5 YEARS of COLLABORATION for Just and Inclusive Systems
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We envision a world where all people can live fulfilling lives, where systems and societies are just and inclusive.

Fundación Capital is supporting the adoption of the graduation approach into the public systems of Paraguay, Colombia and Brazil, so millions of women and families can achieve sustained income and move out of extreme poverty. Photo courtesy of Fundación Capital.
MESSAGE FROM CO-IMPACT’S BOARD CO-CHAIR

As a philanthropist committed to creating sustainable change,

I’ve found that no one intervention, organisation, or solution can ever do enough to meet the glaring development challenges that exist globally. The problems we face are complex, widespread, and ingrained within every system and sector of society and, thus, require collective action.

Through the model of collaborative philanthropy, Co-Impact has brought together some of the world’s most insightful, forward-thinking philanthropists, experts, and advisors with a shared vision for building just and inclusive systems. I’m delighted to be part of this community and honoured to serve as the inaugural Co-Chair of the Board of Directors.

Over the last five years, Co-Impact has made bold investments that are scaling impact in communities around the world. Through the support of our funding partners and the vital work of our program partners, we are already changing millions of lives for the better by tackling inequalities in economic, health, and education systems across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

One year on from the launch of the Gender Fund, we’ve made significant strides in mobilising resources to empower women and girls across the Global South. It’s inspiring to see the unwavering commitment of the collaborators who have joined us in our vision. Despite this progress, we recognise that we are just at the start of our journey towards true gender equality. We remain steadfast in our resolve to continue pushing for a more equitable future for all.

I’m excited for the next phase of our journey as Co-Impact becomes a fully independent organisation, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of our investments. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I recognise and appreciate the individuals and organisations who have been instrumental in getting us this far – our partners, advisory boards, leadership, and dedicated staff – and I have great hope for what we will achieve in the future!

Tsitsi Masiyiwa

MESSAGE FROM CO-IMPACT’S FOUNDER AND CEO

The past five years have been all about community.

The idea of coming together to connect, learn, and take action around shared values and a shared vision has been foundational to Co-Impact’s approach towards building a more just and inclusive world.

We need collective action to tackle broken systems, discrimination and injustice, and at the center of this have been our program partners and the communities they serve. The initiatives we’re supporting across Africa, Asia, and Latin America are working to make systems more just and inclusive and laying the pathways for millions of women to exercise power, agency, and leadership at all levels. I hope this report gives a small flavor of this work through the stories of our program partners and look forward to sharing many more, as the vision and goals of our program partners are realized.

We’re also thrilled to be working with a growing group of funding partners who believe fundamentally in philanthropy’s potential to do more and do better in creating a just world. By pooling resources, we are able to provide larger, longer-term, flexible funding and support to program partners to create lasting change at scale. And we will continue to work collaboratively with this group and others to influence philanthropic giving and grow the overall pool of resources available for long-term investments to build just societies and tackle gender inequality.

I’m so grateful for the global collaborative of locally-rooted organizations and their coalition partners, philanthropists, activists, and many other friends and advisors who have joined us over the last five years, and thank you for the many consultations, conversations, and ideas shared by so many of you. None of this would have been possible without each member of our community – and without our incredible team, whom I am grateful to learn from, work with, and feel inspired by every day. We look forward to continuing to build deeper partnerships and alliances over the next five years.

We’ve achieved some important milestones and I’m energized and hopeful for the future. I’m confident that, together, this community will contribute to creating a better world for those who come long after we are gone.

Olivia Leland
Co-Impact at a Glance

We envision a world where all people can live fulfilling lives, where systems and societies are just and inclusive.

Millions of people are adversely affected by unjust systems and unequal distribution of power in society.

Founded in 2017, Co-Impact harnesses the power of collaborative philanthropy to build just and inclusive systems. Co-Impact brings together philanthropists, foundations, and private sector partners to pool resources and invest in locally-rooted initiatives that are tackling the root causes of inequities in health, education, and economic systems to create deep and lasting change for millions.

We stand for gender equality, where all women have the opportunity to exercise power, agency, and leadership at all levels.

