



*Mrs Fatoumata Bintou Barry Diallo, entrepreneur in Sangarédi, Prefecture of Boké, Republic of Guinea.*

## **A young businesswoman from Sangarédi becomes more professional thanks to the WAGES project**

***Case study of Fatoumata Bintou Barry Diallo  
By Jean-Marc Cormier, February 2019***

*A young businesswoman from Sangarédi, Prefecture of Boké, Republic of Guinea, formalizes her business and dares to innovate after having benefited from training offered by the WAGES project.*

### **Context**

The WAGES project is being implemented in the Boké prefecture in the north-west of the country. It is one of the five prefectures in the administrative region of Boké. It has one urban commune and nine rural communes. This area is experiencing significant economic turmoil, with major investment plans such as the expansion project of the Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée (CBG) and several other mining and refinery projects. Nevertheless, local people still benefit very little from these investments.

Ms. Fatoumata Bintou Barry Diallo, a young woman in her early thirties, married and mother of two young children, formalized her company and developed her professional skills, following a training course supported by the West Africa Governance & Economic Sustainability in Extractive Areas (WAGES) project, which supports the populations in the prefecture of Boké.

Having a degree in mechanics from the Massou Vocational Training Center in Middle Guinea, Ms. Diallo started informally her business after losing her job. "I could not sit like that, doing nothing," she told us.

After the training in entrepreneurship "Dare to innovate" financed by the WAGES project, she proceeded, in February 2018, with the formalization of her company of construction, cleaning and guarding.

### Impacts of training

This training has influenced Ms. Diallo in many ways. First, she quickly realized that her business was dependent on contracts and that they did not arrive at a sufficient rate to ensure regular income. Since she had to maintain an office and pay for it anyway, she thought about it and came to the conclusion that she needed to innovate.



"Since I had a space that was well suited for this, I found necessary to set up the supply of stationery and to offer computer training services, which quickly allowed me to pay for the rent and my other bills and also to support my own needs."

On the other hand, before this training, Mrs. Diallo admits that she did not have an accounting discipline and did not do a fair share of her income.

She did not really calculate and could not keep some of her earnings for the progress of her business. The training made her understand the need to create a financial reserve for her company.

Finally, the great lesson she learned from this training, according to her, is "not to wait for external support", indeed, she must dare to undertake initiatives for herself. She adds, with a smile: "I can say that I started without money and that what I have here today, I earned it by myself."

Ms. Diallo now gives work to an employee who provides computer training and she also hires casual employees, who work on call and who are paid by the task, for external contracts in masonry, electricity, etc.,.

For this dynamic young woman, these achievements are a great pride and she affirms her gratitude to the WAGES project for this new impulse that gave her the training "Dare to innovate".

The WAGES project aims to break the vicious circle in which local communities, especially women and youth, are excluded from the benefits of mining investments. Through WAGES, **World University Service of Canada (WUSC)** and the **Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)**, work in three regions of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea impacted by extractive industries. The project works to empower local communities, and specifically integrate women and youth, to participate fully in local governance, economic opportunities and the sustainable development of these areas. The project collaborates with local and national governments, select mining companies, as well as small and medium-sized businesses and civil society organizations to attain those objectives. Global Affairs Canada funds the implementation of WAGES from 2016 until 2022. For more information on the project follow this link: <https://resources.wusc.ca/project/wages>

**WAGES**

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