

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## Girls Inspired Development Network Africa (GIDN)

Email: [info@girlinspiredafrica.org](mailto:info@girlinspiredafrica.org)

Website: [www.girlinspiredafrica.org](http://www.girlinspiredafrica.org)

Tel: 07033757721,

07036257153

34, McNeil Road, Yaba,

Lagos



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organizational Review	3
Message from the Executive Director	4
Board of Trustees	5
Sexual Violence and Prevention, Menstrual Hygiene	6
Girl Force: Unscripted and Unstoppable	7
Teachers: Focal Agents in GBV Prevention	8
Femme-Analytics: Beyond the Classroom	9
She Thrives: Women Skills Empowerment	10
Leading Woman: Sheros of the Future	11
Our Impact	12
Audited Account (2019)	13

# Organizational Overview

Girls Inspired Development Network (GIDN) Africa 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. 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.

We are passionate about changing the world for African girls. Our commitment to delivering high-impact programs for girls and 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.

## Core Values

Girls Inspired stands by **Growth, Integrity, Accountability, Nurture and Cultural Diversity**. We are dedicated to empowering young African girls and women to be a force for good in the world by continually developing creative projects with potentials to change Africa. Our actions are guided by transparency and we are responsible for our actions that influence the lives of the girls and women we interact with. We believe in the value of diversity and its ability to enhance good relationships with differing and unique cultures spread across Africa.

## 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. We believe in harnessing the power of modern technologies to overcome some of the obstacles that prevent girls from thriving and by so doing, transform the lives of those we impact. Our model is to project African girls from a vantage place of strength. Some of our programs are:

### Educational Programs

**She Codes:** this is our coding program that ensures Coding and STEM programs are taken to young girls in their respective communities or close to home or school. The program is designed to tackle setbacks (restricted movement, transportation difficulties, etc.) that may limit a girl child from attending STEM programs in distant locations.

**Wired for Impact:** Wired for Impact was designed as an avenue to provide support to vulnerable and intelligent young women with the purpose of studying STEM related courses in the higher institution by offering scholarships or procuring JAMB/UTME forms for under privileged and intelligent young girls interested in taking up STEM related courses.

### Empowerment Programs

**She Thrives:** this is our skills acquisition and development program that provides women with the opportunity to be experts in a skill or combination of skills. We achieve this by training or re-training women to start or grow their own business using technological innovation to advance her their trade or craft,

**TechHerCraft:** With this platform, young women that have passed through the skill development program (aged between 18 to 40 years) and have met the necessary criteria are empowered with an avenue to put their craft or skills to work. GIDN also offers expertise by providing digital and web-based support to help them grow their small scale business.

**Girls Will Rise Mentorship Hub:** our mentorship program targets girls aged 9 to 16 in secondary school, with the aim to empower them by building their self-confidence and challenging them to discover and fulfill their full potentials in life. It is uniquely positioned to address prevalent crisis facing adolescent girls living in disadvantaged communities, by providing a strong and positive sense of self-worth and awareness.

**Leading Woman:** 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. 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 young girls and women.



## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Girls Inspired Development Network-GIDN stands firmly on the belief that girls and women already have a voice, they only need to use it. Our work in Africa, particularly in Nigeria is to enable and empower girls and young women to amplify their voices. In the last 12 months of 2019, our focus and vision remain true. We continue to use the limited resources at our disposal for the empowerment of girls in Nigeria and Africa at large

As the world celebrates significant successes and wins for girls and women locally and globally, we acknowledge the various champions and advocates who continue to use their platforms, voices and passion to make impact. We recognize that all hands must come together to achieve a violence-free world for girls and we stand with girls and women all over the world as we press on for progress together.