Creating more just and inclusive systems cannot happen without the meaningful inclusion of women and girls.*

*Liberata from Rwanda got a land title through a government program supported by Landesa, allowing her to grow food to feed and educate her 6 children. Co-Impact is supporting this initiative to reduce extreme poverty, protect the environment, and shape a more gender-equitable future in rural Africa. Photo credit: Deborah Espinosa.

*Co-Impact uses the terms ‘woman’, ‘women and girls’ and ‘gender’ throughout to be inclusive of people across the gender spectrum. We seek to advance gender equality through an intersectional approach that is inclusive of race, caste, class, sexual identity, disability, and other contextual markers of discrimination and exclusion.
Our Beginnings

Co-Impact was conceived from the firm belief that philanthropy can do more good in the world.

Having worked in the philanthropic, public and nonprofit sectors for over two decades, Co-Impact’s Founder and CEO, Olivia Leland was on a mission to answer one key question: “How could philanthropy more effectively contribute to systemic, enduring change?”

For three years, Olivia dedicated herself to deeply understanding the issues associated with achieving impact at scale. She gathered perspectives from philanthropists, activists, government officials, academics, and social change leaders from around the world. These discussions helped shape new ideas on how philanthropy could collectively catalyze scalable solutions for pressing problems.

With incubation support from The Rockefeller Foundation and funding from a few initial partners, Olivia and a small team launched Co-Impact in 2017. In 2022 Co-Impact became an independent entity.

Our Values

• Be outcomes-focused – for meaningful, lasting, and inclusive impact.
• Be program partner- and community-centered.
• Bring a beginner’s mind – with a willingness to challenge assumptions and continually learn and adapt.
• Draw from unity in diversity – recognizing that our work is stronger when informed by different perspectives, especially from people who have been historically excluded from shaping philanthropy.
• Build trusting partnerships.

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) Promise of Commons initiative is partnering with government, NGOs and communities in rural India to manage 30 million acres of collectively held land and water resources for improved economic outcomes for 38 million people. Photo credit: Mark Katzmann.
Co-Impact’s Collaborative Model

Our approach centers around bringing together a community of locally-rooted program partners, funding partners, advisors, and experts to take collective action for just and inclusive systems so that all people can live fulfilling lives.

We've built alliances with activists, development and philanthropy sector actors, academia, civil and human right organizations, and feminist leaders and organizations, because addressing the pressing challenges in our world and communities requires collective action. Everyone within our community has an important role to play; we deeply value their diversity of perspectives, which have shaped what we do and how we do it.

“We need to put our imagination, energies and resources into societal transformation and systemic change. Still, we can only do this through collaboration, by embracing risk, and without the fear of failure. Hence, collaborative platforms like Co-Impact keep us hopeful.”

- Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies & Co-Impact Foundational Fund Advisory Board member
Our partners share our belief that philanthropy can do more and do better when we come together as a community – and we are energized and encouraged to be part of a growing field of collaborative philanthropy.

We will continue to advance community and build a model of collaborative philanthropy that is about combining resources to go beyond the reach of individuals or single funding organizations.

We foster program partner-led philanthropy. We respect and trust the lived experiences, expertise, knowledge, relationships, and vision of locally-rooted organizations, advancing their visions for change; they are best placed to achieve and sustain results.

We seek to influence philanthropic giving to be more significant, flexible, longer term, and to focus on locally-rooted, primarily women-led organizations and those that are led and governed by underrepresented groups.

We work to grow the pool of resources available for long-term investments in building just and inclusive systems and tackling gender inequality.
Our Milestones to Date

**Foundational Fund**
Launched in 2018, the Foundational Fund provides large, long-term, flexible grants of US $5-20 million over 5 to 6 years to initiatives that have demonstrated success through an evidence-based approach to changing systems at scale.

**Gender Fund**
Launched in March 2022, the Gender Fund provides a range of different grant types of up to US $20 million over 3-6 years to support initiatives working to advance gender equality and women's leadership while seeking to shift harmful gender norms that limit progress.

