



Chapter 39

Zonta in Africa – An Overview¹

Development of Zonta in Africa

Year	New Clubs	Closed Clubs	Gain/loss	Active Clubs
1970-79	12		12	12
1980-89	10	3	7	19
1990-99	8	8	0	19
2000-09	6	7	-1	18
2010-18	3	2	1	19
Total	39	20	19	

1970: The first Zontian in Africa was Barbara Baeta. She was recruited for the Zonta Club of Accra, Ghana, by Dorothy Thompson, Zonta Club of Toronto, who travelled to West Africa in 1970 on behalf of Zonta International to organize clubs. By the end of the year, clubs had been established in seven countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Senegal and Ivory Coast.

At this time, non-districted clubs throughout the world were grouped in five areas:

- Area I South America
- Area II South East Asia
- Area III New Zealand, Australia
- Area IV Asia
- Area V Africa

Area V comprised clubs from the first seven African countries:

Country	Club name	Club number
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¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen

Ghana	Zonta Club of Accra	0638
Ghana	Zonta Club of Kumasi	0639
Ivory Coast	Zonta Club of Abidjan	0658
Kenya	Zonta Club of Nairobi	0654
Liberia	Zonta Club of Monrovia	0647
Nigeria	Zonta Club of Lagos	0643
Nigeria	Zonta Club of Ibadan	0644
Senegal	Zonta Club of Dakar	0655
Sierra Leone	Zonta Club of Freetown	0652

1972: When the Zonta International Board changed the designation 'Area' to 'Region', Area V became Region V.

1974: When non-districted Region III clubs in New Zealand and Australia became District XVI, the remaining non-districted clubs around the world were re-grouped in three new regions:

- Region I: Asia.
- Region II: Africa.
- Region III: South America.

1980: Two more clubs had been chartered in Region II in the period since 1974, but three had disbanded. The remaining nine Region II clubs were divided into two areas:

- Area 01: Abidjan (Ivory Coast), and Dakar and Kaolack (Senegal).
- Area 02: Accra and Tema (Ghana), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Ibadan and Lagos (Nigeria), and Nairobi (Kenya).

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Country	Area as of 2018	Closed
1970	0638	Zonta Club of Accra	Ghana	02	
1970	0639	Zonta Club of Kumasi	Ghana		1980
1970	0643	Zonta Club of Lagos	Nigeria	02	
1970	0644	Zonta Club of Ibadan	Nigeria	02	
1970	0647	Zonta Club of Monrovia	Liberia		1980
1970	0652	Zonta Club of Freetown	Sierra Leone	02	
1970	0654	Zonta Club of Nairobi	Kenya	02	1995
1970	0655	Zonta Club of Dakar	Senegal	01	
1970	0658	Zonta Club of Abidjan	Ivory Coast	01	
1974	0757	Zonta Club of Tema	Ghana	02	
1976	0788	Zonta Club of Kaolack	Senegal	01	1997
1978	0855	Zonta Club of Ziguin Chor	Senegal		1980

In the same year (1980), the Zonta Club of Cairo (no. 0944), was chartered as the first club in Egypt and, according to the Zonta International Directory (1980–1981), was allocated to District XIV (the European District). However the directory for 1981–1982 says the club belonged to Region II, Area 03² and later, Area 02³. By 1993–1994, the club is listed as belonging to District XVIII, Area 03. Finally, the 1993–1994 directory lists the club as a member of District 14. The District XIV Governor 1990–1992 and Zonta International Director 1992–1994, Irene Wiese-von

² Zonta International Directory 1981–1982, p. 31.

³ Ibid. p. 44

Ofen, testifies that the Zonta Club of Cairo belonged to the African region from 1980 to 1988 but requested a redistricting to District XIV. That was accepted at the district conference in Brighton in the U.K. in 1988. In 1994, both Egyptian clubs (Cairo and Giza) became part of the European District, District 28. Both Egyptian clubs disbanded in 1995.

1982: With the growth of members, Region II was reclassified as District XVIII.

1983: District XVIII encompassed three areas, but Area 03 comprised only the Zonta Club of Cairo (club no. 0944).⁴

1989: The period from 1983 to 1989 saw rapid growth with nine new clubs established, seven of them in Nigeria. The Zonta Club of Giza in Egypt (club no. 1241) was also organized, bringing the total number of clubs to 21 by the end of 1989.

