



# GFPA

FOUNDATION



2019 - 2020

REPORT





## OVERVIEW AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Another successful year for the foundation as we continue to make an impact not only in South Africa but the rest of the world. Some of the notable achievements during this period:

- ✈️ **We scaled our Airbus Foundation little engineer programme to several provinces in South Africa and exposed learners mostly in the rural areas to emerging technologies.**
- ✈️ **We participated at the Gates Foundation Goalkeepers event and other programmes during the UN general summit (New York).**
- ✈️ **We participated at the Africa Youth Network Movement (AYNM) in Zambia, Lusaka.**
- ✈️ **Our founder Refilwe Ledwaba was selected as one of the OBAMA Africa leaders and Techwomen fellow (USA).**



### Note of gratitude

As a foundation we would like to express our sincere gratitude once again to: the GFPA Foundation team; to our many, selfless volunteers - for not only buying into the vision but ensuring it has become a reality; the Board of Advisors for their continued support; the Companies, Organisations, and individuals mentioned in this report who have all donated, volunteered their time and contributed to the success of the foundation. Our special mention to **Grand Central Airport** and **Airbus foundation little engineer programme** for their continued support.

## PROGRAMME REVIEW

### Hybrid introduction to the aerospace industry course Overview

In partnership with the Women in Aviation (WAI) Embry Riddle Aeronautical University chapter, we hosted a hybrid introduction to aerospace course for learners at McCauley House (Girl's school). This course is a project of the Woman in Aviation International Chapter at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Worldwide (ERAU-WW). It is a self-paced course designed for learners 8-12. In the course, ERAU-WW provides learners with some of the best information related to aviation and aeronautics available. The course is designed to introduce children ages 8 - 17 to aviation fundamentals and celebrate girls on aviation day. The course covers the following topics: -Aviation terms, Small Parts, our forces of flights, Helicopter, Space and NASA.

### THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME:

- ✈️ **Explore aspects of flight such as lift, gravity, thrust, and drag;**
- ✈️ **Identify major parts of an aeroplane;**
- ✈️ **Describe the flight characteristics of a helicopter;**
- ✈️ **Discuss the goals of space exploration.**





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### 1. Girls in Aviation Day, Botswana

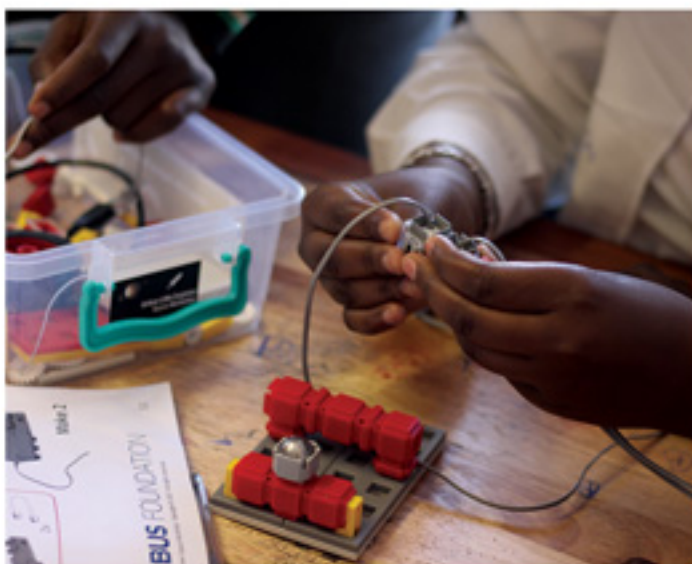
Fun-filled Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD), hosted by GFPA Botswana and Women in Aviation Botswana chapter. GIAD is an initiative run by Women in Aviation International (WAI) designed to introduce and educate young girls on the many career choices and lifestyle possibilities offered by the aviation or aerospace industry. About **85** girls learners had the opportunity to learn about the various aspects of aviation. They were shown helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and visited the air traffic control tower. The learners interacted with aviation professionals, Pilots, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AME), Air traffic controllers (ATC) throughout the day and learnt immensely from the different professionals. The Girls spend the day at Maun airport learning more about the industry.