Together, our funds reflect Co-Impact’s approach that focuses on transforming health, education, and/or economic systems by tackling root causes of inequalities and advancing gender equality and inclusion across all our work.
Graduation Approach to Economic Opportunity

Better social protection systems to tackle the multidimensional barriers of poverty

Until two years ago, Daniela Ramirez earned less than US $2 a day and struggled to meet her family’s basic needs. Like thousands of rural Paraguayan families living in extreme poverty, she was stuck in a vicious cycle of poverty, with no options for economic empowerment. In 2021, she got government support through a proven intervention called the graduation approach – which extends ladders out of extreme poverty through cash transfers, seed capital, and small business coaching. Daniela is now earning a living producing and selling fresh strawberries. She is saving, expanding her business, and improving her family’s life.

Partnership with Co-Impact

With a grant from Co-Impact in 2020, Fundacion Capital’s (FC) vision is to help transform government social programs that provide temporary safety-net support for systems that promote sustainable economic opportunities for millions of women, and families living in poverty in Paraguay, Colombia and Brazil.

In Paraguay, FC is supporting the integration and scaling of the graduation approach within government social protection systems to advance:

**PEOPLE-LEVEL OUTCOMES:**
- Support 75,000 largely female-headed households with economic opportunities that lead to sustainable livelihoods by 2024.
- Advance gender inclusion within the programming.

**SYSTEMS-LEVEL OUTCOMES:**
- Support and strengthen policy frameworks and quality implementation while building capacities within the government to fully own and lead integration of the graduation approach into Paraguay’s social protection system.

**ORGANIZATIONAL-LEVEL OUTCOMES:**
- Strengthen FC’s team capacity and diversity, and build its influence with key stakeholders.

Key milestones and achievements
- Integration of the Graduation approach into government’s social protection systems, which have reached over 41,000 families across 50 districts since 2020.
- Enhanced government capacity for program ownership through the successful implementation of an annual training plan for almost 100 government staff and total digitization of operational and monitoring processes to enhance data utility for decision making.
- Co-designing and implementation of a customized economic inclusion component for the national cash transfer program.

Gender inclusion
- To strengthen gender inclusion, FC has adopted a gender transformative approach that centers on the needs of graduation program participants, most of whom are women, as an important element in addressing the multifaceted entrenched biases and inequities that hold women and girls back.
- FC has collaborated with the International Development Research Centre to understand the impact of graduation programs on intra-household gender dynamics to inform government’s implementation of social protection programs.

"If we want to build systems that effectively promote inclusion and opportunities for the poorest, it’s key to work with the public sector. They are in a unique position to promote social change at scale. Co-Impact is supporting us to do just that!"

- Carolina de Miranda, Social and Livelihood Promotion Director at Fundación Capital
Our Program Partners

Co-Impact supports a bold and promising portfolio of locally-rooted program partners who are driving initiatives that advance more just and inclusive systems across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

We are supporting 65 initiatives* to date with US $301.25 million in committed funding through our Foundational Fund and Gender Fund.

Latin America
10 INITIATIVES
5 COUNTRIES
Brazil
Colombia
Mexico
Peru
Paraguay

Africa
19 INITIATIVES
13 COUNTRIES
Ethiopia
Ghana
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Nigeria
Rwanda
South Africa
Senegal
Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia
22 INITIATIVES
4 COUNTRIES
Bangladesh
India
Indonesia
Sri Lanka

Global/multiregional
14 INITIATIVES
31 COUNTRIES
Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia

*Full list of partners in annex
Learning, Measurement and Evaluation (LME) are essential to our approach

WE SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS TO:

- Arrive at a credible and cohesive theory of change based on thorough problem analysis which applies an intersectional lens to understand power and inequalities.
- Analyse and connect root causes of system malfunctions with measurable outcomes at 3 levels - organizational, system, and people-level - that are disaggregated through an intersectional gender lens.
- Develop or strengthen nimble and useful monitoring mechanisms, with a focus on obtaining and acting on stakeholder feedback, especially historically underrepresented groups.
- Developing a support infrastructure for program partners, including strengthen their learning, measurement and evaluation (LME) systems and investing in a network of local coaches in the global south and creating open-source training and development materials

WHO IS THE LEARNING FOR?

