

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

THE BATONGA FOUNDATION



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ABOUT THE BATONGA FOUNDATION



TRANSFORMING AFRICA ONE GIRL AT A TIME

In 2017, the Batonga Foundation worked to identify the most vulnerable girls in Benin and build their social, emotional and cognitive assets through a combination of life-skills, technical skills, mentorship and personalized support delivered through Girls Clubs. Batonga also convened and cultivated a learning network to facilitate coordination, information sharing, and advocacy for data-driven solutions that lead to more effective and impactful programs for off-track adolescent girls.

As a result of the foundation's work, Batonga won first place in the 2017 Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education. The Pan-African Awards recognize the most innovative organizations using enterprise and entrepreneurship to expand the field of education.

The three primary activities that Batonga engaged in during 2017 are explained in the following pages.



Our Mission: The Batonga Foundation equips 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.

We envision a safer, healthier and more equitable world in which all girls and women can thrive!

BATONGA TARGETS YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO:



Are out of school, never been to school, or are not at the correct grade level for their age.



Live with one or no parents.



Married or had children at an early age.

OUR WORK: INCREASING EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF VULNERABLE ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN UNDERSERVED REGIONS OF BENIN.

In 2017, Batonga continued to reach vulnerable adolescent girls in underserved regions of Benin through the operation of Girls Clubs.

Batonga's Girls Clubs:

- Provided mentoring and training for vulnerable adolescent girls to build their social networks, communication skills, self-esteem, and goal-setting abilities.
- Served as safe spaces where participants developed life skills, learned financial literacy and technical skills, and received mentorship and career guidance.
- Created opportunities for engagement in income generating activities, thus expanding participants' future options as well as their social capital.

SETTING OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Batonga is striving to improve the health and livelihoods of communities and enable Girls Clubs to generate income through small businesses and the roll out of renewable energy solutions. We aim to:

DISCOVER communities through digital data collection and mapping

EMPOWER the most vulnerable young women and girls through Girls Clubs

INSPIRE others to take action through shared learning and advocacy





OUR WORK: CONVENING AN ADOLESCENT GIRLS' LEARNING CIRCLE

In 2017, Batonga continued to convene and cultivate a regional thought leadership network called, Réseau Batonga d'Apprentissage des Filles Adolescentes Bénin, to document and share learnings and best practices. The network regularly shared maps, plans, budgets, and data to enhance understanding of local communities and to coordinate efforts in the field. The learning circle met on a bi-monthly basis and brought together a diverse group of organizations committed to targeted, evidence-based and scalable programs.

Through this network, Batonga:

- Contributed to the evidence base that drives NGO programming for youth and highlighted granular data on adolescent girls, better equipping local NGOs to deliver girl-focused programming.
- Promoted evidence-based, data-driven approaches to programs focused on girls' education, civic participation, and health among NGOs operating in Benin.
- Enhanced implementing agencies' and local organizations' understanding of target populations in order to advance adolescent girls' rights over the long term.

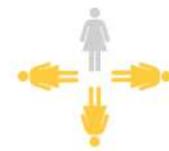
Batonga's Adolescent Girls Learning Circle works to share knowledge and best practices among a diverse range of organizations keeping in mind that in Benin:



1 in 3 girls are married before the age of 18



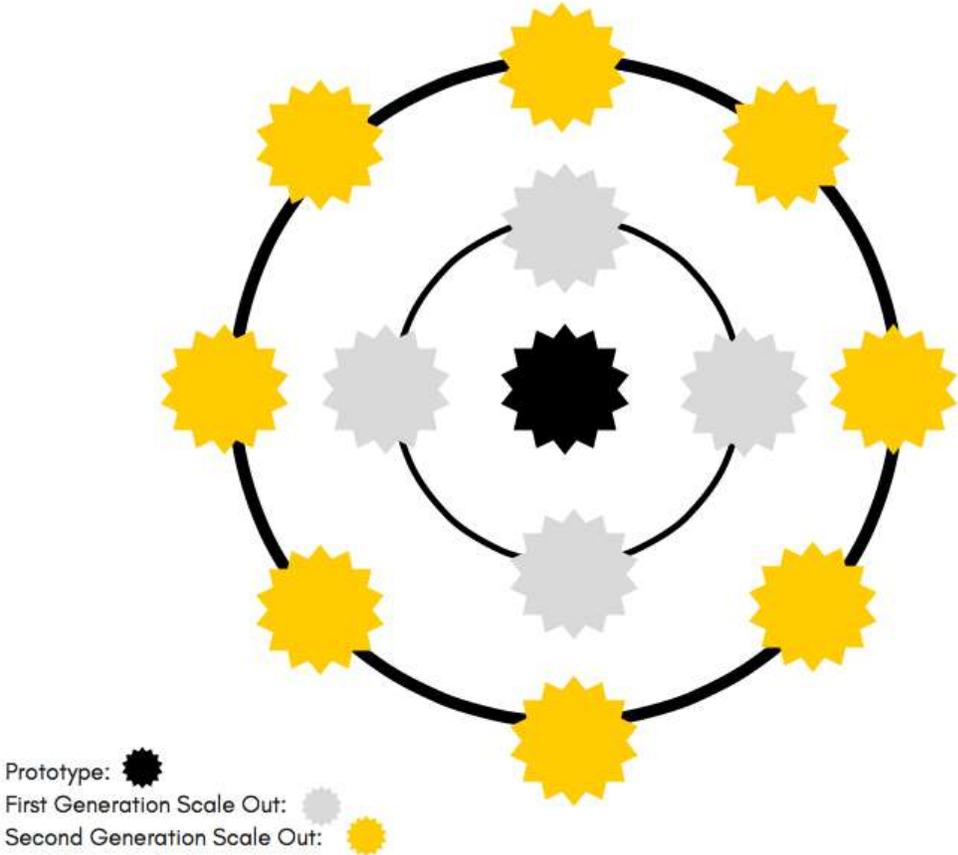
2/3 of the youth population is unemployed