1990: All districts were designated by Arabic numerals instead of Roman numerals. District XVIII became District 18.

In September, District 18 encompassed 19 clubs and 559 members.⁵

1994: With the transfer to the two Egyptian clubs to District 28, Area 3 was closed. In addition, clubs in Benin and Sierra Leone closed, reducing District 18 to 17 clubs, grouped in two areas.

1996: With the closure of two more clubs in 1995, District 18 had 15 clubs and 375 members.

1997: In 1997, a club in Senegal was lost, reducing the district to 14 clubs.

In March, Frances Ohenewa Ademola, Zonta Club of Accra North, Ghana, vice-chair of the Africa Zonta International OMC Committee, published the following in the *Zontian*:

How come, in a matter of only six years, instead of our number increasing, it has rather decreased to just 14? It is true our dear continent has been beset with seemingly unsurmountable political and economic problems, but should we allow ourselves to succumb to the weight of these problems? It looks like we have. This is why we have already lost five of our clubs.

The article continued with details of a questionnaire distributed to the District 18 clubs:

Copies of this questionnaire were hand-carried to the St. Louis Convention by courtesy of Professor Greenstreet, governor of District 18, to the 14 club presidents. The reason for this questionnaire was to obtain a database on all 14 clubs so that together we will find solutions to our individual problems. From July to November 1996, I did not receive a single feedback from the club presidents. I therefore sent reminders in December. I am pleased to report that from January to March 1997, I have received five responses...

We complain about our ailing African postal system as being ineffective and use that as excuse for our failure to respond to correspondence. I will agree with you in part...I am saying all this to show that just a little effort is needed to overcome the many obstacles we face in Africa. In other words, we will succeed in our many endeavors if we only set our minds to it. I have patiently waited till now, hoping that many more responses would

⁴ See above.

⁵ The *Zontian* 1990–1992 Program Issue.

be received in time for all of us to address the diverse problems which mitigate (*sic.*) against our growth, retention of members and rejuvenating of existing clubs in District 18, in particular, and the Zonta world in general.

Some of the problems facing the five clubs whose responses I have received are as follows: finance, lack of commitment on the part of the members, leaving the president to do everything, and aging of club members.

Finance is a problem almost all of us face. My advice is to be positive in fundraising events. It is very difficult under our present state of our economies, but if we cannot pay for the activities ourselves then all members should be committed enough to spend time and energy to go around and solicit for the funds of the club of the district needs. Let us do something positive and not just find a shortcut by sending a request to Headquarters to ask exemptions from payment of dues. We are members of an international organization, so we should try and meet our obligations.⁶

Despite having only 14 clubs when the article was published in 1997, the district had 403 members, an increase of 28 since the previous year⁷

2002: The five years from 1997 to 2002 brought a spurt of growth, with 10 new clubs established. This was offset by club closures but by the end of 2002, District 18 had 22 clubs, grouped in four areas.

2006: Clubs were added in Burkina Faso in 2005 and in Ghana in 2006, but further closures reduced the number of clubs to 20, grouped in four areas.

2008–2010: At the beginning of the biennium, District 18 encompassed 19 clubs, grouped in four areas: three clubs in Area 01, nine in Area 02, six in Area 03, and one in Area 04, the Zonta Club of Johannesburg-Pretoria, which closed 2009. With its closure, South Africa was lost as a Zonta country.

At its peak, Zonta clubs had been in 16 countries on the African continent, including Egypt; however, seven countries were lost (Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Niger and South Africa). (Zonta was briefly re-established in Niger in 2008, but the club disbanded in 2011.)

2010–2012: The district had a total of 18 clubs in three areas: Area 01 with three clubs, Area 02 with nine, and Area 03 with six.

2012–14: The Zonta International directory for this biennium shows that two clubs were lost in Area 3 taking the total number of clubs to 16: three in Area 01, nine in area 02, and four in area 03.

2015–2016: In this biennium, the district grew to 18 clubs in three areas: Area 01 with four clubs, Area 02 with nine, and Area 03 with five. There was also some internal re-organization with the Zonta Club of Kampala, Uganda, moving from Area 01 to Area 03. The district counted 374 members, spread over nine countries.

