Genius in Africa (GiA) is a non-profit organization committed to inspiring vocations in basic sciences across Africa.

In order to develop home grown solutions and achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, Africa needs a critical mass of science champions. Therefore, cultivating interest in basic science is of prime importance for science-driven development. Genius in Africa (GiA), a non-profit organization, is committed to identifying and nurturing talents among African children, regardless of their location or circumstances.

Recognizing the disparities in education and opportunities across the continent, GiA aims to maximize the potential of these children by providing them opportunities to express their uniqueness and prepare the next generation of problem solvers. We strongly believe that there is a genius in every child and the quality of information they are exposed to at an early age has a significant influence on who they will become in the future. To achieve this vision, GiA employs a multifaceted approach encompassing outreach, educational support, GiA’s Working Principle Challenge, peer support, and more. Presented below are the key achievements from our endeavors over the past 18 months.
In over a year since our inception, we have organized two editions of the Working Principle Challenge. This challenge aims to spark curiosity for knowledge among African teenagers. We use so many electronic devices in our day-to-day activities, focusing on learning how to use them, rather than how they work. By inspiring African teenagers to explore their knowledge, the challenge allows them to express it creatively through poster presentations. Through this, they explore scientific concepts within their immediate environment. To date, a total of 23 African teenagers from three African countries (Nigeria, Cameroon, and Kenya) have been awarded 20 USD for their participation in the Working Principle Challenge.

On August 5, 2022, we hosted our first Literature Review Training, featuring our keynote speaker, Dr. Nelson Dzade. During the event, African young scientists were taught the effective approach for conducting literature reviews in their respective fields. The training can be found on the Genius in Africa YouTube channel [1].

Furthermore, our peer support services are available to students facing distress. Our goal is to create a safe place of openness for African teenagers in difficult situations. We are in the process of partnering with professional organizations in Africa to facilitate referrals in serious situations. Additionally, GiA’s educational support is directed towards rural primary and secondary schools. Through this initiative, we provide students with writing materials in Africa’s rural areas. Our first project will be executed in September 2023 at the Apewosika School in Ghana.

Through these strategies, GiA strives to unlock the potential of young Africans, equip them with essential skills, and empower them to become leaders and innovators in various fields, contributing to a brighter future for the continent.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers whose tireless efforts were instrumental in achieving these objectives. Our sincere appreciation goes to the African School of Fundamental and Applied Physics for their invaluable support in this vision. Furthermore, we commend Palesa Ramohlouane, our peer support facilitator, for her unwavering commitment to training our volunteers in delivering effective emotional support.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Kétévi Assamagan, Dr. Omololu Akin-Ojo, Dr. Nelson Dzade, Mr. Peter Iyiola, and many others whose support played a significant role in shaping this vision.

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References
[1] https://youtu.be/xxioEo14dQk