Our work with adolescent girls aged 11 to 17 years provides us with the unique opportunity to mentor and equip them for the roles ahead as leaders of the future. Our mentorship program, "Girls Will Rise" provides an enabling platform for girls which has yielded great rewards as we continue to dedicate ourselves to strengthening the capacity of adolescent girls in and out of school, by empowering them to make healthy choices and challenging them to discover and fulfill their potentials in life.

As 2019 draws to a close, Girls Inspired sends warmth and sincere appreciation to all our supporters, donors, partners and friends. We celebrate our small victories, while being hopeful that we can change the world one girl and woman at a time. Please join us as we build safety nets for African girls.

Best wishes for a prosperous and equitable year 2020.

*Clare Henshaw*

**Executive Director**

**December 3, 2019**

# Message from the Chair of the Board

A hand that is always stretched out to give never goes down but is always on top. It is on this philosophy that stand. Our passion for impact driven programs at Girls Inspired which first started as an individual act of kindness has blossomed. Our desire is that we continue to weave a tapestry of hope for girls and women.

Our achievements wouldn't have been possible without the enormous contributions and support of Nigerians, partners and donors. We are indeed grateful to our benefactors, donors and friends. We look forward to working together with you in 2020 for sustainable and impactful change in the society for African girls and women.

Let us all join hands to serve humanity and create a society where there is love, peace and stability.

*Rita Nwalupwe (Barr.)*

Chair, Board of Trustees.

---

## Board of Trustees

- Barrister Rita Nwalupue
- Barrister Thelma Nwogbo
- Engineer Irene Nwoko
- Mrs. Rita Folawewo
- Clare Henshaw

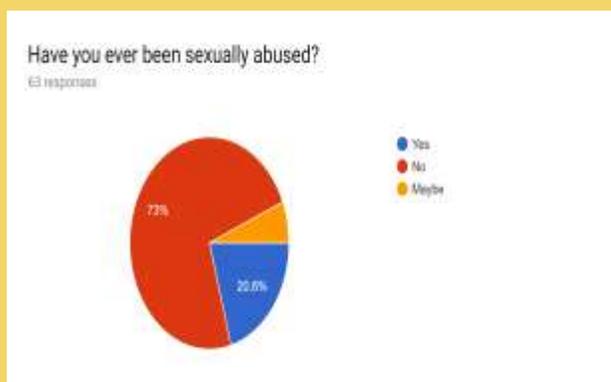
# Sexual Violence and Prevention, Menstrual Hygiene

It is no longer surprising, the alarming rate at which cases of sexual violence is reported and heard every day. UNICEF reported in 2015 that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 10 boys had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. Also, in 2017 GIDN carried out a survey on 500 girls across 3 public secondary schools in Lagos on the type of sanitary hygiene products used during their menstrual period and it was revealed that 70% of them use tissue papers, 20% alternated between cotton wool wrapped in a cloth, 5% used sanitary pads but alternated with tissue paper during slow days due to the high cost of sanitary wear while 5% said they used plain cloth.

These alarming facts and prevalent issues resulted to our next edition of the Girls Will Rise Mentorship Hub which was held at State Senior High School, Alimosho road, Ipaja, where over 160 girls were orientated on the awareness of sexual violence, its prevention and menstrual hygiene. These girls were educated on sexual violence as a whole and implored to always speak up whenever they felt threatened with sexual violence or noticed any act of sexual violence around them.



The important issue of menstrual hygiene was also approached and a survey was carried out to further understand the difficulties that these girls are often faced with when it comes to Menstrual Hygiene and Sexual Violence.



## Girl Force: Unscripted and Unstoppable

In 1995, the fourth World Conference on Women made history for the women's rights agenda with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted, identifying as the most visionary blueprint for women and girls' empowerment.

In 2011, the UN declared October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

This brought about the next edition of our mentorship hub which was held at St. Joseph Senior Secondary School, Agege where 100 girls were mentored on the theme **Girl Force: My Dreams Are Unstoppable.**



The theme was aimed at mentoring the girls on the essence of a vision board and the importance it holds for their future. The purpose of the vision board was to stand as a representation of their aspirations and desires for their future. It was used as a tool to motivate and inspire the girls towards concrete and consistent actions in pursuit of their future life goals and achievements.



