

Request Summary  
The Kathryn B. McQuade Foundation

### ***Organization Information***

Batonga Foundation  
2000 Massachusetts Ave, NW, 1<sup>st</sup> FL  
Washington, DC 20036

Organization's Tax ID: 20-5927387

### ***Primary Contact for Request***

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### ***OVERVIEW AND MISSION OF ORGANIZATION***

The Batonga Foundation was established in 2006 by a West African singer, Angelique Kidjo. "Batonga" is a word she made up as a young girl to defend girls' rights to an education against taunts from local school boys. She received her education in Benin, a small country in West Africa, where only 27% of girls move on to middle school. The Batonga Foundation provides scholarships and mentoring programs, school supplies and personal hygiene supplies to disadvantaged girls in Mali, Sierra Leone, Benin, Cameroon and Ethiopia with the goal to eliminate obstacles to girls' continuation of school after the primary level.

The foundation currently has a Global Development Alliance (GDA) with USIAD. A GDA is a partnership between select non-profit organizations and USIAD helps the non-profits to improve social and economic conditions in countries through matching financial assistance. The foundation has also partnered with two local girls' empowerment organizations in Benin to implement a three-year program providing 101 girls with secondary school scholarships, mentoring programs, disease prevention education, food, school supplies and community education on domestic violence. The program in Benin is to be implemented by in-country partners GAJES (Group d'Action pour la Justice et l'Egalite Social) and ACDD (Actions Communautaires pour le Developpement Durable).

### ***Request Information***

**Request Title:** Group d'Action pour la Justice et l'Egalite  
Sociale aka: GAJES(Benin, USAID)

**Request Amount:** \$23,900

### ***Purpose of Request & Description of Activities***

This grant would be used towards matching a \$150,000 financial assistance grant from USAID. Batonga Foundation must raise \$30,000 in 2014 to receive the funding from USAID. The \$23,900 grant will be used to offset salary (\$20,933), Administrative Expenses (\$1,200) and Mentor Training(\$1,767) for a program site in Benin, a small country in West Africa.

Since 2007, the foundation has sponsored 229 girls in secondary school in Benin and it has built wells and latrines near schools that have benefited over 3,500 students. They currently sponsor 101 girls under the USAID partnership. These girls have been chosen by teachers and parent-teacher associations for scholarships based on their academic performance and potential for future success. Success is measured by school attendance rates and academic performance. The foundation also measures dropout rates, pregnancy rates, and child marriage rates to determine the program's success. Funds to match the USAID grant will allow the foundation to continue to make sustainable improvements to the welfare of girls in this region.

