

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

**GIRLS INSPIRED
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**



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ABOUT GIRLS INSPIRED AFRICA

Girls Inspired Development Network (GIDN) Africa operates on the belief that girls and young women in Africa should not be limited in discovering and achieving their full potential. GIDN seeks to foster a world in which African girls and women can break glass ceilings by aspiring to be whatever they purpose to be. In 2017, Girls Inspired directly reached over 1,000 adolescent girls through its mentorship program for girls.

GIDN is a legally registered non-governmental and non-profit organization, with a vision to inspire and equip young girls and women across Africa with the right tools and resources to succeed. We are passionate about changing the world for African girls. Our commitment to delivering high-impact programs for girls/women across Africa ensures that we have measurable programs with high rewards for girls and women. Though founded in 2012, Girls Inspired was legally registered in 2016 with the Corporate Affairs Commission with registration details: CAC/IT/NO 93565



OUR VISION AND MISSION

MISSION

To inspire and equip young African girls and women to succeed

VISION

To equip and empower young African girls and women by investing in their development, using education, innovation, technology and advocacy to improve their economic outcome

OUR VALUES

Growth

We continue to develop creative programs and projects that have the potential to change the African continent

Integrity

We will act with transparency, honesty and integrity without compromising the truth in all our work.

Accountability

We are responsible for the actions that influence the lives of the girls and women we impact.

Nurturing

We nurture and encourage young girls and women by giving them the support and the push they need to succeed.

Cultural Diversity

We believe that valuing diversity and inclusion enhances our ability to work with the diverse cultures in Africa.



WHAT WE DO

OUR PROGRAMS

At Girls Inspired we believe that we can make great progress on girls' education by supporting and providing many interventions that have been proven to keep girls safe, in school and learning. If almost half of the world's populations are women and girls (worldbankgroup.org, 2016), this implies that educating girls is critical in making the progress we seek for a much fairer, productive and more sustainable world. One of the most important things we can do to create a more equitable future is to equip the woman of tomorrow. At GIDN, we

believe we can harness the power of modern technologies to overcome some of the obstacles that prevent girls to thrive and by so doing, transform the lives of those we impact. Our model is to project African girls from a vantage place of strength, and not weakness.

Educational Programs:

She Codes: Today, though more girls and women are using technology than ever before, only a few are playing a defining role in creating this technology viz pursuing studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Our coding

program ensures that we take coding and STEM programs to young girls in their respective communities or close to home or school. Our approach is to ensure we tackle the setbacks (restricted movement, transportation difficulties, fear of leaving home or school) that may stop a girl from attending STEM programs in distant locations. Unlike boys, African girls are often constrained and restricted from exploring their environment. GIDN operates a mobile lab to allow for a decentralized access to knowledge.

Wired For Impact: GIDN offers support to vulnerable and intelligent young women in local higher institutions studying courses in STEM fields by offering scholarship grants or procuring JAMB/UTME forms for under privileged and intelligent young girls interested in taking up courses in STEM fields. Also, we routinely provide our beneficiaries with valuable resources and opportunities.

Girls Will Rise Mentorship Hub (M-Hub): is dedicated to strengthening the lives of young adolescent girls in and out of school. The program empowers girls by building their self-confidence and challenging them to discover and fulfill their potentials in life. The

program targets girls aged 9 to 16 in secondary schools. Every young girl needs to know that she can be safe, and she can be heard in a zero-judgment zone. We take her best ideas and turn them to opportunities. We help her embrace her weakness by turning them to strength, The M-Hub platform provides and equips girls with leadership skills, computing competence, useful career and soft skills, self-confidence development, healthcare and

proper hygiene awareness, and on-going mentorship until they graduate from high school.

The innovation of the **M-Hub** program is that it is uniquely positioned to address prevalent crisis facing adolescent girls living in economically disadvantaged communities and homes, by providing a strong and positive sense of self-worth, awareness and access to resources. M-hub sessions are designed to be creative and enriching.

