At Clinton Global Initiative, Educate! Commits to Scaling to 35,000 Students in Two Years

Educate! was thrilled to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Annual Meeting this fall. Co-founder and Executive Director Boris Bulayev met with thought leaders dedicated to CGI’s mission to “Create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges.” Among the many outstanding organizations and leaders present was one of Educate!’s first scholars, Joseph Munyambanza, who is now the Co-founder and Education Director of COBURWAS, an organization unlocking educational opportunities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The success of students like Joseph demonstrates the need for Educate!’s model across Uganda and Africa. While at CGI we announced our commitment to scale Educate!’s transformational experience-based education model to reach 35,000 Ugandan high school students across 200 schools over the next two years. To uphold this commitment we will continue our work to restructure our model to optimize it for scale and build the capacity of partner schools to deliver Educate!’s coursework, mentoring, and enterprise development training. Hundreds of other organizations made similar commitments to expand and improve their work. Educate! is humbled to be a part of this outstanding group and to know that together we are creating a global movement for innovative solutions to the world’s greatest problems.

Two of Educate!’s First Scholars Recognized For Their Work to Improve the DRC

Benson Wereje was selected as a 2013 Echoing Green Fellow — one of 28 selected from over 2,800 applicants. He is also the first- ever Fellow from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Benson was chosen for his work as Co-founder and Executive Director of COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa (CIYOTA).

Those selected to receive Echoing Green’s world-renowned two- year Fellowship are some of the world’s most promising social entrepreneurs. Fellows receive significant seed funding to help launch and develop new organizations, access to Echoing Green’s...
network, leadership development opportunities and mentorship. Benson started CIYOTA as an Educate! Scholar in 2005. CIYOTA is a youth-led movement that unites and transforms communities to create sustainable peace and prosperity in the DRC.

In 1995 Benson’s village was attacked by rebels. He and his younger sister were separated from their parents and witnessed unthinkable bloodshed. They were two of just a few survivors to reach Uganda. Since 1998, the DRC has been torn apart by tribal wars —— it is the bloodiest conflict since World War II. Today there are over 450,000 refugees, two million internally displaced persons and 45,000 deaths each month. Refugees live in dire situations. They suffer from extreme poverty, lack of education, poor living conditions, and disease.

To help his homeland, Benson started CIYOTA, which unites youth to provide scholarships to refugees and empowers and educates young leaders to use nonviolence to solve tribal conflicts. To-date, CIYOTA has provided an education to over 500 youth and built a primary and nursery school that serve over 200 students each year.

CIYOTA has reached over 10,000 youth who are committed to the philosophy of peace in the DRC —— the graduates of CIYOTA’s schools are the future leaders of a peaceful DRC.

Benson attributes his experience at Educate! as his inspiration to start CIYOTA. “[Their] commitment has influenced my own work with youth in Uganda and the DRC to lead a movement for peace.”

Another early Educate! Scholar, Joseph Munyabanza, was recently named a 2013 MasterCard Foundation Scholar. The prestigious MasterCard program provides access to secondary and higher education for young people from economically disadvantaged communities who show academic talent, a potential to lead, and have demonstrated a commitment to improving their communities. Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the MasterCard Foundation, said she was inspired by Joseph’s initiative as well as his “resilience and indomitable spirit.”

Joseph’s resilience began at just 7 years old when he fled the violence of the DRC, and found himself a refugee in the Kyangwali camp in Uganda (the same camp as Benson Wereje). Despite many difficult years, when he was 14 years old, Joseph helped Benson start CIYOTA. Joseph then went on to win a scholarship and graduate from the African Leadership Academy in South Africa. Today, he is studying medicine at Westminster College in Pennsylvania, with dreams of making a difference in Africa.

Joseph notes that “As young African leaders, we need patience, but every day we must do what we can. I realized that waiting for others to solve my problems was not going to happen so I worked on my own solutions.”

Benson’s and Joseph’s accomplishments show the massive impact Educate! Scholars are capable of. Their work is an inspiration for current and future Educate! Scholars as they create transformational impact in their own communities.

**Educate! Graduate Wins the Tumaini Award!**

Nixon Ochatre was awarded the Tumaini Award for the organization he founded, the Amani Initiative Against Teenage Pregnancy & Early Marriage. The award recognizes individuals that make significant contributions to improve the lives of children in Uganda.

Amani is dedicated to improving the livelihoods of youth in rural communities by fighting to prevent teenage pregnancy and early marriage. Nixon believes he can prevent these trends by providing youth with family planning services and empowering them with entrepreneurial skills. For those youth who are already parents, Amani provides business training to help them create a better future for their families.

Nixon’s continued passion inspires Educate! Scholars to improve the future of their own communities.

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Ogwal Maxson became an entrepreneur at a young age to help provide for his family and pay his school fees. When he joined Educate!, Ogwal started a brick making business. His business currently employs 10 youth, eight who now pay their own school fees and two who help support their families.

Ogwal has not only helped his family and the youth he employs, but he has found a way to give back to the community. For every 10,000 bricks his business makes, he gives 200 to a nearby school. This has allowed the school to build new classrooms and enroll more students, giving more youth the chance of a better future.

Ogwal’s most recent project, Good Samaritans, supports those affected by HIV/AIDS by cleaning their homes, washing their clothes, collecting water, and even building new homes for those most in need. Thirty families have benefited directly from the project and many more have been helped indirectly through outreach and awareness efforts.

Ogwal’s vision for the future is to attend university to study agriculture so he can learn new ways to improve his community.
Educate! works to transform the education system in Uganda, and beyond, to prepare youth to be leaders and entrepreneurs who take leadership initiative, create small businesses, and improve their livelihoods. Educate! delivers an experience-based model of education, comprised of: entrepreneurship and leadership training, mentorship, and experience starting an enterprise, all delivered by a practically trained teacher for 16-20 year old youth.

Today, Educate! is empowering almost 8,000 diverse youth across Uganda, growing to 20,000 annually in 2014, incorporating its curriculum into Uganda’s education system (reaching an additional 25,000 students a year currently) and developing a model that can be replicated across Africa.

**Educate! is an experience that changes lives and transforms a system.**

- **$22 monthly** - Develops two young leaders and entrepreneurs a year
- **$25** - Covers materials to develop one young leader and entrepreneur
- **$50** - Provides seed capital to a top young entrepreneur for a month
- **$125** - Develops one young leader and entrepreneur
- **$250** - Develops two young leaders and entrepreneurs
- **$1,000** - Develops eight young leaders and entrepreneurs
- **$5,000** - Develops a whole school of 40 young leaders and entrepreneurs for a year

To support our Scholars today, please visit [experienceeducate.org/investing/](http://experienceeducate.org/investing/)

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