

# **Annual Report** 2021-2022 Year 6

Supplying Today-Securing Tomorrow



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2021-2022 **Annual Report** 



**ScholarShop Africa** 

ScholarShop breaks the mold of developmental models by creating Afripreneurs with its innovative conditional supply transfer model (CST). From the beginning, our team sought out unique ways to disrupt traditional development styles of simply donating an education. in turn, creating dependency. Thus, with our CST model we empower our students and forge a new generation of socially conscious, entrepreneurial scholars. The students not only learn basic business practices, but through community service, academic improvement, and healthy lifestyle choices earn "ScholarDollars" redeemable for school supplies. Many of these supplies otherwise would not be accessible. Throughout the course, our students learn success is not gained individually, but communally; thus, ScholarShop has a future of students preparing to lead the next generation by in turn giving back.

Beginning with a phenomenal pilot program in 2015, navigating a countrywide crisis, and the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic it has truly been an honor to engage and teach nearly 1000 students, whom volunteered more than 750 hours and earned more than \$75,000 in school supplies. I must also give credit to the other co-founders; Lauren Bernstein, Andrew Bloch, Sean Gray, and Buba Dicko as ScholarShop would not have succeeded without their guidance.

From the beginning, I always stated in regards to ScholarShop and development work in general: "One should work themselves out of a job. What are you truly developing if you make it a career?" Along with the board's approval, it is with tears in my eyes that I take my own advice. I am stepping aside as the Director of ScholarShop Africa, remaining as an advisor, and handing over the role to Mr. Buba Dicko, a respected Cameroonian Leader. Under his leadership I am eager and excited to see the trajectory and direction of the program!

Mr. Dicko has been with ScholarShop since the infancy stages and the CST model would not be possible without him. He assisted in making it culturally appropriate as well as efficient for Cameroonian norms. His desire for education and international development led him to Clark University on a scholarship where he graduated with a master's degree in international development specializing in program monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL). Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr. Dicko graduated in three semesters with a 3.82 GPA. Upon graduation he accepted an offer with Malala Fund working as their Research and Learning officer. I have zero hesitancy at the direction he will push ScholarShop while gaining new heights.

Assisting Mr. Dicko and being a key implementer of the program is Ernestine Kom. As a cause of the crisis she suffered the fate of many and relocated her family from the English zone to French speaking zone of Cameroon. Two years later she lost her job as an educator due to the pandemic, but continued moving forward, volunteering with internally displaced persons and youth (IDPs) assisting with ScholarShop. More than 2 million people suffered the same fate as Mrs. Kom having to flee the crisis and move to another area of the country. This forced us to halt ScholarShop for a year. Her drive and continued perseverance, help from The Bill Cook Foundation, and donors like you we were able to restart ScholarShop in 2021 with 100 students for year 6 of the program. We cannot thank you enough!

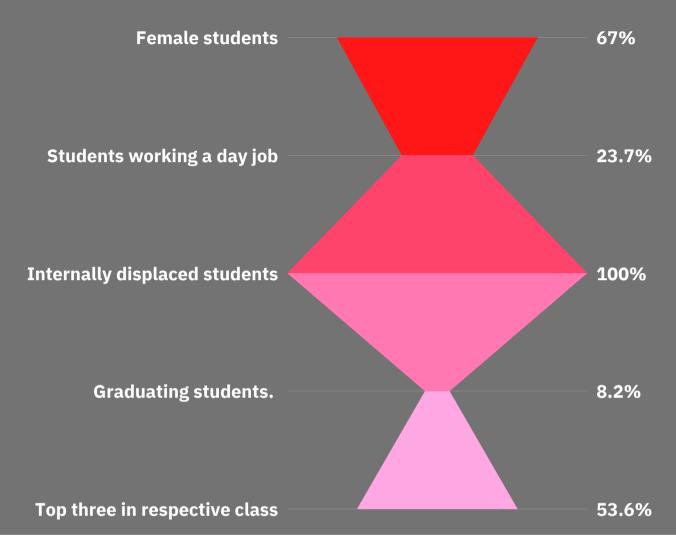
It has really been a great honor leading ScholarShop Africa for the past seven years. When starting we had a goal in our 5 year plan for a local citizen to lead the program ie; as previously stated, work ourselves out of a job. With Buba obtaining his MEL degree and Ernestine working on the ground during the pandemic/crisis there is not a better or more knowledgeable duo to lead ScholarShop Africa. Myself and the rest of the team, will proudly cheer them on while watching them thrive and continue growing this organization into one of the most successful student entrepreneur programs in the world!

However, the work is not done. Due to the ongoing crisis and violence in the two English-speaking region in Cameroon all of ScholarShop's students are internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing to the French speaking zones of Cameroon. As millions of Anglophones fled their homes to Francophone regions one of the largest problems is attending and English speaking school as there are very few, they are over capacity, expensive, and lack the proper number of resources for a proper education. Although I am stepping down I trust that ScholarShop will continue to thrive under the hands of Buba and Ernestine. The work is not done and we hope you continue to be generous, loyal donors to help forge the next generation of socially, entrepreneurial scholars.

so your donations are tax deductible. Please consult with your tax advisor. Thank-you for all of your support!



