



Batonga

2018 Annual Report



(202)-503-4788 | www.batongafoundation.org |
1875 Connecticut Ave NW, 10th Floor, Washington DC, 20009

TABLE OF CONTENTS



-
- 01** A Message From Our Founder
 - 02** Our Mission
 - 03** Who We Are
 - 04** Meet Edith
 - 05** Our Model
 - 06** Our 2018 Growth
 - 07** Our 2018 Impact
 - 09** Delphine's Story
 - 11** Meet Grace
 - 12** Anasthasie's Story
 - 14** Financial Overview
 - 15** Thank You!
-

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am proud to present to you Batonga Foundation's 2018 Annual Report and the incredible growth and impact your support has generated.

Batonga believes in delivering services and programs based on what girls and young women need and want. Until this year, we were running clubs for girls 16 years old and above, equipping them with the skills and building the confidence they need to build their own futures. And while we were seeing incredible successes such as young women launching their businesses and generating income and profit they could use as they please, we also realized that most of them were already bearing the consequences of early marriages and pregnancies.

That is why in 2018 we expanded our programs to start serving girls as young as ten years old. Accompanying these girls just before they hit puberty is crucial in helping them make choices that will lift them out of poverty. Our new clubs enable this age group to learn about their rights, their options, and how to make healthy choices, all the while becoming financially literate. This is going to make a huge difference in this new generation's lives. The impact has already been showing on the ground.

When I visited our programs in Benin in December 2018, I was astonished by what I saw. Girls and young women filled with confidence. Mentors, all local women, helping aid the girls and their families through life's difficult choices. Support systems enabling girls and women to get help.

I also saw businesses, profits, girls and women sharing income that they collectively generated. All in all, I saw the power of women and girls lifting each other up, and creating opportunity on the way.

Batonga is changing these girls' lives, but also transforming their communities as they make choices that enable them to be safe, independent, and financially literate.

The power that these girls possess within them is incredible. Now it is our job to continue to work to unleash this power and create a safer, healthier, and more equitable world where each and every one of these girls and women can thrive.

I am so grateful to each of you for your support and look forward to continuing to work together in our fight to ensure that all adolescent girls can access their rights, unleash their power, and reach their fullest potential.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ANGELIQUE KIDJO". The signature is fluid and expressive, with varying line thicknesses.

ANGELIQUE KIDJO

Founder, Batonga Foundation



OUR MISSION

To equip the hardest-to-reach girls and women with the knowledge and skills they need to be agents of change in their own lives and communities.

WHO WE ARE

Batonga is an African founded organization whose center of gravity of operations are in Benin. We employ 107 staff members, a majority being African women.



ABOUT OUR STAFF*:

97%

Are From Benin

96%

Identify as
Females

92%

Live In The
Villages Batonga
Serves

*Our staff encompasses a team of 3 in Washington D.C., a team of 8 in Cotonou, and 38 Mentors in 15 villages in Benin.

A portrait of a young woman with short dark hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a green and blue patterned top with a zipper detail down the front. A black cord necklace with a small gold pendant hangs around her neck. The background is blurred, showing tropical foliage and trees.

"Before Batonga, when I was at home, even just talking to my mom, I would hide my face, avoid eye contact and felt uncomfortable in my body. But since I joined Batonga, I'm not afraid to talk to people, especially those my age, and prove to them that I am a strong girl. My classmates have noticed that I am no longer naive as before, I am now more knowledgeable and enlightened."

-Edith from Alikba village, Benin

OUR MODEL

1 LOCATE

- Our team goes door to door in a prospective village using the Girl Roster™ technology.
- This technology allows us to survey and map communities in order to see the full universe of girls living in the area and identify the most marginalized populations.



2 EMPOWER

- Our **SONAFA Leadership Clubs** are girl-only safe spaces that engage the vulnerable young women and girls discovered through the Girl Roster™
- Through these weekly clubs, Batonga:
 - delivers a skills-based curriculum on financial literacy, personal health and well-being, and rights.
 - provides girls with the tools and resources to start their own small businesses

