

GIRLRISING



**GLOBAL EDUCATION FUND
INVESTOR REPORT 2019-2024**





GRGEF

Investor Report 2019 - 2024



Local Leaders, Lasting Change

The Girl Rising Global Education Fund (GRGEF) **supported seven early-stage organizations in India, Kenya, and Guatemala** working to improve education for adolescents — especially girls — and advance gender equity.

Key goals included:



Provide funding, training & tools to local leaders, mostly women



Measure impact, learn and adapt to sustain and scale what works



Adapt Girl Rising's unique story-based curriculum, RISE, to local needs



Establish peer networks and ecosystems to build lasting systems of change



Set local leaders on a path to sustainability and growth by the end of Fund





Your investment has transformed lives



Dear Friends,

In 2024, the Kenyan government officially accredited the Girl Rising curriculum - a milestone that means our research-proven programs will reach adolescents across Kenya for years to come.

This year, we are expanding our partnership with Slam Out Loud, advancing digital literacy and building social-emotional skills using the Indian government's digital resource platform that reaches millions of young people.

These are just two of the extraordinary outcomes made possible by your belief in the power of local leadership.

Because of your generosity, the Girl Rising Global Education Fund (GRGEF) has fueled bold solutions, expanded opportunities, and strengthened education for hundreds of thousands of young people. At a time when the international development sector faces funding cuts and waning political will in some regions, your support has ensured that those closest to the issues — local leaders — have the resources to drive meaningful change.

The seven organizations of the GRGEF cohort, selected for their vision and leadership, have not only met but exceeded their goals. With your investment, they've deepened their impact, scaled their reach, and remained unwavering in their commitment to advancing education and girls' rights — through pandemics, disasters, and shifting policies.

Though the Fund has reached its planned close, we continue to collaborate with these organizations, supporting their use of Girl Rising's resources, co-fundraising for shared projects, and amplifying their work. I invite you to stay on this journey with us. With your partnership, we will build on this momentum, scaling our impact and ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to learn, rise and thrive.

With immense gratitude,

Christina Lowery

Girl Rising CEO

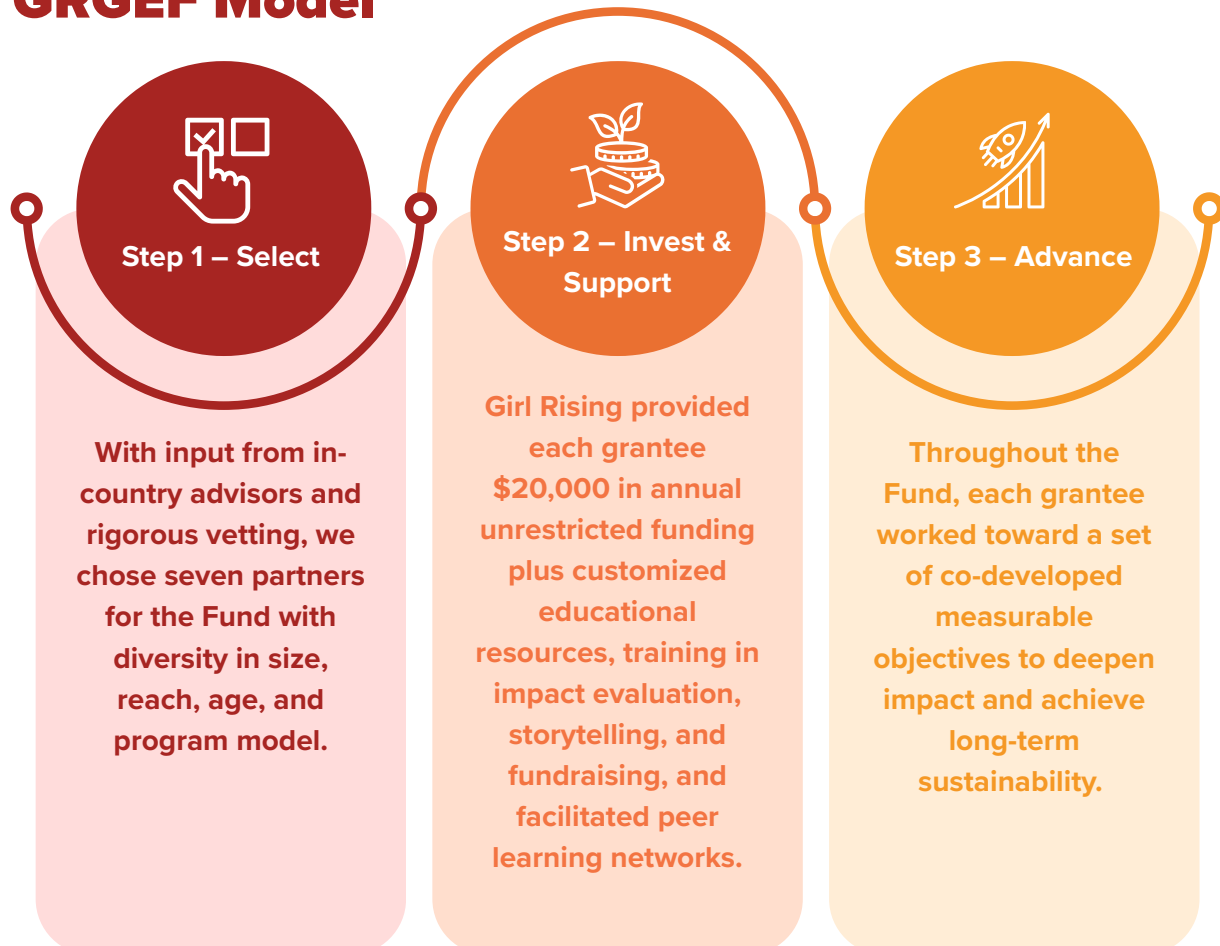
Fueling Change: Supporting Local Leaders and Emerging Organizations Focused on Girls' Education

