

# Girls Education Mission International



# 2019

## Annual Report



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2019



## 2019: The Year of Possibilities!!

Girls Education Mission International

Executive Director  
Keturah Shammah



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Thank You

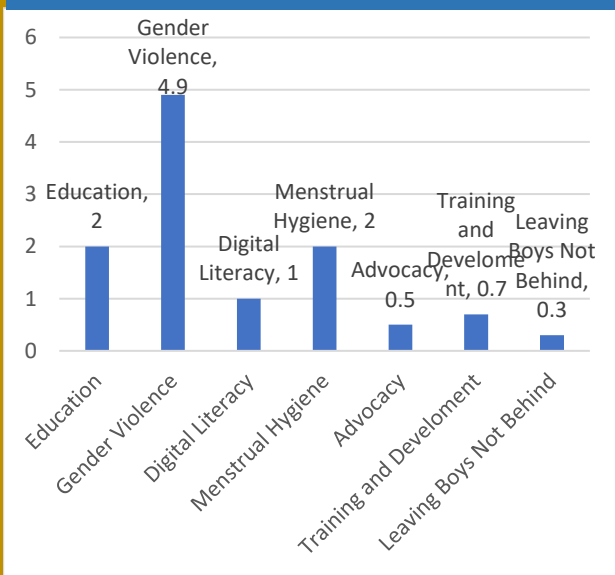
For me 2019, has truly been a year of Possibilities with so many plans, projects and dreams come true against initial doubt that made our plans seemed impossible.

When I first shared GEM 2019 goal to help 100 girls complete basic education and launch the #IamPossible - a self-advocacy campaign that will reach out to 5,000 persons. It seemed unrealistic to many and because of that, I didn't expect much. Yet, I knew deep within my heart that it is Possible.

From my personal experience of having had to overcome extreme barriers to achieve what seemed impossible, I had a strong believe that one of many proposals I submitted would successfully come and help. I knew that together with my amazing team we would create a lasting investment in the lives of young women and girls more than ever in the previous years.

2019 has come and gone leaving us with greater impact ever in the history of GEM. We had our "Girls Education Now or Never" and the "#IamPossible" Campaign projects fully funded by donor organizations. It was an intense year, we leave behind. Together we mobilized, inspired, and accelerated a global transformation. We created the most impactful global 16 days #IamPossible community outreach against gender violence with over 12,000 persons reached by 30 volunteers across 16 States of Nigerian including the FCT and in Freetown Sierra Leone. Although the challenges were many, the impact worth it. We were not only able to helped hundred girls complete secondary education. We have further mentored over 150 girls monthly with Free sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education and life skills sessions. It was indeed a year of possibilities. Thank you for making 2019 a credible year at Girls Education Mission International.

Persons Reached by Program





## WHO WE ARE?

We are Girls Education Mission International a global multi award winning nonprofit, non-governmental organization registered in Nigerian with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC/IT/No:45818). We are also registered with Special Control Unit Against Money Laundry (SCULM) of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission-EFCC (RN:SC 321400084). GEM has a special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



### Our Vision

Girls Education Mission International envisions to be a model non-profit, nongovernmental organization centered on equipping girls and transforming the society (W)Holistically.

### Our Mission

Girls Education Mission International is on a mission to breaking down barriers that hold girls back with a focused - on defending, protecting and promoting the rights of girls to education, health, technology and economic power and advocating for their opportunity to fulfil their potentials.



## OUR CONTEXT



Nigeria, Africa most populous country is home to the largest number of out-of-school children in the world. While education indicators are low across the continent, they continue to remain weakest in Nigeria. Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics (NDES) indicates that more than 10 million children are out-of-school and about 60% of these out-of-school children are girls. Furthermore, with a completion rate of 64%, 36% and 29% for girls in Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary school respectively, many girls who do enroll drop out early. In some northern states of Nigeria, only 22% of girls complete primary school, less than 33% cannot read a sentence and over half will be married by age 16. The widespread poverty in the continent makes it additionally difficult for parents to provide strong motivation for girls to pursue their education and be self-reliant. Consequently, female drop out syndrome, teenage pregnancy, early marriage, and economic dependency are rampant. There is high rate of immorality among the girls and gross violation of their human right to education and development.