Learning about what works to sustainably alter systems so that they are more effective and more equitable should primarily benefit the program partners. They and their coalition partners, including government actors, are the ones who most urgently need evidence, lessons and insights to achieve these long-term outcomes.

At the same time, Co-Impact, our funding partners, as well as the broader global development and philanthropic communities stand to benefit from the learning that arises from specific initiatives, as well as from a synthesis of lessons and evidence across initiatives.

Together with our program partners and selected global learning organizations, we are committed to examining the fundamental hypotheses that underpin Co-Impact’s approach. For example, if the initiatives we support institutionalize the desired changes into the core systems, these changes are more likely to have impact at scale and persist over a longer period of time, surviving the push and pull of politics and short term projects. In doing so, these improved systems will continue to better serve millions of people, contributing to measurably improved outcomes.
Strengthening Practitioner-Oriented Research and Learning

Our Research Grants

We aim to contribute to the body of evidence on how to shift systems to be more efficient and more equitable, and to advance women’s leadership at scale.

We’re providing practice-focused research grants to learning organizations that actively bridge knowledge and practice, synthesize lessons across contexts, and are positioned to influentially disseminate those lessons. For example, on areas such as:

• Addressing the barriers to women’s economic empowerment and labour force participation.
• Building a national gender data hub for collaboration among feminist scholars, activists, and policymakers.
• Tackling intersectional gender discrimination in the judicial system.
• Preventing and addressing violence against women and children through global networks of researchers and practitioners.

Research Spotlight: Removing barriers to women’s workforce participation

Women’s participation in the labor force globally is just under 47% compared to 72% for men, with some regions facing a gap of more than 50%.

Women are more likely to be in jobs that are less secure, pay less, and are less likely to be covered by labor laws and benefits. In many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, there is limited context-specific and actionable evidence to understand and address these barriers. Policy makers instead rely on historical trends or evidence from high-income countries.

Our research partner in Kenya, the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), contributes to closing this knowledge gap by conducting gender-sensitive policy analysis of the barriers for women’s participation in the labor market in six different contexts: Kenya, Senegal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and Peru.

In each country, PEP supports a collaboration between different actors, including researchers, government representatives, labor unions, and women’s rights groups. These actors define specific barriers to be examined through high-quality research, and co-create policy recommendations based on the evidence. In addition, PEP conducts cross-country synthesis of the issues, and disseminates the learning in global spaces.

The primary intended impact of this work are concrete system-level outcomes specific to each country’s context, for example, the expansion of daycare services available for working women, or government subsidies for public transport in ways that facilitate women safely accessing workplaces. These systemic changes will contribute to the ultimate outcome of more women accessing and thriving in decent employment.

Women’s access to and participation in decent work is essential for promoting gender equality. With Co-Impact’s support, this initiative will provide policymakers with contextual and actionable evidence to implement policies that sustainably address barriers to women’s workforce participation.

To close the gap in women’s labor force participation, PEP’s context-specific research will examine the legal, social, and economic barriers to women’s participation and generate concrete policy recommendations to address them. Photo courtesy of PEP.
Designing for Systems Change

Co-Impact recognizes that program partners often do not have the time, space, or resources to tackle the complexity of strategic planning for systems change. The purpose of a Design Phase is to provide the space, resources, and expertise necessary for a partner to create a comprehensive, coherent strategic plan designed to help the organization achieve its systems change objectives.

Design Grants are used in ways most helpful to partners, including strategy refinement; strengthening of partnerships, evidence base or internal processes; and/or creating budgets and fundraising plans.

Throughout the Design Phase, we engage with program partners as thought partners to provide support and input as useful as they refine their strategic thinking and approaches. This typically involves a launch workshop to share key components of systems change thinking and gender justice, regular check-ins, a site visit and linkages to resource people, material and ideas that may be useful.

By the end of the design phase, each program partner will have developed a prospectus that outlines their overall strategy including key components of their systems change approach. Going forward, Co-Impact will provide design grants for all country-level grants.

