


2025



ANNUAL REPORT

Equipping Her Today, For Tomorrow

girlpro.org



Chiamaka Anyanwu, Girl Pro
Cohort 2023 graduated from
Babcock University with a BSc in
Computer Science (July 2025).

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Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the contributions of the underlisted persons who worked tirelessly to ensure we achieved the success recorded in 2025:

Board of Trustees

Bose Ironsi - Board Chairperson

Samuel Ikani - Vice Board Chair

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Joan Obeta - Member

Lola Ayanda – Founder and Secretary to the Board

Esteemed Mentors

Adesuwa Iluobe

Eghosa Gbadegesin

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Dr. Roseline Adewuyi

The Secretariat

Social Media Manager - Blessing Ejukwa

Communications Associate - Victoria

Toluwalaju Oluwatosin

Alumnae Engagement Lead - Cynthia Jatto

Facilitators

Kanyisola Diyan -Data Analyst, Syno International

Simileoluwa Ojolo -Data Analyst, Syno International

Charlotte Woart, Girl Pro Cohort 2024 graduated from Stella Maris University, Liberia with a BSc in Business Management (August 2025).



2025 PARTNERS



Your contributions, whether financial or through volunteering, made a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

About Us



WHO WE ARE

Girl Pro Development Initiative (Girl Pro Africa) is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to empowering female undergraduates and early-career professionals. Our mission is to enhance employability skills and prepare young women for careers, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Through fostering critical thinking, we aim to enable them to become global leaders and solutions architects.

We achieve this by providing transformative learning and development opportunities, including access to skilled mentors who offer guidance, advice, and psychosocial support to help students navigate university life and post-graduate challenges. Our commitment extends to creating a brighter and more equitable future for women by collaborating with stakeholders in the education and social development ecosystem to develop policies and programs that support young women's academic, personal, and professional aspirations.

MISSION

To unlock the potential of young African women by strengthening their employability, sharpening their critical thinking, and preparing them to build meaningful careers and innovative solutions for Africa and the world.

VISION

To cultivate a vibrant community where young women grow holistically and lead boldly, transforming their lives, their communities, and the future of the continent.

Our values are summed in the acronym LEAD:

Leadership,
Empathy,
Accountability,
Diligence.

Founder's Message



Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

Reflecting on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the resilience and determination of the young women we serve through Girl Pro Africa. This year has been one of **consolidation, learning, and deep reflection**. In a context where the **funding for youth and women's initiatives continues to shrink**, we have leaned into creativity, community, and the voices of our mentees to guide our path forward.

Across Africa, women now make up **over 52% of tertiary education enrollment**, yet challenges remain in translating these academic gains into equitable workforce participation. Research shows that while female undergraduates are entering universities in record numbers, **early-career women still face persistent barriers in pay, leadership opportunities, and access to technical fields such as STEM.**^{1 2} These realities underscore the urgency of our mission.

In 2025, Girl Pro Africa launched its **Career Accelerator Programme**, hosting a special webinar for African female undergraduates and early-career professionals. This event brought together participants from our last three cohorts, alongside other students and professionals, to explore **digital literacy, global career readiness, and mental health in the workplace**. The session was inspired by past cohort surveys, which revealed a strong desire for skills enhancement and community-building.

Our achievements this year highlight both impact and innovation:

- **Network of Support:** We prioritised building networks of support, recognising that mentorship is not only about skills but also about belonging.
- **Mental Health:** We integrated wellness check-ins and peer-support circles into our mentorship model, acknowledging that employability is inseparable from well-being. Five of our mentees who required specialised support were referred to and accessed services from a certified psychotherapist at Lighthouse Counselling Africa.
- **Global Workforce Readiness:** Through our [webinar](#) and sessions, mentees gained exposure to international career pathways, preparing them to thrive in a competitive global economy.
- **Learning from Mentees:** Their feedback shaped our pedagogy, leading us to incorporate more interactive learning tools, collaborative projects, and culturally relevant content, including movies and music.

