

2025 Annual REPORT



**EDUCATE
YOUNG GIRLS**

KODAK PORTRA 400



A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER



As I reflect on the past year, my heart is filled with immense gratitude, gratitude unlike anything I have felt before. Educate Young Girls is still a young organization, yet in just two years we have laid strong foundations - building structure, designing impactful programs, and reaching girls and communities in ways that once felt out of reach. The dream of the little girl I once was is slowly but surely becoming a reality.

As I look back on 2025, I cannot help but say thank you to each and every one of you. This year was, by far, the most challenging for me personally, as I began my final year of college while leading an organization that continues to grow and demand greater care, time, and responsibility. It was also a difficult year for many nonprofits and grassroots organizations. Sudden policy changes and a challenging global economy made funding uncertain, and small, community-led organizations like ours felt that pressure deeply.

Yet, even in the midst of these challenges, I witnessed extraordinary support through words of encouragement, generosity, and helping hands. For that, I am deeply thankful. My gratitude goes to every donor, and especially to the Just Pax Fund and the Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation, whose financial support sustained our work this year. **I am grateful to everyone who gave, whether a little or a lot. Every envelope that arrived in the mail and every dollar donated online brought comfort and reminded me that I was not alone in this journey.**

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our volunteers and advisory board members, who generously shared their time, skills, and resources to expand our reach and strengthen our impact. This year would not have been possible without you. Finally, I want to thank and truly congratulate the entire staff and team of Educate Young Girls. **Despite the challenges, we more than doubled our impact, directly reaching over 730 girls and women, and indirectly impacting more than 2,600 girls through our peer mentorship program.** This level of impact is the result of discipline, teamwork, and shared belief in the power of girls' education. What began as a personal dream has become a collective mission, and I am proud to say that this work is no longer a one-person effort.

As you read through this annual report, you will see evidence of growth, resilience, and progress. I hope you also experience moments of reflection, moments when you wonder how far we have come, and feel proud to be part of this mission. When those moments arise, **I welcome your feedback and words of encouragement. They mean more than you know.**

As Founder and CEO of Educate Young Girls, I am proud to say that in 2025, we stayed the course and walked faithfully toward our mission and vision. As we look ahead to 2026, I see greater strides, bolder goals, and an even deeper impact.

Together, we are shaping a future where every girl in Cameroon can achieve her dreams. This is not just a statement: it is a lived reality.

Thank you for your continued support.

Glory Divine Yougang Tahon
Founder & Chief Executive Director
Educate Young Girls
Smith College, 2026



EDUCATE YOUNG GIRLS



OUR HISTORY



Educate Young Girls was founded by Yougang Tahon Glory Divine, a determined Cameroonian whose vision for empowering girls was shaped by her own life experiences. Growing up in Cameroon, Glory saw the struggles many girls faced—especially the limitations placed on them because of their gender. But one encounter, when she was just 10 years old, changed her life forever.

One day, while fetching water at a neighbor's house, Glory met a girl named Omu, who was the same age as her. Omu was already illiterate and, at just 12 years old, had been married off - her education taken from her and her childhood cut short. The moment struck Glory deeply. She realized how easily her own life could have been like Omu's if not for the scholarship that had given her the chance to continue her education.

This encounter stayed with Glory, and as she entered Smith College, she felt compelled to do something about it. At just 18, full of passion and determination, she founded Educate Young Girls to ensure that no other girl in Cameroon would have to face the same fate as Omu.

OUR VISION

We believe in an equal world where each girl is educated and empowered to thrive in her community and achieve her full potential in all aspects of her life.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to increase school enrollment and retention for girls in Cameroon, while empowering teenage mothers through vocational training and financial independence. We aim to shift societal mindsets to better understand, support, and prioritize girls' education.





OUR VALUES



Empowerment

We equip girls with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed decisions, lead boldly, and shape their own futures.



