



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

 **RISE UP**

for a more just and equitable world



We Rise Up Stronger

Dear Friends,

2020 was a year like no other. As I look back at the year's overwhelming challenges, I'm also struck by the bright spots — the moments of hope and connection that sustained us.

For me, Rise Up's dedicated team and powerful network of leaders were crucial sources of hope and strength throughout 2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our amazing Rise Up team pivoted quickly — adapting our curriculum to deliver our first-ever virtual accelerators, providing flexible funding to our Rise Up Leaders, and creating new resources and spaces to support their important work.

In the face of enormous obstacles, Rise Up Leaders improved the lives of **4.7 million people in 2020** by successfully advocating for 16 new and improved laws, policies, and programs. With Rise Up's support, these courageous leaders expanded access to education and healthcare for girls and women, and advocated for their rights on national and international platforms.

With your support, Rise Up launched new programs in Brazil and South Africa, welcomed **89 new visionary local leaders** to our global network, and provided over **\$600,000 in grants** to Rise Up Leaders and their organizations in 2020. We were also honored to have Rise Up's award-winning model highlighted in the United Nation's report *When Children Take the Lead* and the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.



The Rise Up team together on Zoom in 2020

The impacts of the pandemic are deep and long-lasting, but together we are rising up stronger to create a brighter future. Rise Up's work to improve the lives of women and girls would not be possible without generous support from our strategic partners and donors. I am deeply thankful to you and proud of what we accomplished together.

With gratitude and hope for the road ahead,

Denise Raquel Dunning, PhD
Founder and Executive Director

2020 IMPACTS

Advancing large-scale change



As the world responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rise Up Leaders adapted and persevered to successfully advocate for **16 new and improved laws, policies, and programs**, impacting more than **4.7 million people** in Nigeria, India, Guatemala, and Malawi.

Rise Up Leaders' achievements in 2020 build upon a decade of driving change for girls and women. Since 2009, Rise Up Leaders have impacted more than **135 million people** by advocating for over **120 laws and policies globally**, as shown in our 2019 external evaluation report, conducted in collaboration with the Institute of International Education.



Rise Up Leaders' Key Advocacy Impacts in 2020:

Protecting over **1 million school children** from abuse in Nigeria by ensuring Lagos schools effectively implement the state's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Expanding access to education for nearly **500,000 girls** throughout India by ensuring they can attend school free from harassment

Improving the safety of over **700,000 adolescent girls** in Malawi by developing systems for reporting and addressing sexual violence

Ensuring the health and safety of **150,000 women and children** by establishing Integrated Child Development Centers in India

Speaking out for Guatemalan girls' rights in the UN Generation Equality Forum

SPOTLIGHT:

Groundbreaking Success in India

Alicia Tauro and her organization, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), work with children, youth, and women in Mumbai's informal settlements. With funding and support from Rise Up, Alicia and YUVA protected the health and safety of **951,000 children** in Mumbai. Alicia applied what she learned in the Rise Up Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator to create and mobilize Child Protection Committees to protect children from harassment and abuse. When the pandemic hit, Alicia adapted her strategy to include a combination of online and safe community-based activities and successfully advocated for the implementation of Child Protection Committees across Mumbai.

"Childhood is a golden age in life...**Every child has the right to a safe and healthy childhood, especially children from low-resource communities and urban poor households,**" said Alicia.

"My biggest takeaway from the Accelerator was how to take a systematic and holistic approach to advocacy...Applying the learnings from Rise Up to my advocacy strategy with my incredibly supportive team at YUVA, we achieved groundbreaking success."

Alicia Tauro, Rise Up Leader since 2019, India



2020 IMPACTS

Investing in visionary leaders



We invested in **89** new Rise Up Leaders from **Honduras, India, Mexico,** and **South Africa,** providing more than **270** hours of training on leadership, advocacy, and strategy development. These new Rise Up Leaders join our powerful global network of leaders across Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the United States.

Additionally, Rise Up continued to work with local partner organizations in **Brazil, Kenya, Mexico,** and **Nigeria** to adapt and use our Girls' Voices Curriculum to enable hundreds of girl leaders to raise their voices and create change.



SPOTLIGHT: Educating Nigerian Girls, Strengthening a Nation

With training, funding, and support from Rise Up, Benjamin Yunana Maigari and his organization, Africa Media Development Foundation, expanded access to education for **224,000 girls** in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Benjamin developed a policy for implementing free and compulsory secondary school for girls in Kaduna, partnered with girl leaders to ensure the policy met their needs, and worked with parents, teachers, media, and religious leaders to advocate for the policy. In September 2020, the Commissioner for the Ministry of Education formally approved the policy.

“To me, **girls’ education is the foundation for nation-building**, and to have played a part in that is my greatest accomplishment,” said Benjamin.

“Before my Rise Up training, I didn’t know that I needed to have such concrete goals and milestones to work towards. Now I can go to any government official and tell them exactly what I want, how I think it can be achieved, and how long it is expected to take.”

Benjamin Yunana Maigari, Rise Up Leader since 2018, Nigeria



2020 IMPACTS

Seeding a global movement



We provided over **\$600,000 in direct funding** to Rise Up Leaders and partner organizations to advance the rights of girls and women. Rise Up also provided our grantees with flexible funding to respond to the crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, we supported Rise Up Leaders to advocate for the rights of girls and women within the global development agenda and post-COVID-19 recovery efforts, including by participating in the UN's Generation Equality Forum.