3 SHARE

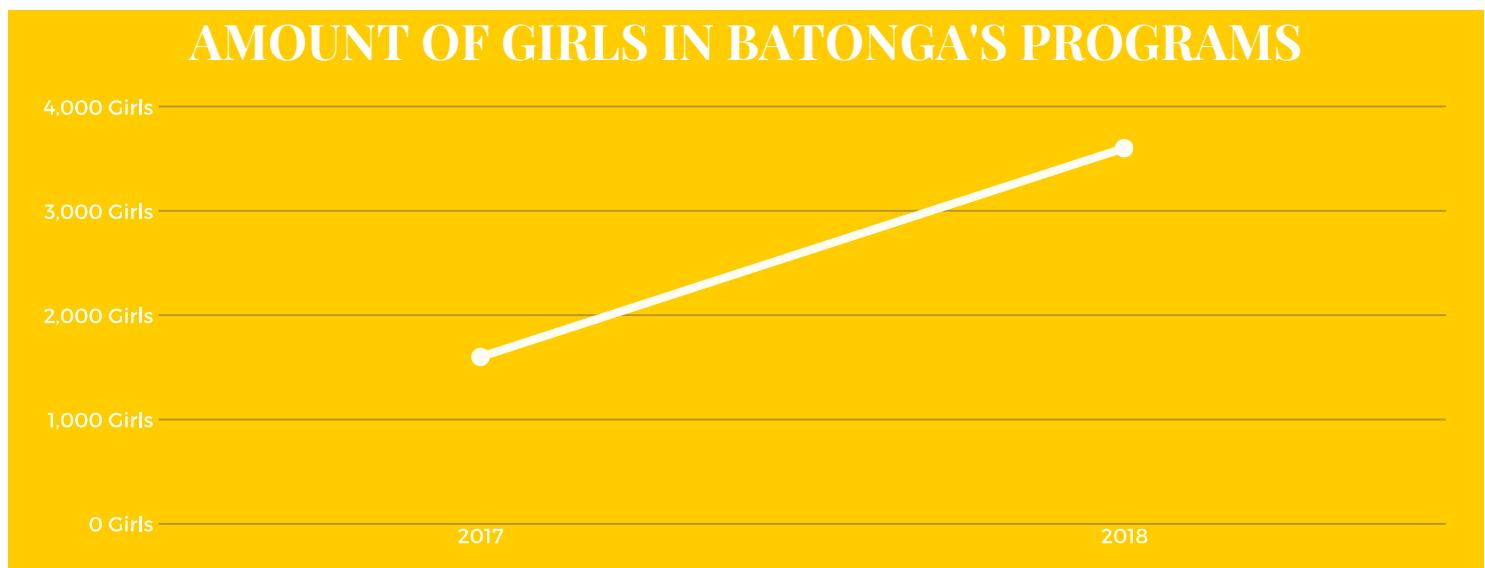
- Batonga convenes and leads an **Adolescent Girls Learning Circle** in Benin. Members exchange on best practices and lessons learned as well as map out the geographical services available to the most vulnerable girls.



OUR 2018 GROWTH

IN 2018, WE DOUBLED THE SIZE AND REACH OF OUR PROGRAMS!

Until this year, our clubs served young women and girls from **15 to 24 years old**. Now, we have expanded to incorporate over **1,500 girls** as young as 10 years old into our SONAFA Leadership Clubs.



We also launched **67 new SONAFA clubs** for these girls! Our clubs now serve **10-11-year-olds, 12-16 year-olds, and girls 15+!**



OUR OVERALL 2018 IMPACT



3,663

**VULNERABLE YOUNG
WOMEN AND GIRLS
SERVED**

126

**SONAFA LEADERSHIP
CLUBS IN OPERATION**



15

**VILLAGES IN BENIN
REACHED**





96

**LOCAL FEMALE MENTORS
AND ASSISTANT MENTORS
EMPLOYED**



141

**SMALL BUSINESSES
LAUNCHED**



259

**GIRLS TRAINED IN
SOLAR TECHNOLOGY**

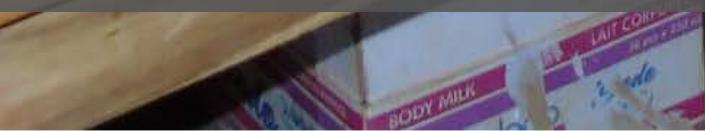
"Batonga is changing girls so that tomorrow is better for women. The girls we are training today will be strong independent women in the future"

-Anicette, Mentor

W
E
L
P
H
R
E



Delphine is a wonderful example of how equipping young women with transferable skills and connecting them to a network of support and mentorship allows them to become changemakers and empowered members of their community.



Through Batonga's SONAFA program, Delphine was able to gain important financial literacy and business skills not taught in traditional formal schools. With the knowledge, confidence and mentorship she gained through Batonga's program, she was able to launch her own soap business called "PAIX" or "Peace.