By focusing on early-stage organizations that serve girls, GRGEF addressed a serious gap in the funding landscape. **Less than 2% of philanthropic funding supports women's and girls' organizations and even less reaches early-stage organizations in lower-income countries.** Yet evidence consistently and overwhelmingly shows that **educating girls is one of the most effective interventions** – breaking cycles of poverty, driving economic growth, improving health outcomes, and creating more just and equitable societies.

The GRGEF Grantees



The GRGEF Model



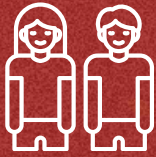
Partner Growth and Impact, 2019 - 2024

We selected a diverse group of grantees, all led by innovative leaders with strong ideas for enhancing their educational programs.



I have seen girls in my community get married off after they pass 8th grade because they are considered a burden to the family but this mentality is centuries old and I am fighting to change it. I have stopped three child marriages and I will continue to stop more.” - **Priyanka, Milaan Foundation, India (pictured top row, left)**

India



90,020
Young people

2,267
Educators

Reached during
Fund period



39 million
Young people

656,400
Educators

Reached through
digital platforms
during Fund
period



Milaan Foundation works with adolescent girls to build knowledge, skills, and the social environment needed to pursue their aspirations.

Milaan Foundation's main objectives during the Fund were to:

- Refine and expand their flagship Girl Icon leadership program for girls and young women
- Develop follow-on opportunities for program alumni

Despite COVID-19 lockdowns, Milaan successfully met these objectives and introduced further innovations. Additionally, Milaan advanced fundraising goals with new major donors and Girl Rising educational resources were used by more than 25,000 individuals within Milaan's programs.

Slam Out Loud (SOL) harnesses the power of the arts to foster social-emotional learning in young people.

As a grantee, SOL's main objectives were to:

- Strengthen impact measurement
- Integrate gender equity and climate awareness into their arts-based curriculum
- Secure long-term funding

COVID-19 lockdowns sparked major innovations, leading to the launch of digital programming. This digital branch now reaches millions of young people annually through government learning platforms. Girl Rising and SOL partnered to create new educational resources and programming, integrating gender and climate awareness. Recognized by state and national governments, SOL is redefining how creativity drives lasting change.

Through the Fund, SOL reached more than 39 million young people and over 500,000 teachers through digital platforms and 91,000 young people and 1,500 teachers through in-person programming with Girl Rising.

Kenya



5,500
Young people

69
Educators

Reached during
Fund period



160
Educators

participated in
their accelerator,
who in turn are
expected to
impact more than

600,000
Young people
per year

Big Picture Learning Kenya (BPLK) was a nascent organization with a bold vision when it became part of GRGEF.

Their vision was to activate the potential of young people through student-driven real-world learning, helping them develop self-reliance, critical thinking, life skills, and plans for their futures. With the Fund's support BPLK:

- Strengthened communications and fundraising
- Honed their program model
- Formalized operations
- Created new monitoring and evaluation processes that provided evidence of program impact

BPLK delivered the Girl Rising program and resources to more than 2,000 adolescents, 69 teachers, and 47 parents. BPLK's growth as a grantee demonstrates the power of early funding, mentorship, and the freedom to experiment.