#### ScholarShop at a Glance



#### **Quick Snapshot**

- **67% of students are females-** girls suffer most due to their vulnerability as IDPs.
- ~1/4 of the students attend evening school
   Many need to work during the day to help support the household.
- 8 out of a possible 8 students graduated.
   Three of them have been with SS since its initial pilot program.
- <u>Only 3</u> students dropped out of school this year despite the hardship they face as IDPs

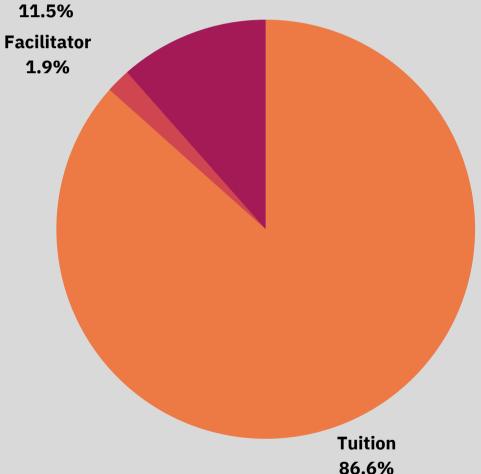
#### **Key Successes**

- Students success rate is 99% overall this academic year.
- SS students took the overall top two positions in THREE of the Nine schools.
- 3 students finished professional training with promising prospects in the job market.
- 90% of ALL Donations go to on the ground support.



## **Allocation of Funds**

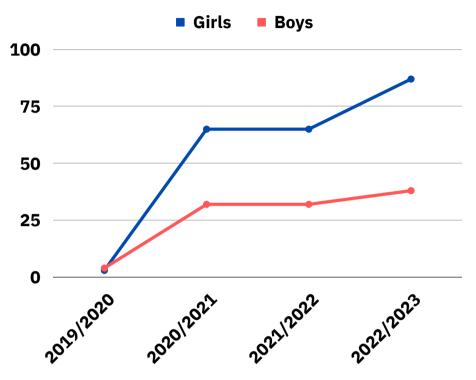




- Over 98% of our funding goes directly to students tuition, rent, food allowance
- Because we prioritize our students, less than 2% of our budget goes to overhead cost. (students' follow up & facilitator stipends)



#### **Students By Gender**





According to World Bank data, Cameroon's gender inequality index grew from 0.59 in 2006 to 0.69 in 2021. By June 2019, there were over 600,000 out of school children deprived of their education with 80% of schools closed in the Anglophone regions of the country (UNICEF). This situation has led to far reaching social and economic issues for different segments of society leading to families only sending their male children to schools. The Anglophone crisis worsen an already bad gender gap situation in Cameroon. There is a strong need to reinforce more targeted response for women and girls. ScholarShop recognizes this and has maintained steady sensitivity to intersectional planning and girls education. Girls form the majority of our students who work menial jobs during the day and only attend school late into the evening.



- Over the last three years, ScholarShop has a steady increase of both female and males intake with female numbers almost doubling every year.
- ScholarShop plans to keep this momentum and continue to support in closing the gender gap in education
- ScholarShop plans to increase students by 25% for the 2022 Academic year.

Donate TODAY! Please help ScholarShop continue reaching IDP's and the most vulnerable students throughout Cameroon. All of the successes could not have been possible without YOUR Contribution.



#### ScholarShop Africa

## **Testimonial- Kang Christabel**

I am KANG CHRISTABEL EKIAH, a 25 year old Cameroonian woman from the Northwest Region, Menchum Division and Wum Sub Division to be precise. I became an orphan at 10 when my mom passed and I went to live with my grandmother. I am the eldest with 4 siblings looking up to me so I had to work hard. After High school, my uncle helped support my education at a professional school where I obtained a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Banking and Finance. Unfortunately for me, the Anglophone crisis broke out and I had to move back to the village and live with my grandma because of attacks on my school. The EASI program was still happening with LITC and ScholarShop and I enrolled in the ICT program to study basic computer Microsoft Word and Excel.



As the crisis intensified, I had to flee the village where I moved to a safer/French part of the country, Douala, to stay with my uncle. I did not speak French and I was not the only relative that moved in to the house. With my Uncle, Aunt, cousins and other relatives we were 13 living in a 4 bedroom house. This made me give up on my dream of ever going back to school and being the high-profile banker I always dreamed of. There were no means for me to financially go back to school. I began selling shoes, trinkets, and clothes in the market and as all the little money made from selling went to support the household. Yet, God being so kind, ScholarShop continued helping IDP's and thanks to Bill Cook Foundation my dreams came back to life. I was enrolled into a degree program in a reputable institution (University Institute of the Gulf of Guinea) where I studied for a year and obtained a degree in Banking and Finance.



Top: Christabel defending her thesis in front of a panel.

Bottom: Ernestine and Christabel posing for a picture when Christabel

examination.

found out she passed her oral

The program really has helped me along my journey to become a banker. It rekindled the once burning flames of schooling in me. I could already envisage a changed banking society influenced by me with my fresh knowledge. The past few years life hasn't been easy, but we thank God for being faithful to his promises. Thus, I want to say a very Big thank you to Mr. Jacob Moore and his team, and the donors for all they've done for me as they didn't only take care of my school fee but every other expense that came along with going to school. May God bless them in all they do.

I am now a professional degree holder and will resort to get into the banking job market. My aspirations are to go in for a master's program some day to acquire more knowledge in my field and become a head banker. Thank you all for your generosity.

If you would like to help Cameroon students realize their dreams like Christabel after being affected by covid and the anglophone crisis please visit **www.scholarshopafrica.org/give**.

## **Become A Change-maker! Donate Today!**

ScholarShop Africa is a registered 501(c)3 and all donations are tax-deductible.

scholarshopafrica.org/give



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## **Stay Connected**

We love communicating our program with anyone who is interested! We are open to questions please feel free to reach out!

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