As Delphine grew her business, she made a point to employ and empower local girls in her community and include them in her journey to success. She later sought and won startup funding from the Beninese Government to expand her business.

As Delphine continues to expand her business, she incorporates Batonga values of female empowerment, sustainability, and financial accountability each step of the way.



"Batonga has given me the confidence and skills to launch my own business and seek startup funding from the Government"
-Delphine

"Batonga is helping all of us with its lessons, I've come to boost my confidence. I was ready to quit school, but with Batonga I now have the support to continue and build myself a better future."

*-Grace from Sodohomey village,
Benin*



ANASTHASIE



After becoming orphaned at a young age, Anasthasie was placed in a situation where she didn't know if she would be able to complete her education. However, with the help and support provided by Batonga, she acquired the knowledge, skills, and mentorship she needed to truly thrive.

As a child, Anasthasie always dreamt of becoming a doctor. Her goal was to eradicate infant mortality in her village. However, after the sudden passing of both of her parents, Anasthasie was unsure of how she could continue her education or find meaningful employment. Batonga made sure she was able to acquire the skills, knowledge and mentorship she needed to not only survive, but thrive.

Today, Anasthasie attends university while serving as a Batonga mentor for over 70 girls in 3 SONAFA Clubs. Since 2016, she has worked with her girls to create solar-powered cell phone charging stations. Over the past ten years with Batonga, Anasthasie has become a confident and successful young woman and is truly a changemaker and role model in her community.



"I know that my life would be very different today if it weren't for Batonga. Because of all you have done, I am committed to achieving even more than you ever could have imagined from me."

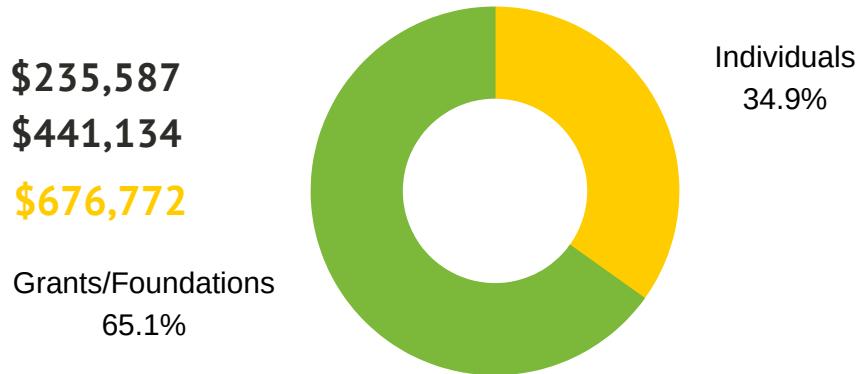
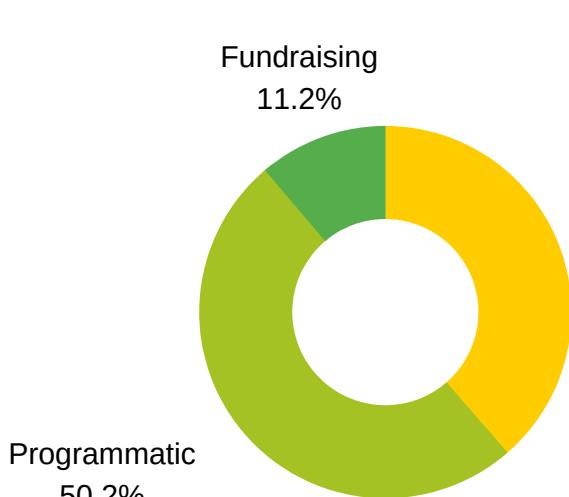
-Anasthasie

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We are so grateful to our committed donors whose generosity has allowed us to reach and empower the most vulnerable girls and young women in Benin.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual Contributions.....	\$235,587
Grants/Foundations.....	\$441,134
TOTAL INCOME	\$676,772



OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services.....	\$229,491
Administrative Expenses*.....	\$176,552
Fundraising Expenses	\$50,970
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$457,013

*2018 was the year that Batonga opened its Benin office and achieved formal registration and recognition in this country. Higher administrative costs reflect this change.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 PARTNERS





Batonanga

2018 Annual Report

Contact Us

info@batongafoundation.org

(202)-503-4788

1875 Connecticut Ave NW, 10th Floor,
Washington DC 20009