Equality

We believe every girl deserves equal access to education, opportunity, and resources, regardless of background or circumstance.



Impact

Our work is driven by measurable, lasting change that improves lives, strengthens communities, and creates pathways for long-term success.



Integrity

We operate with transparency, accountability, and honesty, ensuring trust in our mission, our partnerships, and our outcomes.



CHARITY DETAILS

Educate Young Girls is a registered local nonprofit in Cameroon (REG: 00000865).

Educate Young Girls is a fiscally sponsored program of the Hack Foundation, a **501(c)(3) public charity registered in the United States with the EIN 81-2908499**. Donations to us are **tax-deductible** to the extent provided by applicable law.



CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT: 2025

Awarded **70 full scholarships**, helping girls continue their education without financial barriers.



Supported **52 teenage mothers** with vocational training and **\$15,000+ in grants and loans** to start their own small businesses.

Launched **our first internship cohort** in June, offering girls hands-on experience and early exposure to professional environments.



Reached **300 girls through leadership and career-focused conferences**, helping them build confidence, skills, and self-advocacy.

Opened **our first on-site office**, lovingly called "The House of Girls," creating a safe, welcoming space for girls to grow, connect, and learn.

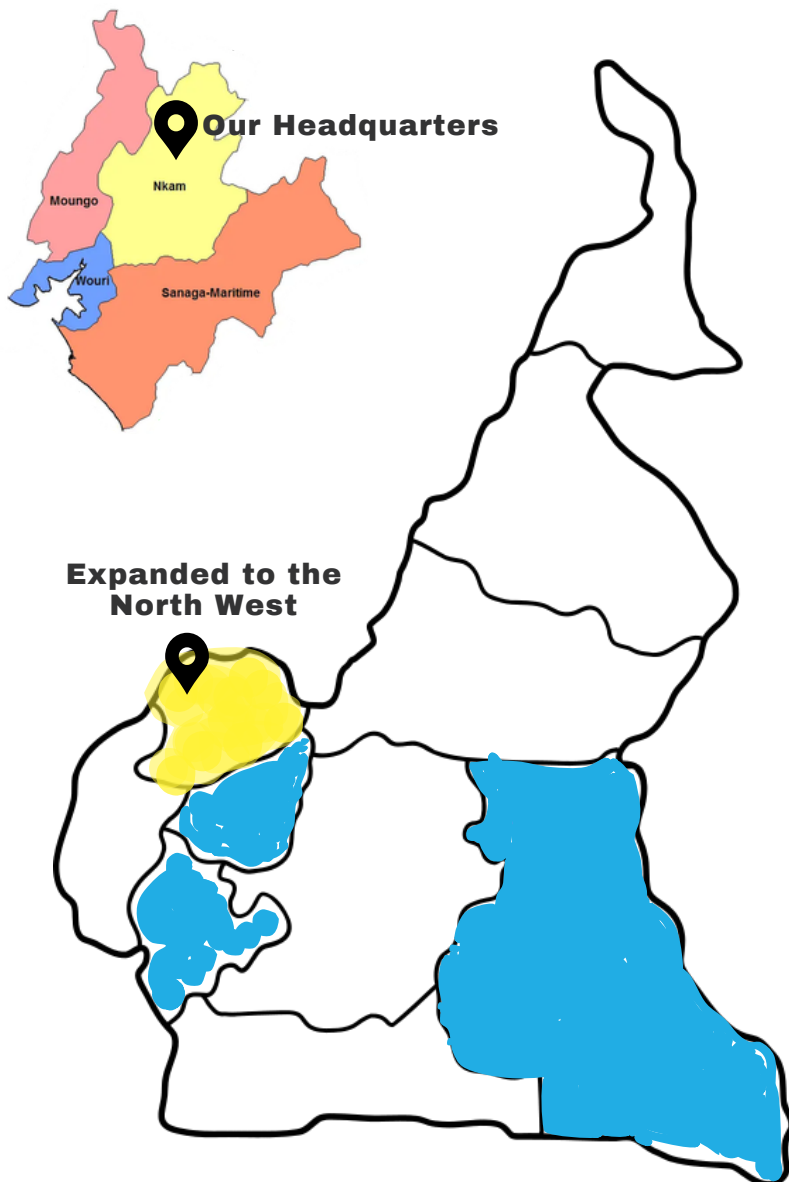


Trained **660 students as peer mentors in reproductive education**, including 310 this year, equipping them to provide accurate information, support peers, and reduce teenage pregnancies.