3 out of 4 girls never make it out of middle school

OUR WORK: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

In 2017, Batonga worked with external consultants to develop a strategic plan for growth and to evaluate the current status of its programs through a process evaluation. This allowed Batonga to assess what had worked well, what was surprising, and where new thinking and approaches are needed moving forward. As a result of the strategic development and process evaluation, Batonga was able to pinpoint key areas for growth and develop clear goals and benchmarks for 2018 and beyond.



GROWING OUR GIRLS CLUBS AND NEW PROGRAMS: The illustration above from Population Council demonstrates Batonga’s expansion methodology: scaling the Girl Roster and Girls Clubs outward in concentric circles. In doing so, Batonga should be able to reach a critical mass of target beneficiaries in a given area, creating localized movements and making sustainable change in each locality.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

2017 BUDGET

TOTAL INCOME

GENERATED FROM GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$ 348,220

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 435,014

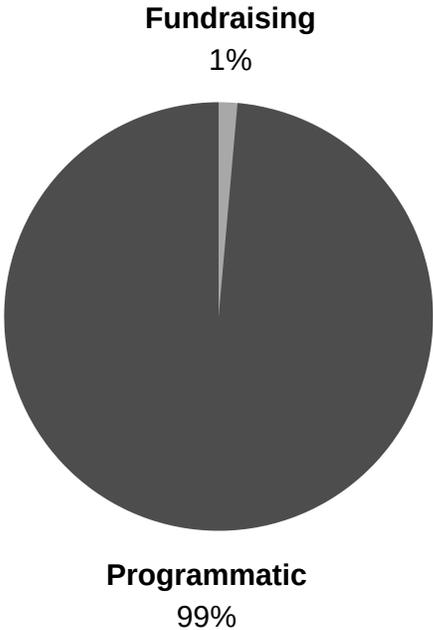
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

\$ 6,122

PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES

OPERATIONAL COVERAGE FOR PROGRAMS IN BENIN, RENT, OFFICE SUPPLIES, TRAVEL, INSURANCE, PAYROLL, AND TAXES

\$ 428,892



SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

Benin Electricity Profile



200 MW
Current installed
generation capacity

29%
Access to
electricity

9%
Rural access
to electricity

In 2017, Batonga also introduced solar technology into Girls Clubs as a potential tool for income generation. The goal of incorporating this technology was to simultaneously increase the income-generating power of girls and young women while ensuring resource-poor communities access to renewable energy. Previously, Batonga's clubs have created businesses including: liquid and solid soap making and bakeries. To pilot this initiative, Batonga held a training workshop in Sierra Leone with club mentors and supervisors, followed by peer-to-peer trainings in Bohicon and Savalou. Solar technologies were provided to 9 Girls Clubs and each club developed their own business model for solar-powered cell phone charging stations, using the technologies.



MEET GERMAINE

Germaine was 12 years old when the Batonga Foundation began working with her in 2008. A middle school student in the town of Zogbodome, Germaine often went to school without breakfast and could rarely afford the necessary supplies. Following her mother's death, she feared that she would be forced to abandon school to get married or to find a job.

However, with the help of a Batonga Foundation scholarship, all of her school fees were paid for, she received school supplies and shoes, and much to her delight, she even had the time and resources to eat breakfast each morning before school. Germaine's grades and attendance improved dramatically, helping her continue on to high school.

In 2011, Germaine became pregnant at the age of 15, but persevered and continued to attend classes until leaving briefly in January 2012 to give birth. In February 2012, Germaine returned to school and despite the added responsibilities of being a young mother, continued to excel academically. When tragedy struck, and her daughter passed away in 2014, she again persevered and despite immense odds graduated high school.

Following her graduation, the indomitable Germaine began two endeavors to improve both her quality of life and the quality of the lives of other: she began attending university and she became a Batonga Mentor. After years as a Batonga Scholar, Germaine wanted to give back to her community by becoming a friend, teacher, and confidant to the most off-track girls in her community.

"Being a mentor to these girls has been such a good experience for me. I have grown and learned so much by teaching this curriculum and by serving as a leader and friend to these girls from my community. It has truly opened my mind."

IN CONCLUSION

In 2017, the Batonga Foundation maximized its resources and demonstrated its ability to develop and deliver innovative solutions that impact the lives and livelihoods of the most excluded young women and girls in Benin. Batonga's Girls Clubs have improved girls' critical skills and assets, fostered entrepreneurship and promoted economic opportunities. Batonga has laid the foundation for sustainable growth in future years by building robust partnerships and developing best practices in reaching the most vulnerable adolescent girls.

