



GIVE GIRLS
A CHANCE
Educate. Mentor. Empower

P.O Box 2268 Garki, Abuja - Nigeria | Mobile: +234-701-537-0722 | info@givegirlsachanceng.org

GIVE GIRLS A CHANCE Essay Competition for Young Nigerian Girls 2022

Application Deadline: November 15, 2022

Problem Statement: *With close to 20 million children out-of-school, the crisis in the education sector in Nigeria is worsening, foreshadowing a bleak future for Nigerian children, particularly girls.*

"The Education system in Nigeria has sadly become a shadow of itself and is currently subsumed under a divisive preference for quantity over quality, visibility over impact, and aggregation over clustering.

The UNICEF says that "In Nigeria, only 61% of children of primary school age attend school and the percentage is lower in the North. It is worse for the female child in the North of the country, where only about 40% are registered in school. "In addition, "A full one-third of Nigerian children are not in school, and one in five out-of-school children in the world is Nigerian."

In 2021, 5.6 percent (N742.5 billion) of a budget of N13.6 trillion was apportioned to the sector, and finally in the current fiscal year, of Nigeria's 2022 total budget of N17.13 trillion, only a paltry 7.2 percent has been allocated to the education sector, a rise from the previous year."

Source: *Re-thinking the future of education in Nigeria (2022)* Available at: <https://businessday.ng/insight-2/article/re-thinking-the-future-of-education-in-nigeria/>

Essay Question: Assuming the position of a concerned Nigerian citizen, discuss the reasons why Nigeria must act now to reversing the growing trend of out-of-school children and what steps could be taken – by the government, private sector, and civil society – to reverse this trend.

Eligible Countries: Nigeria

About the Award: The Give Girls A Chance Essay Competition is implemented as part of the Give Girls A Chance Foundations effort aimed at increasing access to quality education for the Nigerian girl child. The goal of this Competition is to give young Nigerian girls the opportunity to develop constructive and innovative ideas to address existing development challenges in Nigeria. The sixth edition, this competition aims to

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  @ggac_ng  @givegirlsachanceng.org

support voice and agency of young Nigerian girls, whilst leveraging the ideas and innovations led by young people in tackling some of the challenges facing Nigeria.

The competition is open to Nigerian girls between the ages of 13-19 and invites the entrants to submit a 2,000-word essay in English addressing the question *"In your own words, make a case for why Nigerian – including the government and policymakers, private sector and civil society – must take action now to increase investments in education and secure the rights of all Nigerian children to a quality education."*

Type: Essay Contest

Eligibility:

- Nigerian girls between the ages of 13-19
- The essay must be written English and have up to 2,000 words
- Essays should be properly cited. Plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification

Selection: The Essay will be reviewed by a panel of independent judges. The panel will be evaluating all submissions according to three criteria:

- 1) the quality of your arguments
- 2) grammar and vocabulary, and
- 3) the overall flow of your essay

Number of Awardees: 3

Value of Competition: The essay competition offers recognition and financial awards.

- The best three essays will be published on the Give Girls A Chance website
- The author of the best essay will receive **50,000 Naira**. The second and third place winners will be awarded **35,000** and **20,000** Naira, respectively.

How to Apply: Please submit your essay to the following email address info@givegirlsachanceng.org by November 15, 2022. The finalists will be notified by December 15, 2022, and the awards will be presented virtually.

Award Provider: Give Girls A Chance Foundation