WHERE WE WORK: EXPANSION TO THE NORTH WEST REGION

"Expanding into the North West is more than a milestone for Educate Young Girls - it's a promise kept to the girls who need us most. For me, it is a powerful reminder of why we started this journey: to empower girls in the toughest places."

- Glory Divine Yougang Tahon, Founder & CEO



Since our organization was established, our mission has been to enhance the accessibility, safety, and sustainability of education for girls throughout Cameroon. Unfortunately, for nearly two years, the ongoing Anglophone Crisis has hindered our ability to operate in the North West region, which is grappling with some of the most pressing educational and protection issues in the country.

The Impact of the Crisis

The North West Region has endured prolonged instability, leading to widespread displacement, school closures, and interrupted learning. Now entering its ninth year, the crisis has compelled many schools to function on an irregular basis, leaving thousands of girls without reliable access to education. In such conditions, young girls are especially susceptible to violence, sexual assault, early pregnancy, and increased caregiving duties. The surge in teenage pregnancies, including those resulting from assault and extended school absences, has placed both young mothers and their children at greater risk of long-term educational exclusion and poverty.

These realities made the need for our work in the North-West not only evident, but urgent. Girls in crisis-affected communities are more likely to drop out of school permanently, perform poorly academically, or never return to the classroom at all - unless we provide targeted support.

Entering the North West Region was therefore **both a strategic priority and a moral imperative.** Achieving this expansion- despite security, logistical, and contextual challenges- marks a meaningful accomplishment for our organization. It reflects two years of careful planning, partnership-building, and deep commitment to reaching girls who are most at risk of being left behind.



IGNITING CHANGE THROUGH LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Educate Young Girls' Field Leaders Cohort - North West

Recognizing that sustainable impact in crisis-affected regions must be locally driven, we adopted a leadership-centered approach to our entry into the North West. From over 120 applicants, **we selected 25 highly promising local young leaders to serve as Educate Young Girls' representatives in the region.**

Between October 2 and December 12, these leaders underwent intensive training designed to:

- Equip them with technical and leadership skills
- Strengthen their ability to respond to the unique realities of crisis-affected communities
- Advocate for girls' education and understand key education policies and practices
- Adapt our education programs to the social, cultural, and security context of Bamenda and the surrounding areas
- Serve as a liaison between Educate Young Girls and the needs of their communities, ensuring programs address local challenges and priorities for girls
- Monitor and evaluate program activities to ensure impact and accountability
- Serve as trusted anchors for girls and families in their communities



This cohort is not just advisory; they're the operational backbone of our programs in the North-West.



Deployment & Program Launch (Planned for 2026) - North West

Following their training, the cohort is now transitioning into the deployment phase. Our programs have been thoughtfully tailored to align with the local context and enhance community involvement. The first two priority initiatives set for early 2026 include:

1. **Peer Mentorship for Girls in Schools:** Focused on reproductive health, sexual health, academic support, and motivational systems to encourage girls to remain in school.
2. **Vocational Education for Teenage Mothers:** Designed to equip young mothers with skills and access to microloans to start small businesses, including in farming, addressing both the significant rise in teenage pregnancies and the economic challenges faced by these mothers and their children.

These initiatives, spearheaded by our Girls' Education Field Leaders Cohort in the North West, will act as the frontline of our efforts in the region, providing crucial support to the girls who need it most.