Despite resource constraints, our commitment to **depth over numbers** remains unwavering. Each mentee's journey reminds us that transformation is not measured solely in statistics but in confidence gained, friendships formed, and futures envisioned.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are poised for strategic growth and strengthened resilience. Our programmes will continue to evolve, staying impactful and inclusive. Together, we're building communities of leaders who will shape Africa's solutions for years to come.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Your support fuels hope, courage, and possibility.

Nihinlola (Lola) Ayanda

[1] [Closing the Gap for Women in Education and Employment](#).

[2] [Women's participation in Higher Education in Southern Africa: A study of STEM, leadership and enrollment](#)

OUTCOME REPORT

Strengthening Our Roots, Deepening Our Impact

2025 marked a pivotal shift in Girl Pro Africa's journey. Unlike previous years where we onboarded a new cohort, this year we intentionally chose a different path, **to strengthen, deepen, and expand the impact of our past three cohorts.**

This strategic decision was rooted in our belief that transformation is not a one-off event but a continuous journey. By reinvesting in our alumnae, we created space for deeper learning, stronger community bonds, and more intentional career acceleration.

As part of this renewed focus, we hosted a **special Career Accelerator Webinar** designed for African female undergraduates and early-career professionals. The session brought together participants from Cohorts 2022, 2023, and 2024, alongside new learners seeking clarity, confidence, and community.

The webinar theme emerged directly from cohort surveys, which highlighted a strong desire for:

- Digital literacy
- Global career readiness
- Personal development
- Practical, actionable guidance

In response, we curated a session that delivered all of this, and more.

Our goals were to:

- Reinforce skills learned in previous years
- Provide updated career and personal development guidance
- Create space for alumnae to reflect, reset, and re-strategize
- Build stronger peer-to-peer support systems
- Offer targeted insights on global opportunities

This approach proved powerful. Participants described the experience as grounding, refreshing, and transformative.

“This conversation felt like a time to breathe and pick one's self again. It's comforting to have women in my corner...” - Kanyinsola Diyan



Key Outcomes

1. Strengthened Career Clarity and Goal Setting

Across all three cohorts, participants articulated clearer, more structured career goals for the next 12–24 months. Many set measurable, time-bound objectives across HR, data, cybersecurity, cloud engineering, communications, entrepreneurship, and public health.

2. Deepened Digital Literacy and Data Confidence

A major highlight of the 2025 programme was the Data & Analytics session, facilitated by a cohort alumna, an intentional move to showcase peer leadership and internal expertise. Participants described the session as eye-opening and empowering:

“The Skill Accelerator programme was an eye opener for me especially the data part... I did a little practical session personally and I got it.” - Blessing Ejukwa

This peer-led model strengthened confidence, built community trust, and demonstrated the power of women inspiring women.

3. Personal Development and Wellbeing Awareness

Participants engaged deeply with themes around self-care, emotional resilience, and personal growth. A books, films, and music shared during the programme sparked meaningful reflection on self-care and body awareness, emotional resilience, boundaries, self-worth, and adulthood pressures.

