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## IMPACT STORY

# ELIANE NYABA



**“SCE Safed my education, made me an ICT expert” Eliane Nyaba**



Photo credits : UN Women Cameroon

Eliane Nyaba Nouma Emmanuelle, 20, lives in the Etoug-Ebe neighbourhood in Yaoundé, which hosts over 1000 IDPs who fled the crises in the Northwest and Southwest regions of the country since 2016. Eliane, her four siblings and her mother all relocated to their grandparent’s home due to hardship. She is a beneficiary of the SCE programme and was trained in ICT. She received a computer to support her stay in school by typing her own assignments and thesis, make some income, and train her siblings and mother to become computer literate.

Just when Eliane’s mother was giving up hope of financing education for her daughter and her four siblings, SCE gave Eliane another chance. SCE enabled her to stay on at school and gave her vocational training in ICT. Today, she is a happy third-year University student in Linguistics at the University of Yaounde I.

*“This programme has been a very big relief to me because I could no longer continue to send Eliane and the rest of her siblings to school. She had to drop out from school after her Advanced level and either get married or look for a job to take care of herself,”* Endeguele Etoundi Julienne, Eliane’s mother, explains. Due to financial difficulties and as a single parent, Eliane’s mother could no longer afford to keep her daughter and siblings in normal day school. Eliane had to drop out from day school and attend an evening school, which was cheaper.

SCE kept me in school & also gave me vocational training, Elianne



*“She also informed me that evening at home that this will be my last year to go to school...that I will have to drop from school and start looking for a job or even get married. When I listened to her, I started crying. My friends and classmates in day school started laughing and mocking me, that I can’t afford a day school. I adopted a strategy of going to school in the evening very late so that I don’t get to meet my friends and classmates who have just closed from the day school to avoid being mocked. I was disturbed for a very long period. I almost got into depression”* Eliane explains. Just when she was on the verge of dropping out of school, she was informed about SCE and met the team who accepted her into the programme.

*“I started attending my dream training in ICT, which was taking place during the day. In the evenings, I would go to school. During the training, we learned many things: how to type, how to repair a computer, how to design flyers, academic thesis, how to prepare letters as well as secretariate duties. I picked up so fast and I even started assisting the trainer in training other women who were IDPs, refugees in that school. I was so passionate about it. Just before I even finished the training, our trainer recommended me to be recruited as a secretary in a real estate enterprise. I was able to earn a salary for the first time. I could save some money to further my studies in the university and help my struggling mother. I could see my future becoming bright again.”*

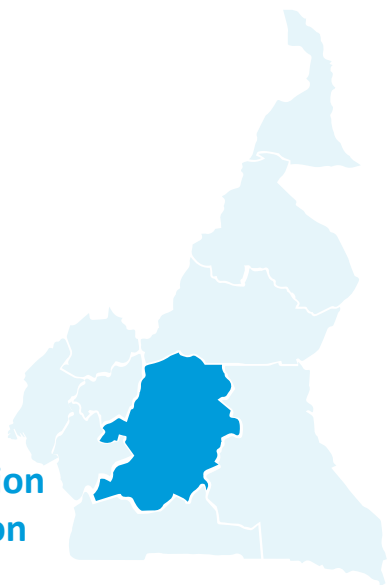
*“Eliane has been one of my best front-line staff working at my Secretariat,”* says Ngassine Romoult, CEO of the real estate enterprise in Yaounde and former employer of Eliane. “She is so confident, fast in typing and makes clients feel at home. After her university studies, my doors remain open for Eliane to be fully recruited as staff.

Today, Eliane is not only a blessing to her family but a reference amongst her peers. *“Those same friends and classmates who were mocking me are envying me. Some have approached me for advice, and many are asking me to share my books and even help type their assignments for them. I will advise other young girls who have dropped out of school or are about to drop out of school never to give up. They should exploit opportunities like the SCE to get a vocational training and be able to empower themselves and even the community.”*

Eliane is determined to share her skills and go the extra mile to also give a second chance to girls in need. “I have decided that I will not relent efforts in supporting young girls who have difficulties. I will share my skills and train many girls who do not have the opportunity. I would like to further my studies abroad, return home and set up a vocational training centre to give young girls and struggling women like my mother a second chance, just as I was given by UN Women.”



Elaine teaching her mother and brother basics in computing

**Center Region  
of Cameroon**

From 2019 to 2023, UN Women’s Second Chance Education (SCE) and Vocational Learning Programme, executed through UN Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) initiative, offered refugee and internally displaced women in the conflict-affected areas of Cameroon, along with vulnerable women from host communities, training and learning opportunities in entrepreneurial, employment and life skills. SCE was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), reaching over 12,000 participants across seven regions: the Far North, East, Adamawa, Littoral, Canter, Northwest and Southwest. SCE’s main objective is for more marginalized women to have access to, participate in and achieve quality learning, entrepreneurial and employment outcomes.

SCE’s approach recognizes that, for women who are marginalized by crisis, poverty or harmful social norms, transformational change requires more than the offer of training or education alone. SCE works with women who have been held back by gender-based barriers and discriminatory practices all their lives without necessarily being aware of it. SCE provides access to practical support and life skills training that enable women to participate fully in whichever learning pathway they choose. Similarly, it recognizes the importance of social learning and personalized support throughout the SCE journey. This scaffolded global approach has led to high retention and low dropout rates.