If you are interested in assisting girls in this crisis-affected region, please consider donating to Educate Young Girls.

FACES OF OUR GIRLS' EDUCATION FIELD LEADERS – NORTH WEST



EDUCATION: 70 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



In Cameroon, millions of girls are being left behind. According to UNICEF, 70% of girls in Cameroon are illiterate, and research by the Malala Fund indicates **that 8 out of 10 girls in the country do not complete secondary school**. A major contributor to this high dropout rate is poverty, including the inability of families to afford tuition fees, school materials, and other related costs

This year, Educate Young Girls helped change that story. Through the generosity of our supporters, **we provided 70 students with full tuition scholarships, along with backpacks, notebooks, and essential school materials**. For girls living in vulnerable rural communities and difficult family situations, these resources meant more than school supplies: they meant hope, dignity, and the chance to build a different future.

We are deeply moved by the courage and determination of these girls who continue to show up, learn, and dream despite overwhelming challenges. None of this would be possible without the compassion of our donors and partners who believe that every girl deserves an education.

With just \$200, you can sponsor a girl's education for an entire year. Your support keeps girls in school, strengthens families, and helps transform communities, one girl at a time.



CLARISSE'S STORY



"I really want to say thank you to the organization and the founder for paying my school fees and supporting me. I also want to promise her that this year I will work extra hard in school and aim for a score above 14/20 so that next year, I can earn another scholarship!" - **Ambali Clarisse**

LEA'S STORY



"My name is Lea, and I have benefited greatly from Educate Young Girls. They paid my tuition fees and my examination fees for the GCE A-Level high school exam, and they also provided me with books and school materials. During the scholarship ceremony, I learned that girls' education should be a priority and that, as a girl, I have great potential to contribute to the world. I am deeply grateful for the support and consideration shown to underprivileged girls like me."

ADVOCACY: 2 YOUTH-LED CAMPAIGNS

Youth Day Campaign Reached 500+ Students

In the week leading up to February 11th, our incredible student mentors organized a powerful community-wide campaign across three schools in Nkondjock community. The week culminated in a grand march and vibrant community event on February 11th. Together, **they reached over 500 students with life-changing conversations around health, teenage pregnancy, rights, and safety.**



Nationwide Impact on Unity Day

On May 20, our peer mentors took center stage during Unity Day celebrations, leading bold, public advocacy for girls' reproductive health and dignity, amplifying their message on a national platform. They raised their voices to public officials, community leaders, and neighbors alike, calling for action, awareness, and lasting change.



North Carolina Talk Recap

This June, our founder shared our mission with a new audience at a retirement center in North Carolina, where 70 attendees learned about our work and its impact. It was a moving opportunity to connect across generations and build support for girls' education. Have a community you'd like us to speak to? We'd love to join you—just invite us!



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

52 TEENAGE MOTHERS EMPOWERED

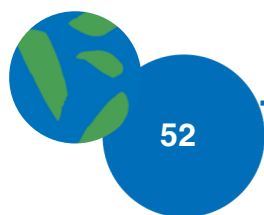


This year, Educate Young Girls' Vocational Education Program empowered 52 teenage mothers to take charge of their futures. **In Cameroon, 24% of girls become teenage mothers, over half drop out of school, and 65% live on less than \$1 a day.** Our one-year program provides a lifeline, teaching agricultural skills, literacy, financial management, reproductive health, and entrepreneurship.



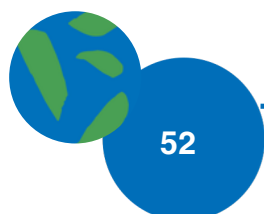
In 2025, we focused on high-potential fields - crop, poultry, and pig farming - while providing guidance, microgrants, and microloans of \$300 per participant to launch their own small businesses.