# EDUCATION

Guided by the conviction that “Girls who missed out education as children often struggle to lead a strong, healthy, empowered and productive lives as adult(wives/mothers)”. Our Education effort is intensified to enhance awareness and mobilize broad support to eliminating factors that hinders girls’ access to safe, free, and quality education.

## Girls Education Now or Never



With funding from the TY Danjuma Foundation, in 2019, our Education effort was focused on payment of WACE/NECO and school fees to vulnerable children of Senior Secondary School (SSS3) and Junior Secondary School (JSS3). The beneficiaries were drawn from the internally displaced communities with high impact of violent attacks. The payment of the fees has ensured completion of Junior and Senior Secondary education of the beneficiaries in the 2018/2019 academic session. The scholars were selected from 25 public and private schools across the project communities. The project saw a great impact in the life of the beneficiaries whom without the financial support, their years of been in school would be a waste. The project was a hope to those at-risked of dropping-out-of-school. Eliza is an

orphaned teenage girl and mother whom we met selling snacks and drinks in the school where she dropped out because she became pregnant and was unable to pay for her school fees and WAEC. She said, “Going back to school and completing was to me a dream come true. You came unexpectedly to change my life for better at the time I thought all hope was gone.....”.



Payment of School fees/NECO and WAEC for school girls

GIRLS EDUCATION MISSION INTERNATIONAL WAS TOP-RATED NONPROFIT FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> TIME IN A ROW

NEWS FLASH





## TECHNOLOGY

The most common question asked by young women and girls is, how do I have timely and easy access to information and opportunity about Education, Job opportunity, Agriculture and Health? Girls Education Mission International provides mentoring support and practical digital literacy as essential tool for further learning, empowerment and civic engagement among young women and girls.

### Digital Balance 4 Better

In order to equip young women and girls with digital skills to leverage the power of technology to reach potentials and advocate more for respect for human rights to development for women and girls, we conduct Various digital skills training workshops for young women and girls of various backgrounds. Participants are exposed to resources, tools and platforms useful for their personal, professional and economic development. It was a beyond expectation experience in 2019 for both GEM and the beneficiaries. The interesting part of the training was that 90% of the



Girls expressing joy for -touching a computer for the time during GEM training

women and girls we trained had our program as opportunity to touch and use computers for the first time ever in their lives. According to Kadija - SS2 Student in one of the schools we conducted computer training, *"I used to be afraid of computers, anytime I see people using computer from either a far or on the screen, I use to think it's a magic until today. Today's' experience will linger in my heart because I believe it to be the beginning of breakthrough in my life"*. On the other hand, 75% of our digital literacy trainees have since gone ahead utilizing more effectively technology tools to advertise and recruit customers for their businesses, while some were able to explore job opportunities. The most exciting news is that some of the beneficiaries of the programs have more interest in STEM Education now than ever. We have some of our trainees who have gone ahead to further their education in computer and have since pursue and established carriers in technology industry.



# LIVELIHOOD

Young women and girls require profitable skills set for them to become economic independent. Girls Education Mission International build specific entrepreneurship skill through vocational trainings and other forms of support that enhances young women and girls’ chances to succeed by starting a new business venture or expand an existing one.

