women's national basketball team](#), led by [Hamchetou Maiga](#), competed at the 2008 [Beijing Olympics](#).<sup>[132]</sup>



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