



FERRY BOAT FOR THE BIJAGOS

Project ID: S5400
Region: Guinea-Bissau
Total Need: \$823,529

Viewed from the heavens, Guinea-Bissau and its Bijago Archipelago resemble a breathtaking gem. Contrasting with the burnt-orange desert to the north, its savannah browns meld into tropical rain forests and then swampy, green coastal plains. About ten miles out lies the first of some fifteen large islands and many smaller ones.

"I say my goodbyes to my family each time I go out in the boat."

—Pastor Jorge, president of the regional church council

The realities of living on these islands, however, are breathtaking in other ways.

Here, no inter-island boat service exists, and from the capital, Bissau, commercial ferry service visits only Bubaque Island, forty miles out. Without transportation, the islanders are severed from the wider economy and Christian fellowship; bereft of medical aid, or sustenance when rice runs low; and subject to higher child mortality rates and agonizing isolation.

The Evangelical Church of Guinea-Bissau (IEGB) aims to reshape the Bijagos'

story—but without adequate transportation, ministry is next to impossible.

By partnering with JAARS, you can help provide a ferry boat for the archipelago, opening the door for spiritual, educational, and economic growth for roughly thirty thousand islanders. This project will also provide training and personnel during a start-up period, after which the boat will be owned and operated by IEGB.

For the first time, the islands will have reliable, economical transportation, allowing the church to support:

- Bible translation in up to six dialects
- evangelism and church planting
- access to Christian conferences for the islanders
- literacy classes
- medical outreach, such as a mobile eye clinic and HIV/AIDS education
- well-digging and grain storage on the islands

The vessel will also enable the Bijago people to visit extended family, attend school, and sell cashews, cattle, crafted grass mats, cane chairs, and other products on the mainland.

As a result, Bijago communities can finally experience their Father's provision—for daily needs, such as food and medicine, as well as the endless hope found in his Son.

WHY A FERRY?

A smaller boat could carry Bible translators, health workers, and church members, but would ignore the transportation needs of those who actually live on the Bijagos.

The ferry will hold sixty to eighty passengers or twenty tons of freight, providing reliable, economical service to all.

PARTNER

PRAY

- Ask God to guide the leaders and ministries of the Evangelical Church of Guinea-Bissau.
- Pray for the design and construction of this vessel.

GIVE

- Visit www.jaars.org/S5400
- Call 1-888-773-1178
- Mail a check to:

JAARS Inc.
 PO Box 248
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Please make your gift payable to "JAARS Inc." and write "S5400" in the subject line.

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