During the design phase, we created our systems change strategy in partnership with Co-Impact, through significant dialogue, engagement, and input from both sides. Together we articulated our key theory of change, assumptions, and objectives of how we would shift the employment trajectory of 3 million South African women and men and enable 1 million young women and men to access opportunity and improved income. We partnered extensively with Co-Impact workshopping our initial hypotheses, refining our assumptions, resulting in a crisp articulation of our five-year plan.

KASTHURI SONI
CEO, HARAMBEE

Co-Impact’s design grant was timely as it came at a time we were looking to expand and create a long-term strategy. We went through a structured process that solidified our theory of change and expanded our thinking from individual to systems level thinking incorporating equity, gender transformation and empowerment. At the end of the process we had a structured plan for each of our programs with clear outcomes at people, systems and organizational levels and a well thought-out learning and evaluation framework.

DR. APARNA HEGDE
FOUNDER AND MANAGING TRUSTEE, ARMMAN

With Co-Impact support we were able to investigate both our challenges and capacities. We are now going to leverage the collective power of our existing community of volunteers, beneficiaries and allies to push for systems level, tangible change for women in Brazil. This strategy will include significant improvements in the public infrastructure of women oriented services and the expansion of our solidarity network to ensure that no woman has to suffer alone.

ALESSANDRA OROFINO
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NOSSAS
Advancing Women’s Leadership in Law and Economics

Our Women in Leadership (WIL) Grants

Research shows - equitable systems cannot be achieved without gender equality and gender equality itself cannot exist without women in leadership positions.

We need to lay the pathways for diverse and/or feminist leadership so that millions of women reach their fullest potential as leaders. Co-Impact aims to advance women’s power, agency, and leadership, so there are more women leading at all levels from the household and community to the highest levels in key sectors, institutions and government.

Whilst women’s leadership is integral to all that we do, we also specifically support initiatives in law and economics* because of the inordinate influence and power they have on policy-making and decisions which lay the foundations for equality for all.

Collectively, our current WIL in law program partners aim to realign power structures and permanently change the institutional and systemic rules, frameworks and norms surrounding women’s ability to enter into, rise, and thrive in leadership positions; working towards equal representation in all legal fields, positions and types of courts, regardless of gender, gender identity or presentation.

They will work towards:

- Advocating for institutional and systemic change.
- Changing the narratives and norms about the ability of women and minority groups to rise and thrive within the profession.
- Developing standards on gender parity in international courts and other legal bodies.
- Creating national, regional, and global awareness and appreciation of women leaders in law, and increasing support for women from the Global South to access international positions.
- Developing the next generation of strong, feminist women legal professionals by expanding and creating new opportunity structures.
- Developing and enhancing the leadership capacity of women in law.
- Combatting gender stereotypes and bias and providing women lawyers and judges with the means to respond to barriers to leadership.

* We plan to source grants for Women in Leadership in economics in 2023.

“\nWhen women are in leadership positions, there is symbolic representation, where other women think - if she can do it, I can too! There’s also substantive representation, when those in key positions think of ways to push other women forward. The good news is that women have the power, we just need to invest in building their capacity, and with Co-Impact’s support, IAWL is doing just that.”

- Jarpa Darwuni, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director, Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL)

Lawyer and human rights activist, Melene Rossouw, speaking at a United Nations General Assembly 2022 event organized by Co-Impact and the Clooney Foundation for Justice, alongside Melinda French Gates and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The event brought together a group of invited guests, funding and program partners to participate in a discussion on gender equality and women in leadership in the law.
Gender Norms Change at Scale
→ Advancing Gender Transformative School Education in India

In India, only 33% of girls remain in the school system up to the age of 17 years; one in four girls is married before she turns 18 years. Only 21% of women are part of the workforce.

Co-Impact is supporting Breakthrough Trust India to create a more gender transformative education system. Building on proven success, of their evidence-based curriculum, Breakthrough seeks to shape adolescent gender attitudes and catalyze a generational shift towards gender equality.

Breakthrough’s evolution towards a system change approach

With initial funding in 2021, Breakthrough went through Co-Impact’s Design Phase. Through the Design Phase, Co-Impact supported Breakthrough to:

• Map and analyze the public education system to build a winning coalition.