By September, all graduates had launched their ventures: 27 in pig farming, 19 in poultry, and 6 in crop farming. Today, they are proud business owners, building financial independence and inspiring their communities, proving that with opportunity and support, teenage mothers can achieve remarkable success.



52

52 teenage mothers empowered



52

27 pig, 19 poultry, 6 crop farming ventures launched



\$15,600

\$15,600 in microgrants and loans provided



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION – PHOTO JOURNEY



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: 310 NEW PEER MENTORS TRAINED

Teenage pregnancy remains a major barrier to education in Cameroon, with 1 in 4 girls becoming pregnant before the age of 18, often due to a lack of accurate information on sexual and reproductive health. To address this, Educate Young Girls runs an innovative Reproductive Health Education program that equips young people with knowledge and confidence, using a peer-mentorship model to train and empower them.



In 2025, Educate Young Girls trained 310 students as peer mentors in Sohock, alongside 15 teachers and school nurses, equipping them to lead open, non-shaming conversations about reproductive health. The program culminated in a community-wide event bringing together students from 11 communities and 6 schools. Combined with last year's 350 peer mentors and 25 teachers, **our program now has 660 active peer mentors.** Reaching an estimated **2,600 peers**, they are spreading critical knowledge across communities.



"Reproductive education empowers girls to prevent teenage pregnancies, stay in school, and complete their education."
- Glory Divine, Founder



GIRL CHARGE FELLOWSHIP: 130 GIRLS EMPOWERED

On July 19th, 2025, in partnership with local organizations, Educate Young Girls proudly co-hosted **the first edition of the Girl Charge Fellowship** in Bamenda, bringing together over 130 girls aged 15 to 24. This groundbreaking fellowship is a movement dedicated to helping girls stay in school and realize their full potential. **Through sessions on Professional Development, Personal Growth, Career Advancement, and Community Service, participants gained the skills, knowledge, and confidence to excel academically, envision their future careers, and become leaders in their communities.**

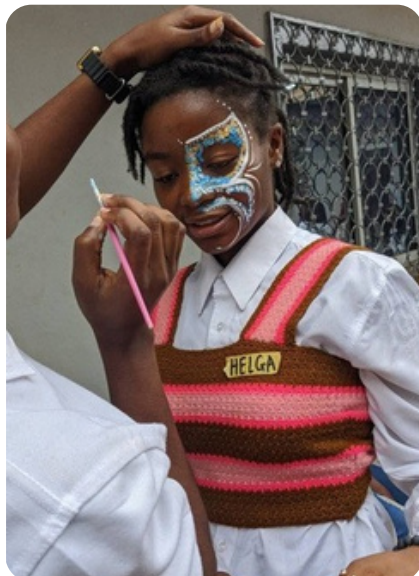


KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT INCLUDED:

- **Interactive Learning:** Activities like spoken word, icebreakers, and games built critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving, directly supporting academic success.
- **Expert Guidance:** Professionals shared insights on educational pathways and career planning, helping girls link their studies to future opportunities.
- **Exploration Booths:** Participants discovered new fields, programs, and career options, inspiring continued learning and ambition.
- **Community Building:** The event fostered networking, curiosity, and ambition, creating a supportive community of young girls committed to education and growth.



GIRL CHARGE FELLOWSHIP – PHOTO JOURNEY



HER-BLOOM CAREER FAIR 2025: 170 WOMEN AND GIRLS EDUCATED

On November 8th, 2025, in partnership with local organizations, **Educate Young Girls co-hosted the HerBloom Career Fair** at the University of Bamenda, bringing together **170 women and girls** from diverse backgrounds. The fair centered on education as the foundation for career success, helping participants understand how learning, skills development, and confidence open doors to professional opportunities.

Through expert talks, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, participants **gained practical insights into career pathways, leadership, technology, and personal development**. Girls and young women showcased their projects and ideas, received mentorship and feedback, and connected with role models who demonstrated how education can translate into meaningful careers.