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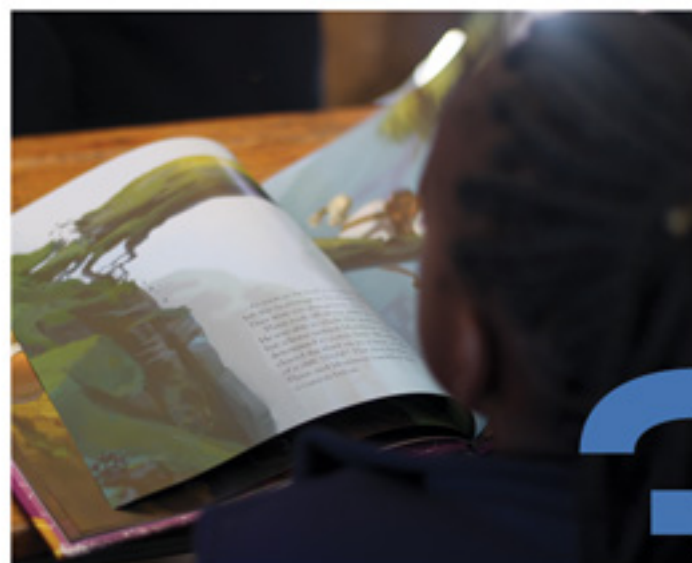
### 2. Airbus Little Engineer Programme

Beginning of 2019 we partnered with Airbus Foundation and the little engineer to offer space technology workshops. "The Workshop is offered by Airbus Foundation for learners aged 11 + in the MENA region and now in Africa. to instil in youth the passion for STEM. as well as space and the industry behind the space. This workshop aims to introduce the students to the world of robotics generally and especially the space industry. The students were acquainted with the Ariane 5 rocket covering its design. and abilities. The workshop explained the whys and the how's of reaching Mars using top-notch technologies in power, telecom and space rockets. By end of April. the team has travelled to various schools in Gauteng, Northwest, Northern Cape and rural Limpopo to conduct the workshops. **80% of the schools impacted were from the rural areas.**



### 3. Mandela outreach programme

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - *Nelson Mandela*



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Our first part of the 67minutes for Mandela Day involved reading to and giving away books to Grade 2 learners from Monato Primary School in the North West. An experience so worthwhile and our second part of the day involved a paper plane challenge with the Girl learners at the school.





#### 4. Women of Aviation worldwide week

As part of the celebrations for Women of Aviation Worldwide Week, we partnered up with the US Embassy and hosted about 50 learners at the US Mae Jemison Science Reading Room in Mamelodi. Our program consisted of informing the learners about the History of Women in Aviation, Careers in Aviation, and the importance of STEAM and finally a paper plane challenge to keep the learners engaged.



#### 5. Grand Central Airport Visit

We hosted two grade 11 learners, who had an interest in the aviation industry for an inspirational day at the airport. They had an opportunity to spend the day with Maj. Nandi Zama (Airforce Pilot and commander C130), and Refilwe Ledwaba (Freelance Helicopter and Fixed-wing Pilot). The girls showed much enthusiasm and interest in the aerospace industry.

#### 6. The ATNS Design thinking workshop

The foundation presented a design thinking workshop during the Avi-Afrique summit. The learners had an opportunity to use design thinking methodology to come up with solutions to one of the biggest challenges: - that how manned (Piloted aircraft) and unmanned (Drones) can safely share the Airspace in South Africa.



#### 7. Former NASA Astronauts visit South Africa

Team GFPA and our Alumni had an opportunity to meet and interact with former NASA Astronaut Dr Thomas, who came to South Africa to inspire young South Africans to become the next generation of astronauts, as part of STEM-based non-profit organisation Living Maths' Space Tour 2019, which has seen him give a series of public talks, and public school and tertiary school addresses.





## CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITION

### STEAM career expo

The foundation participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) career expo that took place at Ticketpro Dome. The day was filled with a lot

of enthusiastic students interested to hear about the GFPA Foundation and STEAM programmes in general. During the two-day exhibition, the learners got to interact with our Trainee pilots and Aeronautical Engineers. The learners also got exposed to emerging technology such as Virtual Reality goggles which sparked a huge sense of excitement among the learners.



### Aeronautical Society of South Africa (AeSSA) conference

Our volunteer Maj. Nandi Zama (The first black woman to command a C130 in SA) gave a keynote address at the annual conference. Maj Zama was also a speaker at the Women in Aerospace breakfast during the conference.



### Aviafrique summit, exhibition, and awards

GFPA foundation had an opportunity to exhibit and participate at the 2019 ATNS Avi Afrique innovation summit. Proudly hosted by Air Traffic and Navigation Services SOC Limited (ATNS), the 8th annual AVI AFRIQUE Innovation Summit sought to explore what the aviation professional of the future will look like. The Summit addressed the theme: 'Developing future aviation minds in Africa. During the exhibition, the learners got to interact with our team members and explore emerging technologies such as Virtual Reality goggles.

The team also attended the AVI awards which encourage innovators to develop relevant aviation-related ideas, products and services that will in turn address the challenges faced by the industry and improve existing services and technologies. The event entailed speeches from the ATNS CEO, Thomas Kgokolo, the ATNS Board Chairman Simphiwe Thobela and various ATNS stakeholders. After which, awards were handed out to young innovators in aviation.