## Vocational Skill Acquisition



Training session on Liquid detergents and disinfectants

In commemoration of International Day of the Girl Child, we organized a skill acquisition training for young women and girls including few of their male counterparts. They were trained on various marketable skills like Liquid detergents, Disinfectants, and Baking. Considering that most of the girls who were just finishing secondary school, may not have the opportunity to transit to higher institutions, Girls Education Mission International’ skills acquisition program is focused on providing transitional marketable skills for underprivileged young women and girls for possible business ventures to enable them keep life busy and raise funds for their education as they await admission to higher level of education. We were able to reach out to young women from rural communities that the need for economic empowerment

is high. It is encouraging that we have some of the participants using the skills learned to start businesses and earning some income to meet basic needs and help others. One of the participants said, *“The training has not only provided me with access to marketable skills, it has also helped reduce my family expenses. With the skills learned, I no longer pay for Soap, Izal or for Baking of cake because I now have what it takes to make it myself. For this I say thank you GEM for making me an economically empowered woman.”*

### News Flash

**GEM is 2019 Vetted, Top-Ranked \$ Effective Organisation**



**Two Youth Corps Members joins GEM Team for one-year National Youth Service**





## GENDER VIOLENCE

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) or Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Girls Education Mission International work to transform attitudes towards girls and women that perpetuate violence against them.

### SPEAK!

Girls Education Mission International was one of the CVICUS 2019 SPEAK champions responsible for mobilizing and coordinating events in Nigeria for the global day of action to deal with social issues affecting the society and propelling solutions. Considering such great opportunity, we hosted an event on the theme “**SPEAK #I am Possible against Gender Violence**”. This event brought participants comprising grassroots girls, mentors, boys, civil society actors as well elected leaders and the media in a safe and comfortable environment. The girls got to share their concerns, burdens, fears and hopes for the future as well as how the elected leaders and their male counterparts (the boys) can be part of their successful future by ensuring girls rights are been protected, defended and promoted. Issues affecting girl-child such as child marriage, school dropout, sexual assault,



Cross section of participants at SPEAK Campaign event

teenage pregnancy among many others were discussed with possible solutions recommended. The girls were inspired by the event speakers to SPEAK Possibilities for their conscious against any form of gender-based barriers that stand as threat to their future while the boys were challenged to support girls in their endeavors. There was a unanimous agreement for all to work together to ensure the future for girls is possible and sustainable. For the 93% of the participants, it was a life changing experience. Jessica, one of the Participants said: “SPEAK was an impactful program that I can’t afford sharing it with others. Thanks to GEM for the opportunity to participate”.

### #IamPossible!



I am Possible Campaign with school girls

In commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, Girls Education Mission international formally launched its self-advocacy campaign known as **#IamPossible**. The campaign which was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> November (Day of No Violence) marked the kickstart of GEM 16 days community outreach against gender violence with practical #OrangeTheWorld activities. Towards maximizing the #16days of activism period, GEM have mobilized, inspired and accelerated public awareness about Gender Violence by creating the most Impactful 16days community outreach ever with over 12,000 persons reached by 28 Volunteers across 16 states of Nigeria including the FCT and in Freetown Region, Sierra Leone, We have worked hard to bring value to the campaign volunteers

for their passion, interest, and hard work to carry out the I am Possible community outreach against gender violence. We provided them with trainings, campaign materials and recommendation and recognition letters. We bring visibility to their works at various local and global online platforms that added more value to their effort.

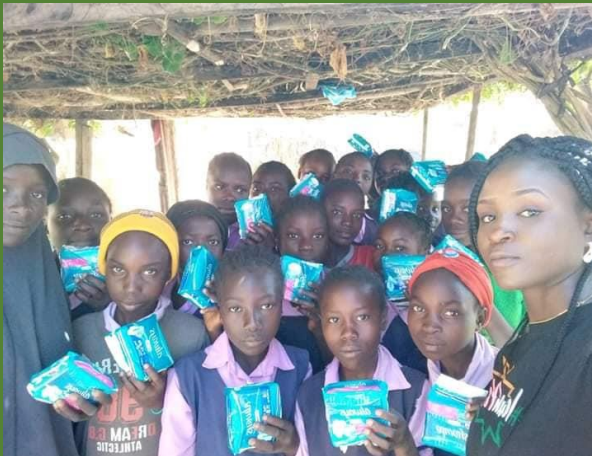




## MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Menstruation can affect all aspect of girls' life including her Education, Economics, Health, Dignity and Participation. Girls Education Mission International distribute menstrual hygiene products in schools and communities and teach girls how to manage their periods so they feel confident, stay and complete school with dignity.