NORTH AMERICA

United States

LATIN AMERICA

Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil

AFRICA

Nigeria, South Africa, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda

ASIA

India, Pakistan



SPOTLIGHT: Generation Equality

In 2020, Rise Up supported several young leaders, including Ixchel and Eyleen from Guatemala, to participate in the UN's Generation Equality Forum. Ixchel and Eyleen are raising their voices on this global platform to advocate for the rights of girls and youth in Guatemala and beyond.



"The challenges young girls face in Guatemala have worsened during COVID-19...I had the opportunity to raise these issues during a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on behalf of other young girls. Governments should invest more in supporting us by increasing healthcare services, enhancing services to survivors of violence, and increasing access to education."



Ixchel María José Lucas Adolfo
Rise Up Leader since 2010, Guatemala

"I realized how important it is to work between generations and I was able to share the perspective of me as a teenager from Guatemala to the authorities."



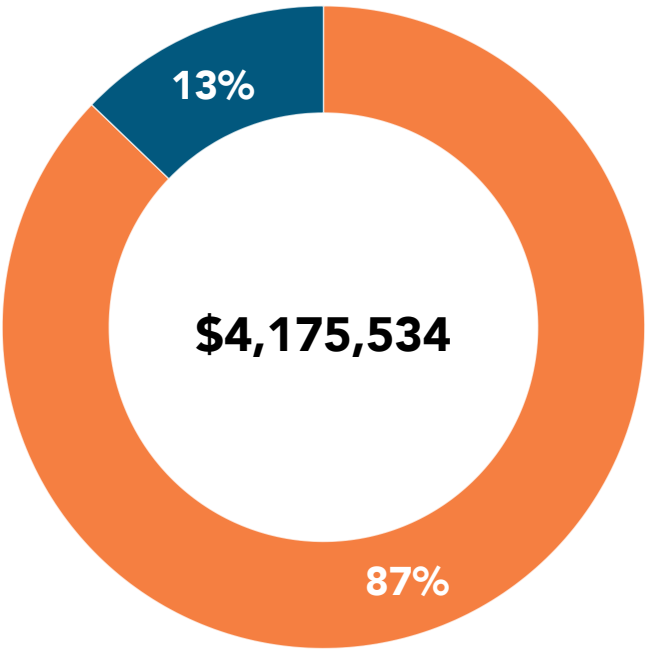
Eyleen
Rise Up Leader since 2016, Guatemala



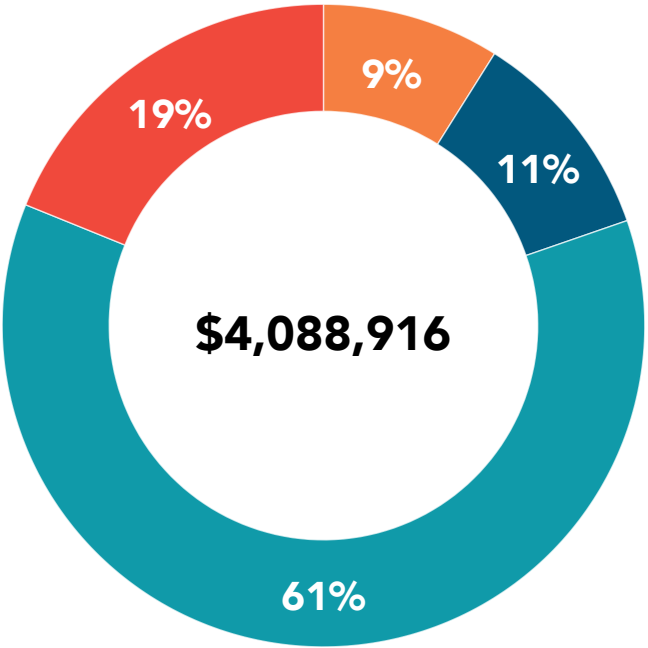
Financials



Total Contributions	\$4,175,534
Strategic Partners	\$3,640,071
Corporate, Individual & Institutional Donors	\$535,463



Total Expenses	\$4,088,916
Program	\$2,511,904
Grantmaking	\$771,413
Operating	\$440,091
Fundraising	\$365,508



Strategic Partners



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Leadership Council

The Rise Up Leadership Council is a committed network of investors who champion our mission of building a more just and equitable world with and for girls and women. Leadership Council members invest their time, talent, and resources to support Rise Up, and provide strategic guidance to help us expand our networks and impact.

The Leadership Council is also an active learning community. Members learn about the latest developments in gender equity, connect with our powerful network of global leaders, participate in global convenings, and network with other Leadership Council members and the Rise Up community.

In 2020 Rise Up’s Leadership Council raised critical funds to drive change for girls and women, directly contributing **\$233,456** and leveraging their networks to raise over **\$200,000** more to support our work. We are deeply grateful to our Leadership Council members for their commitment, support, and dedication to creating a more just and equitable world.



Rise Up Leadership Council members with Rise Up Leaders in 2019

Rise Up’s Leadership Council Members

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* Officially joined the Leadership Council in 2021



RISE UP

for a more just and equitable world



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@RiseUpforGirls

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