## Teachers, Focal Agents in GBV Prevention

Teachers and staff members are expected to show concern for their pupils. Students are expected to behave in an orderly fashion. If a student has a concern about his or her safety, they are encouraged to bring it to the attention of a teacher, the principal, or vice principal so that appropriate action may be taken.



Teachers and school employees are agents of the state responsible for ensuring the protection of children (girl child) from abuse and instill respect for girls' rights. Girls Inspired held a Child Advocacy Studies training for teachers and school staffs from various schools in Lagos state on Girl Child Prevention.



Our training session on Girl Child Abuse Prevention & Protection strategies for teachers and school staff of various schools in Lagos was an insightful session that was aimed at providing participants with the relevant skills required to tackle the issue of child abuse.



## FEMME-ANALYTICS: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

STEM education for girls in Nigeria faces unique challenges as there are a limited number of women in STEM fields. Where there are, they are usually limited by the challenges of domestic work restricted movement, limited finances & opportunities, lack of hardware & skilled teachers.



In 2017, our pilot survey showed that of the 1,000 school girls we surveyed in Lagos State alone, 90% had never heard of or could not define the acronym S.T.E.M/S.T.E.A.M, while only 10% had fair knowledge on how to use a computer.



Our approach is to teach girls how they can solve every day problems or challenges using their knowledge in coding, programming, and or digital skill. By using our decentralized and unconventional learning approach, we plan to give opportunities to girls that many never have access to learn. Thereby, pushing Nigeria to the forefront of innovation and technology and let the world see our Female Liberalization for what it actually is.



And this is where our digital skills training called Femme-Analytics comes in. In partnership with Google, we aim to bridge the gap faced by secondary school girls across Nigeria by training 1,000 girls in the basic digital skills and also provide online safety tips to keep them cautious on the internet.

## SHE THRIVES: WOMEN SKILLS EMPOWERMENT

According to UN Women, “Women’s participation in the labor force varies around the world, but nowhere has it reached parity with men. For many, decent work is a distant dream, since they are marginalized in poorly paid, poorly protected jobs. While women are increasingly well-educated, labor markets still channel them disproportionately into work considered traditionally acceptable for women. Too few reach upper-level positions in management and leadership.”



A key concern of the African education sector today is ensuring that education programmes equip and mentor youths with the ideal combination of knowledge and practical skills for the transition to a productive life. With the gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education at just six percent in sub-Saharan Africa, it is clear that the majority of young people joining the labor force do so immediately after secondary education. Many will not have

acquired the skills and qualifications to enable them to join the formal sector.



She Thrives is our skills empowerment program for young girls and women aimed at empowering economically disadvantaged women by giving them a sense of pride in their work, while ensuring that they have a sustainable business to support their families and also keep their children in school; thereby ending the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

## LEADING WOMAN: SHEROS OF THE FUTURE

At GIDN, we believe that empowering a woman equates to empowering her whole family. It is for this reason that we put so much emphasis on female empowerment. We understand that not every woman will fit into the societal box and standard, so we put in the extra effort for women who go extra mile to be the hero for their family despite her circumstance.



A Leading Woman at GIDN is one, who, despite all odds, has shown resilience and perseverance in the struggle to continuously provide the basic amenities of life for her family. She works extra hard to provide for her children while trying to stay motivated. They are the unsung women, mothers and widows that may never be recognized for their hard work.



The leading woman program is aimed at reminding these women of their inner beauty and outward radiance by supplying her with the luxuries of life for a limited time, to show her that there is more to life than hardships.



# OUR IMPACT

4,000

Girls Will Rise Mentorship Hub

10

Wired for Impact

1,500

Girls/Women Advocacy

30

She Thrives