Metis supports, connects, and elevates Kenya's top education innovators. Joining GRGEF in 2022, they:

- Created a Gender Equity Fellowship for 63 educators
- Formalized data systems
- Launched the ConnectED platform
- Refined their learning and evaluation framework

Today, Metis is widely recognized as a leader in innovative education in Kenya, is now proudly Kenyan-led, and is shaping education leadership and innovation across sectors.

During their three years in the Fund, 160 educators participated in their accelerator who in turn are expected to impact more than 600,000 students per year.

Cynthia lives in Kibera, Africa's largest informal urban settlement, outside Nairobi. Her education was interrupted when her family couldn't afford the fees. When she returned to school she joined the Girl Rising program through our partner Sunflower Trust which helped her gain new perspectives on the value of education and her ability to create change.

“She was inspired by Wadley's story from the “Girl Rising” film. “The strength Wadley had is the strength I also wanted to have,” Cynthia shared.

Now, Cynthia dreams of becoming a human rights advocate, determined to ensure other girls don't have to leave school like she did. She believes in her power to stand up for what's right and help build a future where every girl has the chance to thrive.



2,877

Young people

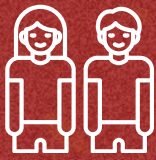
Reached during
Fund period

Sunflower Trust serves girls in Kibera, Africa's largest informal settlement. Sunflower develops transformative learning programs for at-risk girls (grades 5-8) focusing on literacy, life skills, and leadership to support their transition to secondary school. With GRGEF support, Sunflower:

- Developed tools to track student and teacher engagement
- Enhanced their flagship Pathway to Alternative Learning (PALE) program which supports girls with mentorship and literacy, and helps build girls' confidence and agency
- Expanded to work with additional local schools in the area
- Improved their communications and fundraising, giving them a more sustainable future

In the year before entering the Fund, Sunflower reached 50 girls. By the final year, their reach exceeded 261 adolescents. In 2025, they expect to triple that number, delivering the Girl Rising program to 1,904 girls. Sunflower Trust played a key role in advancing Girl Rising's curriculum government accreditation in Kenya.

Guatemala



273
Adolescents
28 Educators
206 Parents

Reached during
Fund period



396
Adolescents
20 Educators
122 Parents

Reached during
Fund period

After COVID-19, we expanded GRGEF to include two additional partners in Guatemala who each participated in the fund for three years.

Amigos de Santa Cruz, a nonprofit in Santa Cruz la Laguna, Sololá, is dedicated to advancing the economic and educational opportunities of Indigenous women and girls. As part of the Fund, they:

- Integrated the Girl Rising curriculum
- Strengthened peer mentorship, and enhanced program monitoring, implementing house visits to work with parents of the students as well
- Expanded efforts in gender equity and sexual and reproductive health education, engaging more Indigenous youth and local schools

Through their mentorship program, local mentors travel to remote Lake Atitlán communities, creating a ripple effect of change.

EPRODEP is a non-profit school in Ciudad Quetzal, Guatemala, providing alternative education to students preschool to 9th grade who have been pushed out of the formal school system.

As a grantee, EPRODEP's main objectives were:

- Strengthen strategic planning
- Integrate the Girl Rising curriculum
- Expand peer mentorship
- Enhance gender equity and human rights education

Today, EPRODEP continues to expand their work, reaching communities beyond their school with the Girl Rising curriculum as well as implementing Girl Rising's storytelling curriculum with the older adolescents in the school. They more than doubled their student body, from 120 students before the fund to 250 students today.

Stories of Change and the Road Ahead



Mary, Sunflower Trust, Kenya

A 12-year-old student from Kibera, Nairobi, shares how COVID-19 upended her once-stable family. Her father, a mechanic, saw his income shrink, and her mother lost her job, forcing the family to move to a nearby informal settlement. As tensions and domestic violence rose, her mother eventually left the family. Mary had to stop going to school to care for her younger siblings. The Sunflower team reached out to the family, provided encouragement and support for Mary to return to the program and her studies, helping her build her academic skills as well as develop courage and self-confidence. Without Sunflower, Mary could easily have never returned to school. “Sunflower gave me courage by showing me I’m not alone. I’m grateful to Girl Rising and Sunflower for their support,” she says.



Shweta Vishwakarma, Milaan Foundation, India

A 14-year-old from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, Shweta is a powerful example of self-belief and courage. Through the Girl Icon Program by Milaan Foundation and Girl Rising’s film and curriculum, she learned about gender inequality and recognized it in her own community.

In a community where tradition often outweighs rights, Shweta boldly stopped two child marriages—including that of a 16-year-old girl forced into marriage after eloping. With support from the program, she helped call off the wedding. Her story shows how one voice can spark real change.