### National Aviation Gender Summit

GFPA foundation had an opportunity to participate exhibit at the National aviation gender summit. This summit was in line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically, Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Achieve gender equality and empower for all women and girls.



## OTHER PROGRAMMES



### Volunteer day

One of our core values is volunteerism, so we get excited when people sign up for our volunteer programmes. What a fun day we had at the office packing STEAM, Maker spaces kits and Design thinking kits and prepping computers for our programmes. It was also an awesome day for volunteers to get to know one another.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND SUMMITS

### African Youth Network Movement (AYNM), Lusaka

Our volunteer Linda Ngozwana represented the foundation at the African Youth network movement (AYNM) Southern Africa regional meeting in Lusaka, Zambia. The theme: - "Amplifying youth voices for Africa's transformation " with a focus on developing skills for combating youth unemployment. She had the honour of presenting as one of the guest speakers on the Education Track discussion group. Part of her talk included sharing the role of the GFPA foundation, understanding the importance of education (from early childhood development). Furthermore, the discussion explored the relationship between the current educational systems in Southern Africa and the demands of employers and entrepreneurial eco-systems considering emerging technologies that are changing the nature of the labour market. Finally, identifying alternative methods of educating that could be employed to ensure people are equipped with sufficient skills. A big thank you to Graca Machel Trust and Mandela Institute for Development studies for creating a platform for connecting and collaborating.

### Business call for action forum, New York the USA

GFPA Foundation had an opportunity to attend the business call for action (BCtA)forum 2019.BCtA's 9th Annual, Theme: - "Inclusive Business: Emerging Models, Collaboration and Innovation aim to spur ideation among inclusive and impactful business with real-world examples of business models that accelerate the achievement of the SDG's.The forum looked at how businesses are seizing the opportunities to grow and develop while generating the significant societal and environmental" impact.

### Women on Board Summit, FORD Foundation, New York

The foundation had an opportunity to attend the African women on Board's summit in New York. The African women on boards aim to advance narratives and improving realities for African Women and Girls globally. Interesting discussions on the Power of Sponsorship "(Economic empowerment has as much to do with how the world sees us &who is speaking for us as it has to do with Pure economics)"

Our favourite quote:

"Solid education is the catalyst for change"





**EMPOWERING  
GIRLS ACCROSS  
AFRICA**



**OBAMA Africa leaders programme**

GFPFA founder Refilwe Ledwaba joined 200 leaders from 45 countries for the 2019 Obama leaders Africa convening in Johannesburg. As part of the programme, she had an opportunity to attend a roundtable discussion and workshop with other Obama Leaders from 15 countries who work to empower girls across Africa. Camfed - Campaign for Female Education Angie Murimirwa and Girl Up Initiative Uganda Monica joined and facilitated the discussions on girls education. We are looking forward to collaborating with other organisations across Africa and are excited to be part of the Girls Opportunity Alliance network. For more information about @Obamaleaders programme:

<https://www.gfpafoundation.org/.../73-refilwe-ledwaba>

**Gates's foundation Goalkeeper's summit,  
New York the USA**

GFPFA Foundation founder Refilwe Ledwaba had an opportunity to participate at the goalkeepers19 summit and action session in New York during the UN general assembly. She had an opportunity to meet and build peer connections, define individual and collective actions towards SDGs. Refilwe participated in a discussion on how we can use innovation and technology to achieve sustainable development goals.

The summit held in New York included speakers such as Prime minister Jacinda Arden (NZ), Prime minister Pedro Sanchez (Spain), Bill Gates, Melinda Gates, Aliko Dangote, Mo Ibrahim, and many more inspiring leaders. One of our highlights of the summit was a panel on Reframing bias: Breaking barriers to equality. And our takeaway was how biases have an impact on education, health, housing etc and we need to be conscious of our own biases.

Bill and Melinda Gates foundation goalkeepers bring together a new generation of leaders to accelerate progress toward the Global Goals "Goalkeepers are dedicated to accelerating progress towards the global goals "







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# GFPA AND MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA AND AWARDS

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GFPA Foundation was featured in the following magazines

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 **WORLD AIR NEWS MAGAZINES**  
 **AFRICAN PILOT MAGAZINE**

Our volunteer Linda Ngowana was featured in "Soar", a multi-layered book for high-school learners. One aspect of the book is career education - giving the learners insight into 50 different careers across a few disciplines. Linda got featured in this book and shared her experience in aeronautical engineering and how she completed such an intensive degree. The book also includes tools and exercises to help them build resilience and some life skills, as well as interviews with women who are breaking barriers across what is seen as male-dominated professions.

## GET IN TOUCH

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