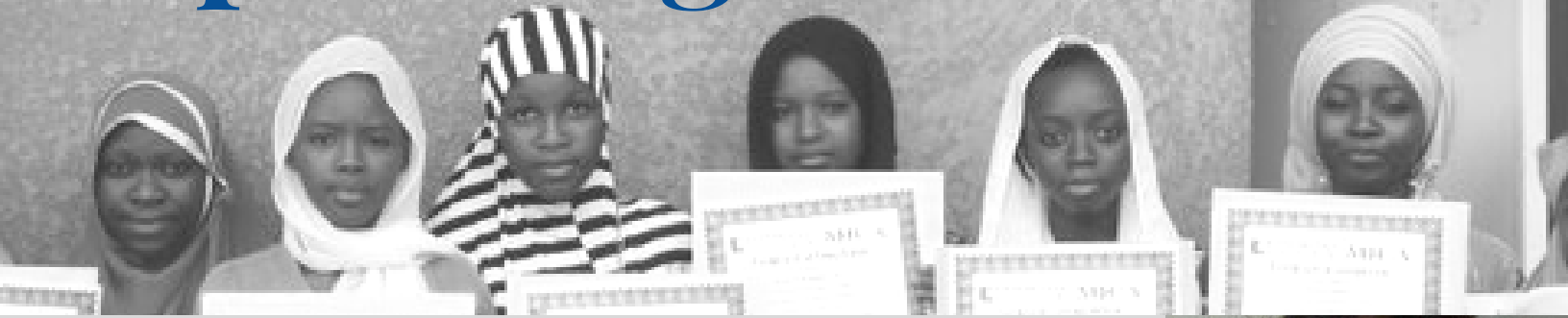


Expanding Lives



EXPANDING LIVES YOUNG GIRLS' CONFERENCES

March 8, [International Women's Day](#), is the perfect day to celebrate Expanding Lives' Young Girls' Conferences.

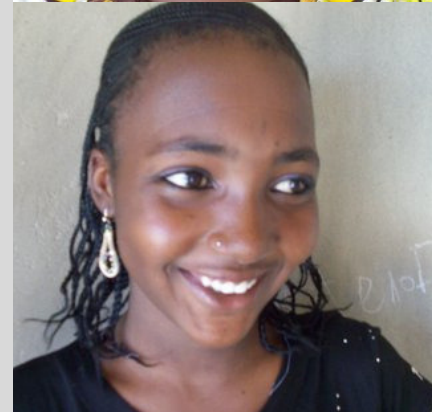
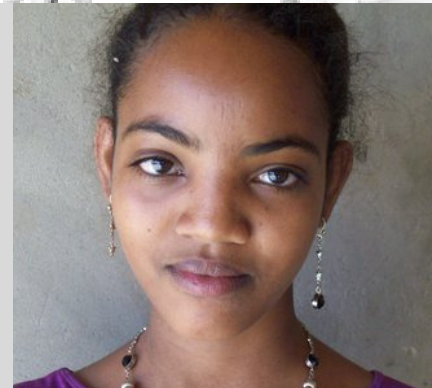
What is a Young Girls' Conference? It is a week-long workshop in physical welfare, leadership, and academics attended by 7th and 8th grade girls aged 12-15. Community leaders, usually men, attend the opening and closing sessions and show their support for the girls' success.

Who puts on the conference? Expanding Lives' leaders, the young women who have already attended the 6-week Chicago conferences, organize these local conferences. They meet with officials, determine the schedule, teach the courses, and act as role models for the younger girls both during and after the conference.

Why a conference for young girls? Fifty-eight (58) percent of girls in Niger are married by the age of 15, forcing them to drop out of school and limiting their potential. Our goal is for girls to end the conference with the skills, self-confidence, and support to stay in school as long as possible.

To date, about 200 girls in Niger and Benin have participated in the training. Many are now at university. With your support, our leaders can continue to help younger girls develop into strong, capable women.

Please consider sponsoring conference participation for one girl at the cost of \$125.





IN HER OWN WORDS

- Nafissa in Aguié, 2008 EL graduate

I have a very high opinion of the conferences that our group organizes in Niger. In part, they are a place for those of us who have been to Chicago to meet, exchange, and share experiences. In addition, they give us a forum to connect with younger girls from different localities.

I am responsible for teaching first aid health classes. This class is incredibly important, especially for girls from rural areas. If you look at the reality, a lot of people in Niger never visit a health center. And for those who do, they often wait until there are complications. So the notion of first aid motivates the girls to predict risks and complications of different circumstances. And in the day-to-day, they share what they know with their families. It helps to get people in to medical centers, and it helps to save lives.

Conferences help our leaders to gain experience and public recognition. To help ensure continuity in the opportunities we offer, please consider a monthly donation via our secure website.

<https://www.expandinglives.org/donate/>



Faysanne's Experience

I participated in the Young Girls' Conference in 2013 in Maradi. The English class gave me confidence to speak, and even now I do not have problems in English. I learned how to speak in public, to take the lead in a group, to solve disputes through peer mediation. Yoga taught me to take a break from my problems, and I still practice it. I am now a student at the University in Dosso.

Girls and their mentors stay in contact for years after the conference. A donation of just \$125 fosters this long-lasting relationship.



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