Looking Ahead: Expanding Impact Together

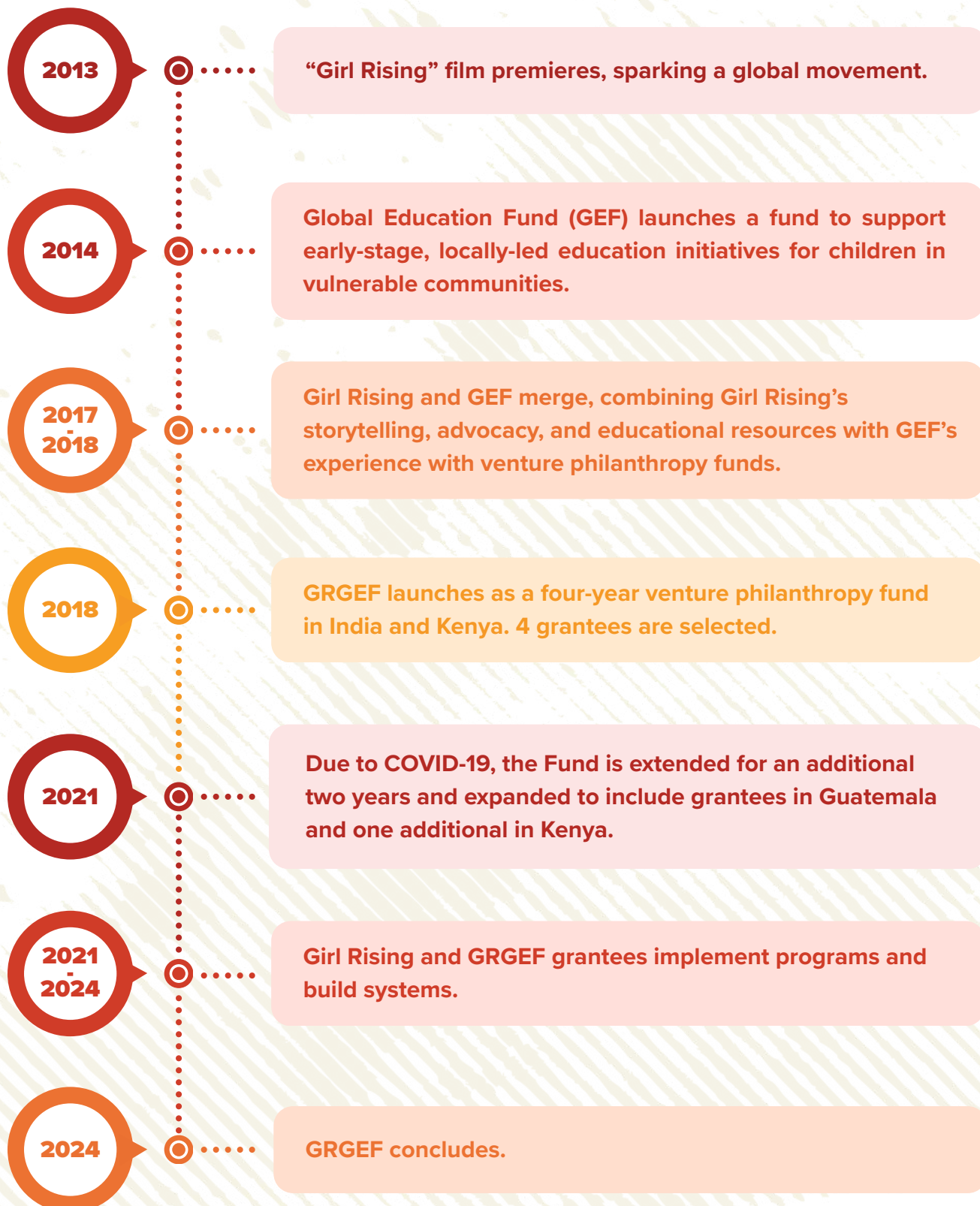
We’re entering a new chapter — one defined by bold partnerships, deeper impact, and the opportunity to scale.

In India and Kenya, we will continue delivering RISE, our flagship educational program, in close collaboration with local organizations and with the support of government partnerships that open the door to reaching millions of adolescents. Around the world, our Student Ambassador Program and global educator community will grow — connecting young changemakers and the teachers who believe in their potential.

This work is only possible because of you. Your generosity has led the way for innovative solutions, resilient leadership, and life-changing opportunities for young people. As we look ahead, we invite you to stay on this path with us.

For more information, contact Christina Lowery and Cris Valderrama at christina@girlrising.org and cris@girlrising.org.

GRGEF Timeline



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