⁶ Frances Ohenewa Ademola, published in the March 1997 Zontian.

2018: District 18 encompassed 19 clubs with the addition of the E-club of West Africa in 2018. Membership in March 2018 was 341, a decrease of 33 members since 2015⁸. Clubs were organized in three areas: Area 01 with four clubs, Area 02 with nine clubs, Area 03 with five clubs, plus the E-club.

2019: As of July⁹, District 18 counted 387 members in 19 clubs, including six of the original 1970 clubs. With clubs in nine countries, District 18 is the most multi-national in the Zonta world. Clubs are organized in three areas: the three clubs in Ivory Coast, Senegal and Sierra Leone constitute Area 01; the 10 clubs in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo form Area 02; and the six clubs in Benin, Nigeria and Uganda form Area 03.

Zonta International President

- 1994–1996: 'Folake Solanke, Zonta Club of Ibadan in Nigeria. Biennial theme: “Zonta Agenda for Action: Women’s Health Human Rights and World Harmony”.

Zonta International Directors

- 1996–1998: Dunstanette Macauley, Zonta Club of Lomé, Togo
- 2005–2007: Omotayo Morgan, Zonta Club of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2014–2016: Josephine Odedina, Zonta Club of Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018–2020: Marguerite Akossi-Mvongo, Zonta Club of Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Member of Zonta International Nominating Committee:

- 2008–2010: Joséphine Odedina, Zonta Club of Lagos, Nigeria
- 2010–2012: Simone Bleu-Laine, Zonta Club of Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- 2012–2014: A.O.Omotayo Morgan, Zonta Club of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2014–2016: Glorastene Agboola, Zonta Club of Ibadan II, Nigeria
- 2018–2020: Dunstanette Macauley, Zonta Club of Lomé, Togo
- 2018–2020: Anne Marie French-Cudjoe, Zonta Club of Accra II, Ghana.

District Conferences:

For the first years after Zonta arrived in the African continent in 1970, clubs were non-districted but were grouped together as Area V (later Region V). In 1974, non-districted clubs worldwide were reorganized into new regions and the African clubs became Region II. The first regional gathering of African Zontians was held the following year.

After seven years, Region II was reclassified as a district in 1982. 'Folake Solanke later to become International President, was elected as District Governor and the first District XVIII conference was held in 1983.

In 2019, Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) hosted the 24th conference of District 18 Zontians. At the conference, Nadjim Salami, a male member of the Zonta Club of Lomé Millennium in Togo, was elected as Area 02 director for 2020–2022. His club was the first District 18 club to have men as members.

⁸ Zonta International Directory online.

⁹ Zonta International Directory online.

In District 18, conferences have customarily been held in the home country of the district governor.

Club Service Projects in District 18¹⁰

Area 01 Club Service Projects

- **Zonta Club of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)**

The Zonta club of Abidjan has carried out many service and advocacy activities since its creation. Here are some of the most salient:

- In Petit Badien (a landlocked village located about 60 km from Abidjan), the Club built a rural maternity hospital with accommodation for the resident midwife. It also provided all equipment for the hospital. The facility has been operational since July 2013.
- 1998: Construction of the perimeter wall of the Bingerville Botanical Garden (environmental protection action)
- Until 2002: Annual donations and support for a training centre for trainers at "Le Clair Logis" in Bouaké (c. 450 km from Abidjan). This centre trained women in such as sewing, hairdressing, cooking, baking, etc. Those trained then trained other women in the city.
- 2018: support for and collaboration with the Women of Aniani, a volatile district of Abidjan. The Club made donations and provided training to empower the women.
- 2014 / 2016: Rehabilitation of 20 drinking water pumps for the benefit of the villages of the Lakota region
- 2012/2013: The Abidjan Zonta Club organised a marathon in the city of Abidjan over the 16 Days of Activism to combat violence against women and girls. The Club held a press conference on the event.
- Each year between the 25 November and 10 December, the Abidjan Club organises conferences and issues press releases to raise awareness of violence against women.
- In November 2016, a conference was held at the Modern College of Cocody on the theme: "Zero pregnancies in schools". The impact was so momentous that the school principal asked the club to return to discuss the subject further. The number of pregnancies at the college has significantly decreased.
- 2018/2020: Support for women in a community centre in Yopougon Gesco-Judee, one of Abidjan's rougher neighbourhoods. A listening centre has been created and is run with the support of members of the Abidjan Club. Zonta International launched the community centre on the occasion of its centenary. The centre received a bonus of USD\$3000.
- On 24 November 2018 at Divo Akonda College, the Abidjan Club launched a 16-day period of activism with a conference, "Young Girls – Leaders of Tomorrow". The theme was in keeping with the theme "NO to Violence Against Women and the Girl Child".
- The Club supported the NGO Amepouh which is made up of women suffering from HIV AIDS who have revealed their HIV positive status. The Club offered this NGO food, non-food items and a medical bed for the infirm.

