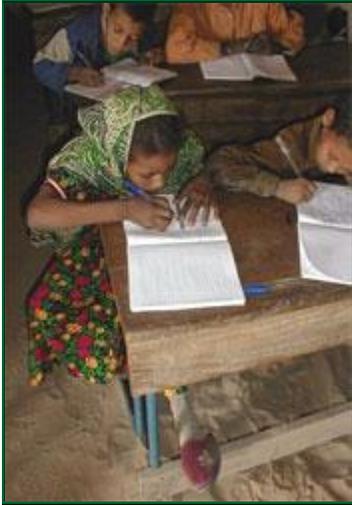


## AGSP helps girls make it successfully through the 6th grade!

10 August 2005, by Sue Upton & Sara Rasmussen-Tall - World Education & USAID



Primary school girl

This school year, and the first year of the USAID funded Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Programme (AGSP) in the three northernmost regions of Mali, has drawn to a close. 5,088 primary school girls in 101 schools received an AGSP scholarship through the President's African Education Initiative (AEI) with educational support from World Education and local NGOs that helped them significantly increase what they learned this year and improve their test results. In Kidal, 87% of sixth grade scholarship girls who took the exam obtained their Certificate of Primary Education, making them eligible to move on to secondary school, compared to a 58% pass rate last year. A 70% pass rate in Gao and a 73% pass rate in Tombouctou are big improvements from the 60% and 44% respective pass rates from the year before. For the region, over 750 girls across the North qualified to continue on to secondary education. This confirms that financial investment and concentrated efforts by both schools and communities can significantly affect girls' education and contribute to changing attitudes and behavior.

It is very good news that the AGSP program in Mali with USAID, the State Department, and Peace Corps, has been integrated into the AGSP regional programme and will continue for at least three more years enabling the cumulative impact of sustained support to work for a whole generation of primary school girls.