By creating a space for learning, networking, and inspiration, the **HerBloom Career Fair strengthened girls' and women's confidence and motivation to pursue education**, develop their talents, and prepare for the workforce, reinforcing our mission to equip girls with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in and beyond the classroom.



HER BLOOM FAIR – PHOTO JOURNEY





LOOKING AHEAD

2025 marked important progress for Educate Young Girls, and as we move forward, we remain deeply committed to expanding our impact. The year ahead presents new opportunities to strengthen our programs and respond to the evolving needs of girls and young women in Cameroon. **We invite you to follow our journey as we share our goals and plans for the coming year.**

One of our key priorities for the next phase of our work in 2026 is **the creation of a safe Residential Education Center for teenage mothers**. Many young mothers in Cameroon are pushed out of their homes and left without support, often surviving on less than \$1 a day while caring for their children. Without stability, education, or income, rebuilding their lives becomes incredibly difficult.

This center is envisioned as a place of safety, learning, and renewal. It will provide housing for 50 teenage mothers each year, while offering literacy classes, financial skills, and practical **vocational training** to an additional 100 young mothers. Just as importantly, **it will create early learning opportunities for their children, supporting both mother and child** toward a stronger future. As we look ahead, our focus remains clear. We look forward to sharing more as this vision continues to take shape.



*As we look toward 2026, Educate Young Girls is preparing to expand its programs and respond to growing needs across our communities. **We invite partners and supporters to consider making a contribution to help sustain our operations and strengthen our impact in the year ahead.***





OUR TEAM

Glory Divine Yougang Tahon- Founder & Executive Manager

Ngo Ndjong Marie Brigitte - Senior Program & Finance Manager

Benjamin Nyoki - Training & program Coordinator

Pascaline Nembot- Reproductive Health program Officer

Timileyin Ayomide Benjamin - Website Developer

Bilong Daniel Alexis - Legal Compliance Officer

Carine Gaelle - Reproductive Health trainer

Jean Benga - Program Officer

Dorette Ngwatte: Program Officer



OUR ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Massa Civian

Janis Burger

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U.S.-BASED VOLUNTEERS

Jodi Lew-Smith

Christine Latini

Shelby Miller

Britney Akwan Sandra

Samuel Nkengla

Fokam Iris

Divine Kengne





GET INVOLVED

More than ever, this is the time to join us in making an impact at the local level. Every girl you reach through your support is one more girl saved and one more community uplifted. As a grassroots movement, we need your help - only with it can we continue to grow.

JOIN US IN HER JOURNEY

SUPPORT HER JOURNEY

Sponsor **secondary scholarships** and help write a new chapter in a girl's life.

INVEST IN HER FUTURE

Enable her to pursue **vocational education**, empowering her to attain financial independence.

ADVOCATE FOR HER

Contribute to our **awareness campaigns** and watch communities shift to accept and support girls' education.

Each contribution and effort brings us one step closer to a world where education powers our collective progress. Your involvement is essential. Regardless of the scale, every girl has the potential to achieve her dreams.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to continue your support for Educate Young Girls. To learn more, make a donation, or partner with Educate Young Girls, please contact us at info@educateyounggirls.org or visit the following site: educateyounggirls.org/donation.

ESTATE AND WORKPLACE GIFTS

Remember Educate Young Girls in your will or living trust, or leave a portion of your life insurance or retirement plan assets to us. We accept in-kind donations and corporate matching gifts. Contact us to learn more. Donations accepted by cash, card, check, and wire.

HOW TO SEND US A CHECK

We accept check donations. Please make the check payable to The Hack Foundation (EIN 81-2908499), which is our fiscal sponsor. In the memo or note section, **kindly indicate that the funds should be directed to Educate Young Girls.**

Here is the address for mailing the check:

The Hack Foundation
8605 Santa Monica Blvd #86294
West Hollywood, CA 90069



**THANK YOU
FOR A GREAT
2025 !!!**



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