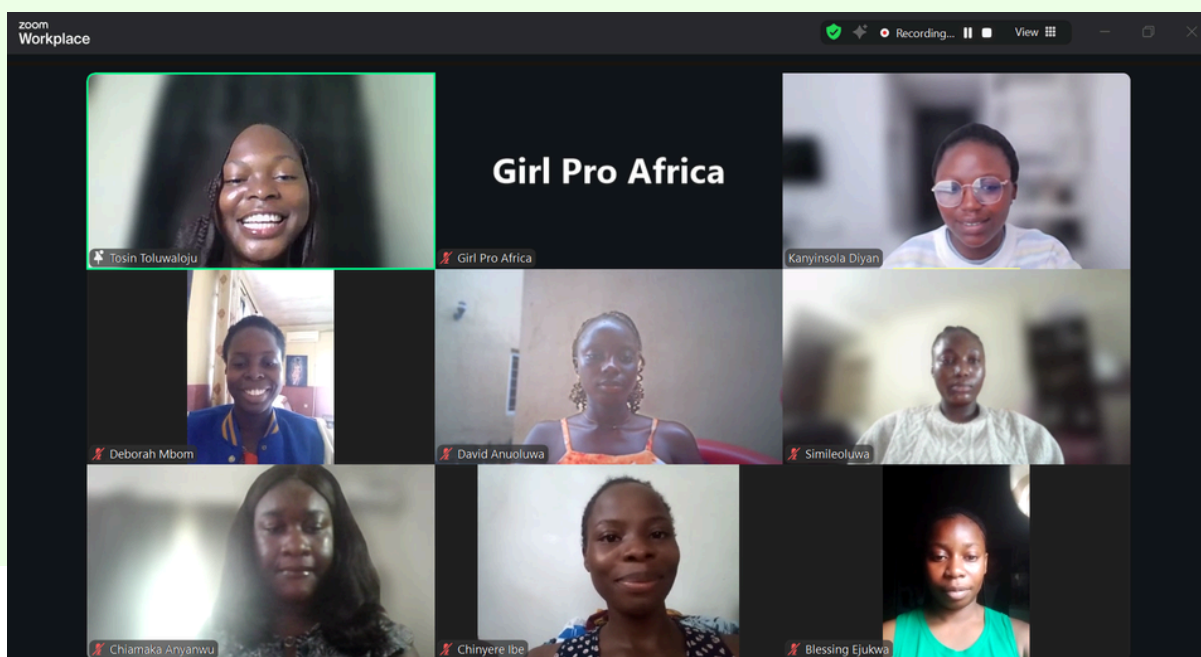
“The book *What a Young Woman Ought to Know* by Mary Wood-Allen is so timely... Chapters 1 to 10 are very eye-opening and I'm already putting some things into practice. Teni's song *Hustle* really captures how overwhelming adulthood can be... At the end of the day, I need to take care of myself first.... Today's conversation was everything! I'm now working towards having a pension account.” - Kanyinsola Diyan

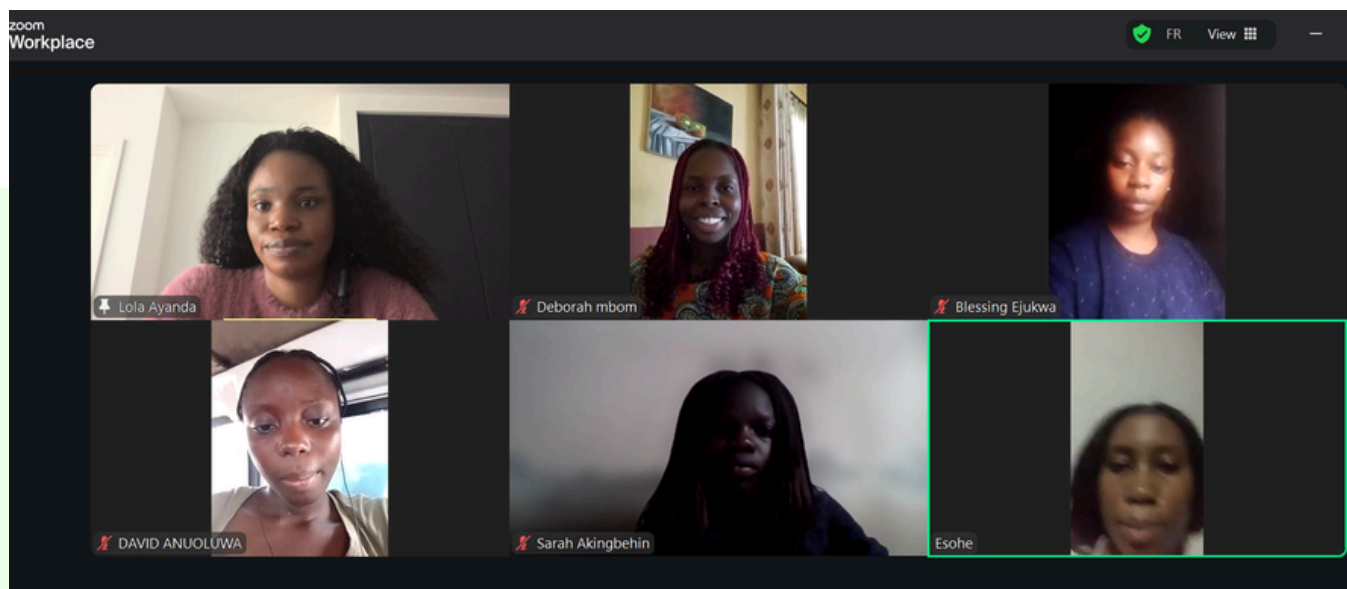
“Fly Girl by Queen Latifa... reminds me not to settle for less and have standards in a relationship.” - Chiamaka Anyanwu