### FREE Sanitary Pads



GEM menstrual hygiene education sessions and sanitary product distribution

Our innovative menstrual health and hygiene solutions drives change through sanitary product distribution and education. Drawn from the believe that, if we can overcome menstrual barriers, we are one step closer to our goal of ensuring girls reach their full potentials. In 2019, we were able to reach out to over 150 in-and-out-of-school girls through monthly distribution of free sanitary products and menstrual hygiene education sessions in affected rural communities. We centered on education as key to breaking menstrual barriers, addressing taboos, and improving menstrual health hygiene among young women. We have recorded transformational impact on the health and wellbeing of women and girls we serve. One our impact stories reads; *"I must confess that this is the first time in my life having access to hygienic sanitary product such as this. For the past 10 years of my menstruation, I have been using rags. Getting to be part of GEM program is the best thing ever in my life which I remain grateful".*

GEM  
Executive Director  
named  
World Pulse  
Digital Ambassador



2019 AMBASSADOR



Keturah  
Shammah  
Nigeria



## ADVOCACY

We promote the cause of the uplift of girls by influencing and interrogating public policies and resources allocation decision within political, traditional, social, economics, and religious leadership.

### Public Policy



As part of our continued effort to interrogating public policies, Girls Education Mission International since 2016 have been part of the Federal Government Budget process through participation in Public hearings related to budgeting. Our representation has granted us opportunity to make oral and written submissions advocating for proper allocation of resources toward women and girls' development programs. We were able use the platforms to raise observations of underbudgeting on women and girls related programs which we consider a form of gender discrimination. Our participation provided us a great opportunity to speak one-on-one with the relevant Ministers including the Ministers of Finance, Education and Information and Special adviser to the President on Fiscal Policy. We also submitted memos against the bills by the law makers at the National Assembly that are against the development of women and girls. Our submission together with other civil society groups have helped prevented anti-woman development bills from passing into law.



GEM Executive Director with Minister of Finance, Budgeting and National Planning



GEM Executive Director with Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture



# TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training is a transformative process of providing knowledge, techniques, and tools to develop skills and change in attitudes and behaviors. Girls Education Mission International develop and strengthen skills of individual people, community organizations, and institutions to promote growth and providing highly personal and professional skills and competence needed as linked to immediate task.

## Staff Capacity Building

Capacity building & development is an integral element strategy for skill building and continual empowerment and productivity. In 2019, we engaged more in training of our Staff through regular in-house and on-the job training sessions which have broadened and increased substantially of our employees' opportunities for career development within and outside Girls Education Mission International.



GEM Executive Director receiving certificate of completion at Lagos Business School

## Professional Training

Towards efficiency and effective management of Girls Education Mission International, our Executive Director in 2019 earned a professional certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management at the Lagos Business School Pan-Atlantic University. Three staff of the organization have participated in a learning training project organized and facilitated by TY Danjuma Foundation for its grantees. Topics covered during the training includes Project management, Financial Internal controls and Project Monitoring and Evaluation.



GEM Personnel capacity building training sessions



## SOCIAL INCLUSION

Boys/Men are integral stakeholders  
in Girls/Women development.

### Leaving Not Boys Behind



Mentoring sessions with the boys by GEM Male mentors

Because male counterparts are also factoring girls' development, Girls Education Mission International has launched the #LeaveNoBoysBehind program that encourages the inclusion of boys as key stakeholders in the development of girls. We engaged the boys in our various programs and bringing them on platforms to discuss relevant issues towards ensuring successful life and building brighter future for both the boys and the girls having the boys as advocacy team player with the girls. The boys were also part of our mentoring programs led by our male volunteer mentors. They were thought how to respect the right of girls to sexuality as well as other human rights. One of the boys

during the one of the mentoring sessions confessed that he has never though in his life he has a critical role to play in the development of the girl child. He said *"I was raised in a family that respect for females is not the norm. I used to believe that the female child has no bearing in the family lineage. I thank God that my encounter with GEM has opened the eyes of my heart and conscious to recognize the significant role a girl child has not just in the family but in the society at large. This has really shaped my perspective and attitude towards girls and women generally"*.