Empowerment Programs:

She Thrives: When an African woman is trained and provided with the right tools, she can become an economic powerhouse. She Thrives is our skill and development acquisition enterprise which provides women with the opportunity to be experts in a skill or combination of skills. We achieve this by dutifully training or re-training her to start or grow her own business using technological innovation to advance her trade or craft. Regrettably, technology has been an under-used tool in unlocking the economic opportunities of low-income-earning women.

Tech-Her-Craft:

With this platform, young women that have passed through the skill development program, aged between 18 to 40 years, and have met other defined criteria are empowered with the opportunity to put their craft and ideas to work. GIDN offers expertise in improving access to technology by providing digital and web-based support to help them grow their small-scale business.

Leading Woman: at GIDN, we understand that not every woman will fit into the societal boxes and standards, so we put the extra in the

ordinary for women who go the extra mile to be super-Sheros for their families despite her circumstances.

A Leading woman at GIDN is one, who, despite all odds, has shown resilience, dedication and perseverance in the struggle to continuously provide for her children/family. She puts herself last, forgetting to enjoy the small pleasures of life due to a prevalent level of poverty she has to daily overcome.

She works extra hard to cloth, feed and provide shelter for her children as well as keep them in school while trying to stay motivated. They are the unsung women, mothers, and widows that may never get the recognition they deserve, so we choose to celebrate them and appreciate their effort in making a difference in the society.

Advocacy in partnership with isafe.

i-Safe: Trafficking for exploitation is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world with women and girls making up 96% of its victims. Though international law and the laws of 158 countries criminalize sex trafficking, de-facto, it is still legally and socially acceptable to treat women and girls as merchandise. The safety and protection of girls and women is the core of what we do at Girls Inspired. Our commitment towards empowering

young girls with the necessary tools, information and skills to keep them safe from all forms of abuse and violence such as; sexual & domestic violence, human trafficking & exploitation, female genital mutilation and illegal organ harvesting birthed the i-Safe platform, It is an independent arm of GIDN's work which is compulsorily taught at all GIDN functions. I-Safe was initiated by Clare Henshaw, founder of Girls Inspired Africa. Her goal is to advocate and create awareness about the dangers faced especially by girls and women.

Inset: The final year senior secondary school students of Auntie Ayo Senior Secondary School during the Girls Will Rise Mentorship Program.

Over 56 of the students enrolled for the "She Codes" program, while 15 of the students chose to pursue careers in STEM.

Board Member, Barr. Thelma Nwogbo spent time with the girls, discussing issues young girls often face once the secondary school phase comes to an end.

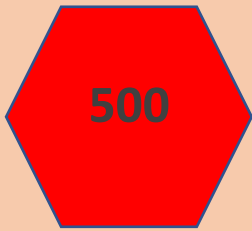
Girls Inspired spent 2 years 2017-2018, working with and mentoring the young girls in the school.





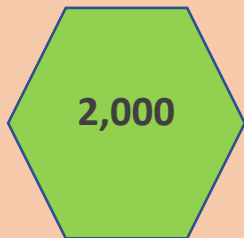
2017 & 2018 IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Advocacy



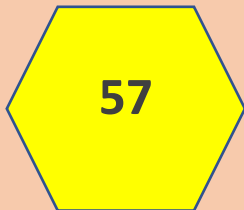
Over 500 young girls have received trainings on detecting the signs of human trafficking, sexual violence and important safety tips, including help lines to seek assistance if need be. In 2018, a robust nation-wide campaign has been designed to reach over 200,000 young girls, to equip them with core skills to empower them in making informed choices.