These reflections show a community growing not only professionally but holistically.

4. Strengthened Community Bonds

One of the most profound outcomes of 2025 was the deepened sense of sisterhood. Participants expressed gratitude for a safe space where vulnerability, ambition, and shared experiences coexist.





5. Increased Global Mindset and Opportunity Awareness

The webinar's emphasis on global readiness resonated strongly.

"I loved the conversation on having a global mindset and also investing in myself." - Chiamaka Anyanwu

Participants left with renewed confidence to explore:

- International scholarships
- Global job markets
- Cross-border internships
- International conferences and fellowships

6. Entrepreneurial Growth and Business Development

Several alumnae outlined ambitious business goals:

- Anu David plans to open a walk-in bedding store in Ibadan and pursue an interior design course.
- Esohe Izibiri aims to expand her beauty business and gain new certifications.
- Victoria Toluwalaju is launching her NGO, *Impact Spring Africa*.

These goals reflect the programme's broader impact beyond careers, into enterprise, community development, and social impact.

Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

Our alumnae are stepping boldly into the future, with clear goals, stronger skills, and deeper community support. Many are preparing for graduate studies, international roles, scholarships, business expansion and community impact projects.

Girl Pro Africa will continue to walk alongside them, offering:

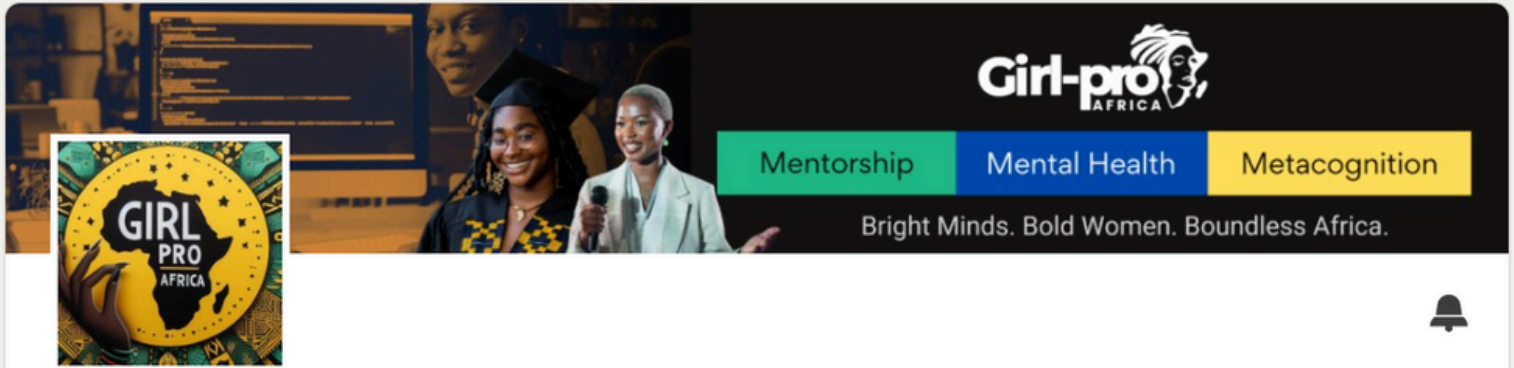
- Targeted skill-building
- Global opportunity pipelines
- Peer-led learning
- Mentorship
- Community support