#### News Flash

Itswell is one of GEM pioneer girls who maximised the limited support received from GEM to stand against obstacles through self advocacy, resilience, determination and dedication. She earned a bachelors degree in Education and have secured a job with her state government. As a classroom teacher, she is committed to mentoring girls in the school where she works. She hold weekly mentoring sessions with the girls to discuss various girls - related issues. Out of her income, Itswell purchases and distributes sanitary pads to the girls in critical need.

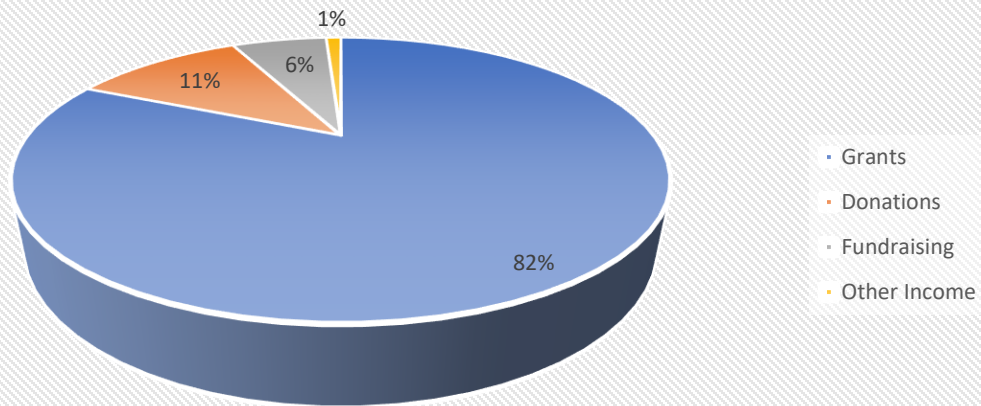




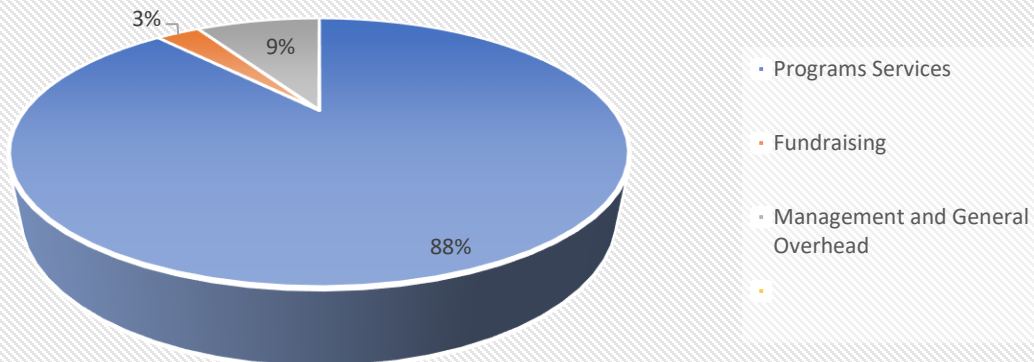
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We maintain high level of transparency in our management of financial resources and run a robust auditing system and financial controls to effectively steward the funds entrusted to us by our funders, partners, and donors. Since our founding, our financial stewardship effort have led to 5 years of clean financial audits and the highest rating of four stars with top-rated/top-ranked status from GreatNonprofits and Globalgiving . We have an excellent track record of using our funds efficiently. In 2019 78% of every fund we received and spent went directly to support GEM Programs and causes. We are accountable first and foremost to our target group. GEM upholds the highest standard of governance in how we carry out our work.

Summary Income



Summary of Expenditure





## OUR PARTNERS



**Thank you**  
**For making 2019**  
**a Credible Year!!!**

## Connect

With us

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