¹⁰ District 18 History in Brief 2016, with 2018 additions, edited by Eva Nielsen.

- 2019: The Club supported six high schools in the Aboisso region of Côte d'Ivoire including those in the cities of Krindjabo, Mafere, and Noe. The club donated books for their libraries as well as food for the school canteens, thus allowing children to have at least one hot meal per day on school premises.
 - 2019: The Club built latrines at a primary school in the village of Akandje.
 - Each year since its creation, the Club holds a Christmas party with orphaned, deprived, sick, or mentally or physically handicapped children. They are given toys as well as snacks.
 - Each year for the past thirty years, the Club has organised a sales exhibition in May. This event brings together artisans to exhibit and sell their works for Mother's Day.
 - The club has supported the Lycée Sainte Marie d'Abidjan for many years. This school is an establishment of excellence. The Club provides books and support to the brightest students in the Sciences with the award of a special prize.
 - The Club periodically organises fundraising galas.
 - The Abidjan Club has organised District Conferences in 1985, 1999, 2009 and 2019..
- **Zonta Club of Dakar, Senegal**
 - Breast cancer awareness rally, in the framework of Pink October, in collaboration with the Libano-Senegalese Association of Health Professionals¹¹, conducted on 22 October 2016.
 - Training on leadership development, Zonta's mission, vision and objectives, provided by the governor of District 18 for all Zonta Club of Dakar members and their guests on 29 October 2016 at the Hotel Ocean Dakar in Senegal.
 - Organization of a snack for children with cancer in the Pediatric Oncology Department of the Aristide Le Dantec Hospital on 15 February 2017.
- **Zonta Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone:**

The Zonta Club of Freetown in District 18 was chartered in 1970 by a cross-section of professional women in Sierra Leone. The first president was the late Lati Hyde-Forster, a former high school principal and the first female graduate of the University of Sierra Leone. Over the years, mainly due to challenges affecting the country, such as a ten-year civil war and the Ebola crisis, membership has fluctuated. To date, there is an active membership of twenty members.

 - Over the years, this dedicated team has worked tremendously hard to ensure the vision and mission of the club is realized through its many annual fundraising events, such as the Thanksgiving service, Valentine's Day ball, international luncheon sale and social events. Money that has been raised has gone towards projects which include the refurbishing of a female ward at the city central hospital, the refurbishing of a library in a secondary school, feeding the residents at a home for the elderly and a road safety project for school children.
 - Since 2012, the club has been providing tuition, uniforms, books, bags and sanitary items to ten girls from disadvantaged communities within the city, who have performed well in post-primary school examinations, to encourage them to continue their

¹¹ There is a significant Lebanese population in Senegal.

education. In addition, every Saturday, the students meet at the Zonta Study Centre, where under the supervision of trained staff, they are encouraged to spend at least five hours studying, going through their lessons and receiving mentoring sessions. The girls have shown significant improvement both in their academic work and general outlook. The members believe poverty should not act as a barrier to educational and social progress and intended to double the number to 20 from the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year in September 2018.

