



# The Guijirabes Group

The Guijirabes Group is a group of friends who grew up together in the village of Mboumba and who share their lives jointly inside and outside of the village. Over 15 years ago, they had an organisation named Regroupement des Jeunes de Mboumba (RJM), also known as The Association of The Youth of Mboumba. R.J.M. was a sociocultural and scholastic association that facilitated by incorporating all villagers who originated from the village to return to Mboumba. After school closed, the returnees participated in community development, cultural events, soccer tournaments, and sociocultural activities as well as agricultural activities. R.J.M. partnered with a Belgium-based organisation named CONTACT J, which organised exchange students between the village of Mboumba and Belgium. The Mboumba exchange students volunteered for an entire summer to assist in farming-related activities such as seeding, harvesting, animal care, and other farm-related necessities. The Belgium students volunteered the entire summer in Mboumba by financing holistic projects such as warehouse construction for storing agricultural supplies, building bathrooms for the primary school, reconstructing walls for the primary school, and supplying much needed medical supplies and medications for the medical center. These activities took place when the participants were students in high school through college.

Now, the RJM youths are adults, college graduates, married fathers, and gainfully employed in the diaspora countries such as Congo, Senegal, France, Spain, Belgium, America, Canada, and Mauritania just to name a few. The most ideal format to maximise our efforts was to create Guijirabes. We connect through social media on WHATSAPP on all ideas, no matter how small or large, which pertains to the development of Mboumba. Guijirabes envisions holistically developing Mboumba, and we are therefore pursuing strategies, input, and funding towards this effort. Included in our vision is to nurture, educate, and advance our youths out of an environment of poverty and into an environment of enrichment. This enriched environment incorporates social, economic, cultural, and political aspects of everyday living. We believe that the lives of our youths, through an enriched experience, will transform them, their families, and most importantly Mboumba.

The GTO has helped to renovate two classrooms at the Mboumba elementary school for immediate use by the preschool students, helping to ensure our vision.