

May 2018 Featured Grantee The Batonga Foundation



Benin, West Africa

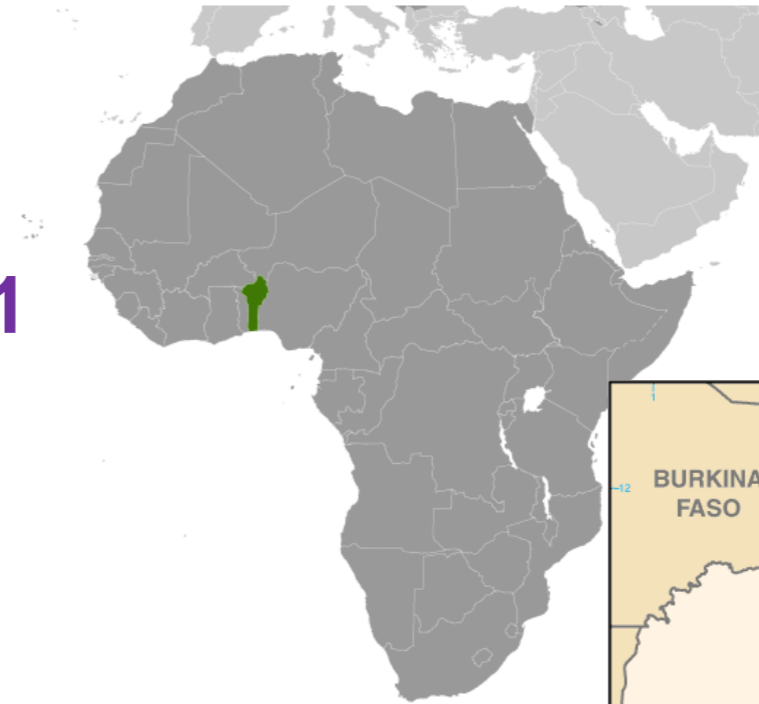
Introducing The Batonga Foundation



Batonga removes the obstacles that prevent or discourage girls and young women from attending school and earning a living. They do this by improving school infrastructure, driving enrollment, granting scholarships, providing access to mentors and Girls' Clubs connected to income-generating activities, and promoting the value of educating daughters.

Where in the world?

- Benin is in Western Africa, between Nigeria and Togo.
- Its population is more than 11 million.
- It is slightly smaller than the state of Pennsylvania.
- Poverty is widespread.
- Many parents resort to sending their children to work as domestic servants, or in mines, quarries or agriculture.



**Zou and Collines Regions,
Benin, West Africa**

Life Challenges of the Women Served

Benin has a per-capita gross national income of \$890. While economic growth has been steady in recent years, 53 percent of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. Girls, in particular, face barriers in attending school and completing their education.



Life Challenges of the Women Served

- **Only 63 percent of girls complete primary school and by upper secondary school, fewer than one in five girls are enrolled. An estimated 200,000 girls aged 10-14 are not enrolled in school.**
- **More than one-third of girls are married before the age of 18. The adolescent fertility rate in Benin is 84.6 births for every 1,000 girls aged 15-19.**
- **The percentage of female-headed households in Benin is on the rise, standing at 23 percent in 2012, up from 17.5 percent in 1996.**

What are we supporting?



The Future Leaders Project: Reaching the most at-risk girls in Benin and creating 64 Girls' Clubs to improve their academic and economic opportunities.

Direct Impact: 3,200

Indirect Impact: 12,800

Budget

How DFW's grant of \$48,099 will be used:

Item	Description	Cost
Mentors and Supervisors	Evaluation and training, salaries, transportation, and communications for mentors and supervisors in eight villages	\$17,580
Monitoring and Evaluation	Includes transportation for monitoring activities, meals, and accommodations for program manager and one local coordinator	\$3,677
Community Involvement	Transportation and meals for eight Community Leaders (two per village)	\$185
Girls' Club Supplies	Educational and business supplies for 1,600 girls in eight villages	\$26,667
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$48,099

About the Featured Grantee

Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter Angelique Kidjo grew up in Benin, West Africa, and was one of the few girls in her community to have the chance to pursue schooling at a time when education for girls was not socially acceptable. In defiant response to taunts by those who said girls did not belong in the classroom, she invented the word “batonga.”



Later, it became a hit song for Angelique, whose lyrics address a young African girl, telling her “you are a princess, and you can do what you please regardless of what anyone tells you.”

About the Featured Grantee



In 2006, Kidjo founded the Batonga Foundation to empower and educate the most excluded adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa those “beyond the paved road.” Beginning in her home country of Benin, The Batonga Foundation has since supported girls and young women in five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with the support and tools they need to complete their formal schooling or start their own businesses.

Share Your Thoughts

1. How does this innovative use of low-cost technology help close the data gap for girls?
2. What is the value of the asset-building toolkit?
3. How do you think grassroots, community engagement impacts this project's success?



Changing the world one dinner at a time

May's Sustained Grantee: Girl Determined

Girl Determined works to promote girls rights in all forums, particularly for the most vulnerable, by organizing Colorful Girls Circles, training facilitators, creating curriculum, bringing girls together and exposing the reality of girls' lives in Myanmar.

DFW's sustained grant of \$20,000 per year in 2016 – 2018 is scaling up the project through further development of a model in which communities manage weekly implementation of their core Colorful Girls Circles projects.

