MindLeaps is an NGO working in East and West Africa to empower vulnerable youth through a dance-based program. The program develops cognitive skills and improves social-emotional learning to help youth perform better in school and make positive life decisions. The organization tracks changes in learning progress through a software application to demonstrate tangible results.

MindLeaps opened its first permanent center in Kigali, Rwanda in 2014.

Since its launch, MindLeaps has served:







3,500 YOUTH SIX COUNTRIES

TWO PERMANENT CENTERS



MindLeaps operates permanent centers that serve local at-risk youth year round. The MindLeaps centers, staffed by local teachers, are safe and welcoming spaces for students. Here, academic preparation becomes the path to breaking the poverty cycle as these young people acquire the knowledge and skills to become self-sufficient.

www.mindleaps.org

"Oftentimes, girls around the world don't have the opportunity to have their voices heard or to have their life goals be the center of their own lives. Through MindLeaps, they are getting valuable tools on how to work as a team and help each other, how to be disciplined, and how to pursue their goals."

- US Ambassador Erica Barks-Ruggles



THE THREE-PHASE APPROACH

To prepare vulnerable youth to reintegrate into society and succeed in a formal education setting.

PHASE



ONF

Children are attracted to MindLeaps' safe spaces through free, positive, high-energy dance classes. The carefully crafted dance curriculum focuses on cognitive and socialemotional skills development.

PHASE



rwn

As kids catch up in their learning development and start to gain command over their emotions, they begin more formal academic classes in addition to their dance classes at MindLeaps' centers. These include academic acceleration courses in:

- Humanities and sciences
- IT training
- English language classes

PHASE



THREE

Those children who have adapted to this more structured framework, and have grown and developed across key cognitive skills areas, are sponsored to attend school or vocational training programs in their own country.

EVALUATING OUTCOMES:

7 CRITICAL LEARNING SKILLS

GRIT LANGUAGE DISCIPLINE **SELF-ESTEEM CREATIVITY MEMORIZATION TEAMWORK**



MindLeaps' standardized dance curriculum targets and measures these skills, Changes in these skills are demonstrated through TRACKER, a data application built by Carnegie Mellon University and software engineers for MindLeaps.

http://bit.ly/mindleapstracker

Youth improve their cognitive & noncognitive skills by an average of 35% over 7-10 weeks. MindLeaps students show reduced levels of teen pregnancy, drug use and petty crime. After completion of the program, 70% of MindLeaps students perform in the top 20% of their school classes.

PARTNERSHIPS



MindLeaps' partnership model offers organizations the opportunity to adopt the fundamental components of the MindLeaps program for their internal operations. The program can be implemented in any country or community where dance is a part of the culture and youth suffer from a lack of hope, motivation and confidence.

The program is delivered through the MindLeaps Toolkit Suite, which equips partnering organizations to continue the program with their own locally-trained teachers after an initial three-month period of collaboration with MindLeaps staff in the field

SINCE 2017, MindLeaps has operated its partnership programs in Kenya, Uganda, and Mauritania.

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