- The club also contributed to the fight against Ebola in the country in 2014. A cash donation was made toward the women's emergency fund led by a women's forum. Members contributed food and other items, totalling over USD\$3,500, which were distributed to the staff and patients at the Hastings Ebola Treatment Centre. Furthermore, one of the members, with support from her family in the U.K., shipped food items that were put in a total of 65 hampers and distributed to survivors who were being discharged from the treatment centre.
- In early 2018, in response to the heavy storms that swept through the country, the club contributed non-food items such as underwear, plates, spoons, buckets, and toiletries to the more than 5,000 flood victims. Unfortunately, three of the students the club support had their homes swept away in the flood, and further personal and educational packages were given to them to help them.

Area 02 Club Service Projects

- **Zonta Club of Accra, Ghana**

- Along with the other three face-to-face Zonta clubs in Ghana, the club donated birthing kits, books and used clothing to a women's center.
- Awarding scholarships to students at select senior high schools.
- A collaboration with Blue Cross Canada, which enabled the club to renovate and improve facilities in a mothers' hostel at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra.
- Construction and donation of a bus shelter for Accra residents at Danquah Circle, a key intersection in the arterial road network of Accra.
- Donating birthing kits to expectant mothers in some communities.
- Building a welfare center in a village on the road from Accra to Dodowa to cater to the needs of mothers and children.
- Establishing a library, with assistance from our twin club in Australia, at the Faith Community Baptist School and the Legon Staff Junior Secondary School (JSS).
- With support from EPP Books and the Rotary Club of Tema, delivering a large quantity of assorted senior and junior high school textbooks to boost the club's library projects.
- Providing assistance to HelpAge Ghana, an NGO that works to advance the interests and welfare of the elderly in Ghanaian society, involving medications, clothing, food items and detergents.

- **Zonta Club of Accra II, Ghana**

- Along with the three face-to-face Zonta clubs in Ghana, the club presented birthing kits, books and used clothing to a women's center.

- Project 2021, a scholarship program for promising primary to junior high school students. Fifteen financially disadvantaged but academically talented female students in Primary Class 4 in the greater Accra region were selected, after being nominated by their teachers, and interviewed for eligibility by Zonta representatives. The students are given scholarships to enable them to continue their basic education over a seven-year period. The scholarship, provided by the club, pays for books, school uniforms, shoes, extra classes and other needs. Our club also engages the students and other girls in their schools in weekly or bi-weekly reading clubs, field trips and spelling bee competitions. The project began September 2015 and ends June 2021.
 - Ongoing projects designed to help women and the general public are raising awareness of the need for prevention of violence against women and providing assistance to women who have experienced violence. In November 2016, members of the club gathered at a busy petrol station in Accra to distribute fliers and talk to both pedestrians and car occupants about preventing violence against women. In November 2016, on Zonta Day, the club presented used clothing and other items to the Ark Foundation, an NGO that advocates for women's rights and runs a shelter for women who have experienced violence. In November 2017, some club members joined another Zonta club for a march to raise awareness for the prevention of violence against women.
 - Renovation and support of the Chenard gynecology ward at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital helps female patients who have been diagnosed with ovarian tumors, uterine fibroids, cervical cancer, incomplete abortions, infertility, obstetric fistula, pelvic infections and other conditions. The Zonta Club of Accra II has adopted what was a dilapidated ward at the hospital and is completely renovating it, from the roof to the floor, including the bathrooms, staff rooms, electrical system, plumbing and beds. The Chenard ward, with a capacity of 40 patients, is where women with various gynecological problems are admitted for care. These women often feel quite vulnerable because of the severity of their conditions. The initial phase of the renovation is being funded with contributions made by club members and guests they brought to the installation of the club's current officers and board when the project was launched. Additional support has been granted by the Australian High Commission and GCB Bank Ltd. The first phase of the rehabilitation was completed by the end of March 2018 when patients, who were moved to another building during construction, were re-admitted to the ward. The club has signed a memorandum of understanding with the hospital's head of gynecology and obstetrics department to continue improving and maintaining the ward through 2028.
 - The club has consistently presented winners with the Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award, at club, district or international level. The 2017 YWPA International winner was Naasey Addoba Kanko Arthur, of the SOS-Herman Gmeiner International College in Tema, Ghana.
 - Presentation of various items to the Ark Foundation
- **Zonta Club of Tema, Ghana**