Conclusion

2025 was a year of strengthening, grounding, and deepening impact. **Overall, our virtual sessions served 25 young women inclusive of 14 Alumnae.** By reinvesting in our past cohorts, we witnessed renewed confidence, clearer direction, and stronger community bonds. This peer-led model is now a core part of Girl Pro Africa's future strategy. In 2026 we will onboard more mentors and a new cohort of mentees, while strengthening our systems.

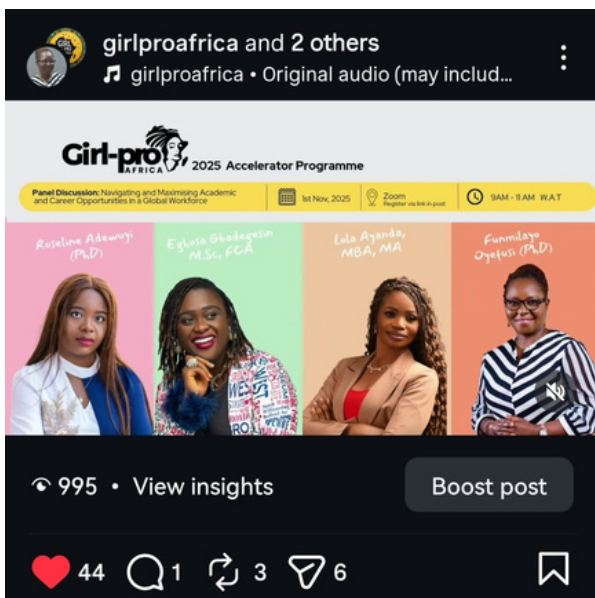
Girl Pro Feed: Best of 2025

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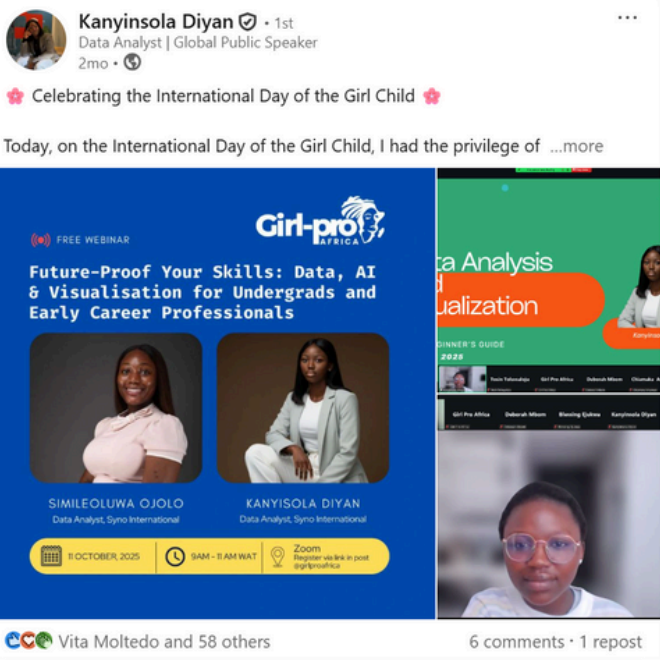
Girl Pro Africa

Africa's leading mentorship platform for female undergraduates and early career professionals



Roseline Adewuyi, Ph.D. • 1st
★ PhD in French Literature and Gender Studies, Purdue University, USA ★...
6mo • 📍

I am a proud mentor. My mentee **Victoria Toluwalaju** received the Kogi State Government Award as she concluded her NYSC, and it reminded me of when I also received the same award a few years ago after completing ...more



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39 comments • 3 reposts



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