Girls Will Rise Mentorship Hub



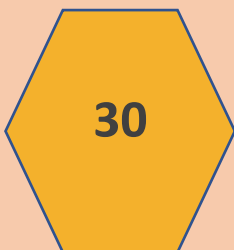
Girl Inspired has provided one-on-one mentorship to over 1,000 school girls 9-16 years old in secondary schools across Nigeria, while over 1,000 young adolescent girls in secondary schools across Nigeria have been impacted by our M-Hub programs

She Codes /Digital Skills



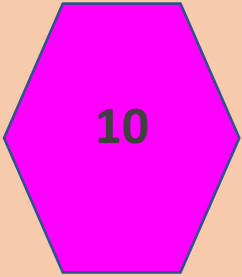
She Codes: Over 15 young girls in secondary school were inducted into the coding hub. While 42 picked an interest in digital skills.

Wired for Impact (Scholarship Grants)



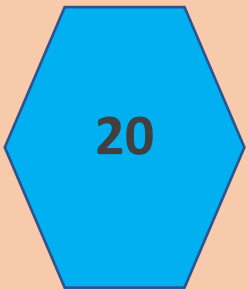
Secondary school graduates were provided with UTME forms, as well as scholarship opportunities/grants to cover tuition fees in tertiary institutions

Leading Woman



10 widows have directly benefitted from the Leading woman platform. They continue to receive emotional and inspirational support they need as GIDN provides them with a strong support system whilst reminding them that they are not alone. The success of this intervention has provided a robust community of confident and women

She Thrives



31 young women have either been trained on how to produce local household cleaning reagents, detergents and deodorants. Additionally, they have been supported with a small scale business. Over half of these women continue to use their skills to provide additional sources of income till date.

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

It is no news that women and girls across Africa are changing the narrative in their own unique spaces, despite the years of limitation and inequality, women are making a stand to press forward. Whole more work still needs to be done, we are happy that the world is listening and more people are taking action globally.

To bridge the gender gap, young African girls and women need to be empowered in all spheres of life to ensure that they are better equipped for the future. Girls Inspired Africa recognizes that girls and women still need the support and encouragement to make even more impact in their everyday lives.

We believe that the success of women is critical to the economic and social development of Africa. Our programs and internal initiatives for girls and women to promote gender parity is critical to these efforts. We will continue to weave a tapestry of hope for girls and women and we ask that you join us.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2018, Girls Inspired Africa worked with girls to address issues on gender-based violence against young girls and women on abuse prevention, child protection and understanding girls' rights. Our work saw to the empowerment and training of over 1,000 young women and school girls who were directly impacted by our advocacy programs.



Our programs at Girls Inspired also promotes digital literacy, digital rights, computing and coding to encourage and promote girls interests in STEM fields. We work with girls from low income schools and public schools to pick an interest in coding and computing and digital literacy, while ensuring that young girls willing to further pursue careers or other areas of interests in STEM are provided with the platform to learn during the school holidays.

Every year, on the 28th of May, Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated among girls all over the world. An important milestone for us at Girls Inspired in 2018 was creating awareness on menstrual hygiene and period poverty. Our work with girls across public schools and low-income private schools helped us identify young girls from poor backgrounds who are unable to afford sanitary products. While we continue to bridge the gap for them by supporting girls with useful ways to maintain their dignity as young women, we joined hands with other passionate stakeholders to advocate for free sanitary hygiene products for girls.

In 2019, we will continue to ensure that the most pressing issues affecting girls and women from pressing forwards will continue to be at the fore of our work in Africa.

We extend our deep appreciation to donors, partners, volunteers and friends of Girls Inspired and thank them sincerely for their sustained support.

We wish you all a prosperous 2019 ahead.

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

The Trustees of Girls Inspired Development Network

The Trustees

Barr. Rita Nwalupue (Chairman)
Mrs. Irene Nwoko
Mrs. Rita Folawewo (Secretary)
Barr. Thelma Nwogbo

Executive Director

Mrs. Clare Henshaw

Advisory Board

Mrs. Tope Osayintuyi
Mrs/ Ifeoma Asha Nnabuife
Mr. Christopher Odesegun

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