- Along with the other three face-to-face Zonta clubs in Ghana, the club presented birthing kits, books and used clothing to a women's center.
- **Zonta Club of Accra Metropolitan, Ghana**
 - In October 2016, the club marked the UN's International Day of the Girl Child by engaging in a public education campaign on radio, and giving motivational talks to teenage girls at the St. Mary's Senior High School in Accra.
 - Members of the club spent a half-day at the Amrahia Basic School, a suburban school about eight kilometers from Accra, conducting career counselling sessions with the students. The club also donated books and identified ten girls to provide with school uniforms.
- **Zonta Club of Lomé and Zonta Club of Lomé Millennium, Togo**
 - The club raised awareness for the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign by organizing a workshop. Motorcyclists wearing T-shirts rode around the city.
 - Members also organized a photo exhibition, workshops and lectures to honor Togolese women pioneers in their respective fields to mark International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day 2018.
- **Zonta Club of Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso**
 - The club found funds to equip its hospital with mammography equipment.
 - Members produced a documentary film on unwanted pregnancies in schools in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso.
 - The club organized a competition with a prize for the best young woman who was active in public life, highlighting women's talents.
- **Zonta Clubs of Bobo Dioulasso, Ouagadougou, and Ouagadougou Crystal**
 - The three clubs in Burkina Faso were received by the President of the nation's parliament (Assemblée Nationale) to discuss the issue of violence against women and girls.

Area 03 Club Service Projects

- **Zonta Club of Lagos 1, Nigeria**
 - The club started a crèche and an adult literacy program at Sabo Market. The program has now moved to Makoko Market in Lagos.
 - In 2016, the club successfully recognized International Day of the Girl Child by hosting a panel discussion for 1,000 Nigerian schoolgirls, who listened to women speak on a variety of topics.
 - The club won the District Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship for the second time. The 2017 recipient was Rolake Akinkugbe.
 - For two years in a row, the club held an event to celebrate Amelia Earhart Day, informing schoolgirls about the different career paths that are available for women in aviation.

- As a tradition, the Zonta Club of Lagos 1 holds health screening days in underprivileged communities. A variety of doctors support the days by donating their time and providing free medical support and medicine.
 - In January 2018, the club began a new project — hosting a fair for underprivileged children. Club members said this was the first time some of the children had ever tasted cotton candy or gone on a slide. It was a highly appreciated community event.
 - To continue raising awareness, the club produced a video that will serve as a fundraising and advocacy tool. Members will produce CDs to use as a fundraising tool and plan to send the online video to possible donors.
 - Club members also try to consistently advertise the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign by handing out wristbands.
- **Zonta Club of Ibadan, Nigeria**
 - The club produced a seminar on the International Day of the Girl Child.
 - Working with the Zonta Club of Ibadan II, a workshop was organized to empower Zonta club members in regard to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) enhancement for girls. Zonta club members brainstormed, shared experiences and made recommendations. Noting various impediments girls face in attaining equal representation in STEM fields as societal expectations and attitudes, often internalized by both the girls and their teachers, Zonta club members stressed the need for increased contact with role models, for example, female scientists and achievers.
 - The club's most outstanding project was the donation in 2017 of a Solar Biomass Hybrid Dryer to the Akufo farming community in Ido, a local government area in Oyo state, to assist rural women farmers who dominate the processing, preservation and marketing links in the food production chain in Nigeria. Women constitute some 70 per cent of the farmers at the grassroots level, and 50 per cent of Nigerian farmers. This hybrid dryer is the first of its type in Nigeria and was designed to dry foodstuffs in rain or sunshine and replace pollution-ridden drying methods used when unwashable foodstuffs are dried along the nation's highways.
 - **Zonta Club of Ibadan II, Nigeria**
 - The club sponsored a seminar on the International Day of the Girl Child and, working with the Zonta Club of Ibadan, organized a workshop to empower Zonta club members to help support STEM enhancement for girls.
 - The club broke new ground by offering a four-week training program on computer code writing for Zonta clubs. The learning experience involved day-long training on four consecutive Saturdays. Over this period, Zonta club members from three of the six Zonta club schools learned HTML and CSS, Java script and Python coding for website design and development, and software and mobile app construction. They were instructed by Dara Olayebi and Charles Adeniyi, two young but experienced code writers and webpage and app designers. The training was sponsored and coordinated by one of the club members.

- In the context of advocacy for the rights of women and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the club adopted two new tools: the HeForShe campaign, using men of all ages as partners to carry the message, and using social media to broadcast the message.
- **Zonta Club of Cotonou, Benin**
 - In the 2010–2012 Biennium, the club provided financial support for the Obstetric Fistula Project in the north of Benin for surgical intervention for women suffering from obstetric fistula.
 - From 2012 to 2014, the club built a dormitory complex for women with mental health disorders in Calavi City in Benin.
 - In 2014, the Zonta Club of Cotonou created a network platform for all service clubs to be able to cooperate in case of an emergency.
 - From 2014 to 2016, the club participated in advocacy for the prevention and eradication of early pregnancies at schools.
 - From 2014 to 2015, the club was involved in advocacy efforts to fight violence against women, which included the involvement of other civil society and donor partners.
 - In 2016, the Zonta Club of Cotonou initiated networking with the UN and bilateral agencies and participated in meetings of donors as well as interagency and Benin government meetings on gender and issues affecting vulnerable persons.
 - The club participated in a UNFPA/UNICEF/youth organization march to protest against sexual violence against girls.
- **Zonta Club of Kampala, Uganda**
 - Together with the Zonta Club of Damme from District 27, the club conducted medical outreach in Eastern Uganda.
 - The club also distributed shoes to the Sanyu Babies' Home in Kampala.

History of formation of clubs in District 18

Benin

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
2000	1658	Zonta Club of Cotonou	03	
2014	1932	Zonta Club of Cotonou Amazone	03	

Burkina Faso

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1990	1309	Zonta Club of Ouagadougou	02	
1999	1594	Zonta Club of Bobo-Dioulasso	02	
2005	1804	Zonta Club of Ouagadougou Crystal	02	

Cameroon

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1999	1638	Zonta Club of Yaoundé		2007

Ghana

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1970	0638	Zonta Club of Accra	02	
1970	0639	Zonta Club of Kumasi		1980
1974	0757	Zonta Club of Tema	02	
1997	1555	Zonta Club of Accra II	02	
2006	1817	Zonta Club of Accra Metropolitan	02	
2018	1978	e-Club of West Africa	02	

Guinea

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1999	1644	Zonta Club of Conakry		2004

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1970	0658	Zonta Club of Abidjan	01	

Kenya

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1970	0654	Zonta Club of Nairobi		1995
1985	1117	Zonta Club of Nairobi Milimani		1996

Liberia

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1970	0647	Zonta Club of Monrovia		1980

Niger

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
2008	1845	Zonta Club of Niamey Premier		2011

Nigeria

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1970	0643	Zonta Club of Lagos	03	
1970	0644	Zonta Club of Ibadan	03	
1983	1069	Zonta Club of Calabar		1990
1985	1112	Zonta Club of Ife		1995
1986	1151	Zonta Club of Lagos II		2010
1988	1208	Zonta Club of Jos		1999
1988	1225	Zonta Club of Akure		2004
1988		Zonta Club of Benin City		1994

1989	1237	Zonta Club of Ibadan II	03	
2001	1705	Zonta Club of Lagos III		2004

Senegal

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1970	0655	Zonta Club of Dakar	01	
1976	0788	Zonta Club of Kaolack		1997
1978	0855	Zonta Club of Ziguin Chor		1980

Sierra Leone

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1970	0652	Zonta Club of Freetown	01	
1989	1250	Zonta Club of Kenema*		1994

- *The Zonta International Directory, 1993-94, p. 54 lists two clubs with the same number: 1250 Benin, Nigeria and 1250 Kenema, Sierra Leone. Neither the Zonta Club of Benin, Nigeria, nor the Zonta Club Kenema, Sierra Leone, is mentioned in the Zonta International Directory from 1994-95.

South Africa

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1997	1554	Zonta Club of Cape Town		2007
1997	1591	Zonta Club of Johannesburg-Pretoria		2009
1999	1645	Zonta Club of Durban		2004

Togo

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1988	1219	Zonta Club of Lomé	02	
2002	1724	Zonta Club of Lomé-Millennium	02	

Uganda

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
2014	1921	Zonta Club of Kampala	03	