• Develop a compelling vision and strategy for partnering with state and national government agencies to shift key levers in the system.

• Lay out a clear theory of change and the impact they hope to achieve through outcomes at people-level, systems-level, and organizational-level.

In 2022 Breakthrough received a 5-year grant from Co-Impact to support the initiative in partnership with two state governments in India - Odisha and Punjab - and lay the blueprint for national scale.

INTENDED IMPACT
By 2028:

PEOPLE-LEVEL OUTCOMES:
• Impact 66,000 teachers and 4 million adolescents, out of which at least 1.6 million adolescents will show gender equitable attitudes and behaviors.

• Reduce dropouts by 7% in Punjab and 4% in Odisha.

SYSTEMS-LEVEL OUTCOMES:
• Central and State leadership prioritize gender transformative education (structural change).

• Schools foster a more gender equitable environment (system adoption).

• Key stakeholders demonstrate awareness of gender bias in their interactions/responses and a shift in gender sensitive attitudes and behavior in the school (system mindset shift).

ORGANIZATIONAL-LEVEL OUTCOMES:
• Efficient responsive organization capable of delivering system and people-level outcomes.

• Organization as an effective orchestrator in the ecosystem.

• Strong and diverse long term donor base to sustain system change effort.

Watch one of Breakthrough’s videos as part of a powerful mass media campaign to challenge norms that perpetuate violence against women in India.

“Co-Impact’s design grant gave us the opportunity to work on long-term systems change goals, strategy and initiative within the systems of the Indian government schools, to change regressive gender practices, question the normalization of socially acceptable gender biases and violence, and for making schools and communities gender responsive, healthy, progressive and safe for all adolescents.”

- Sohini Bhattacharyya, President and CEO, Breakthrough.

Breakthrough’s school-based curriculum, is a powerful tool for changing the attitudes of girls and boys to catalyze a generational shift towards gender transformative education in India.
Our Funding Partners

The scale and complexity of present-day challenges, requires a new and bold type of philanthropy.

We have audacious goals and are proud to be working with like-minded funding partners to pool resources, ensuring that every dollar invested goes further and does more.

Co-Impact has brought together 57 philanthropists and foundations from 17 countries and mobilized US $685 million in philanthropic funding across the Foundational and Gender funds. We’re privileged to have built strong relationships and deep engagement with our funding partners who are all connected by a deep commitment to building equitable systems that are just and inclusive and allow all people to lead fulfilling lives.

By joining our collaborative, funding partners pool their resources to accelerate their impact, and benefit from multiple opportunities to convene through virtual and in-person gatherings, share experiences, and deepen understanding of what it takes to achieve inclusive impact at scale.

Collaborative funding allows us to make long-term and flexible grants that allow program partners to tackle complex social problems that people face, while being responsive and nimble to emerging situations. During the COVID pandemic our funding partners coalesced to provide even more support to program partners and their communities through special COVID-response grants to aid new needs such as emergency hardship and disaster relief work as well as health system response.

By collaborating, our funding partners increase overall resources available to support proven solutions and create opportunities for deeper and more lasting impact through:

- **Increased scale of impact**:Pooling resources with other philanthropists and foundations means our funding partners enable tackling of issues at a more significant scale than any single funder could do alone.

- **Increased learning**: Funders have a chance to gain relevant knowledge and experience that can inform their own giving strategies with the opportunity to tap into others funders’ skillsets and expertise where required.

- **Minimized duplication**: As funders co-create and coordinate grants and programs this helps reduce the risk of duplicating efforts.

- **Decreased risk**: Large-scale change requires larger and longer-terms grants. Pooled funding creates a diversified portfolio that decreases individual risk.

“Solving each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals requires $2.5 trillion. By working together as part of Co-impact’s data-driven model, philanthropists and foundations can put their resources and experience behind a set of initiatives that are driving real, measurable change.”

- Dr. Rajiv Shah President - The Rockefeller Foundation

Tsitsi Masiyiwa, speaks at a deep dive event on the Africa Gender Initiative during the Africa Philanthropy Forum in October 2022. Launched by the Africa Philanthropy Forum, AGI will bring together African philanthropists and foundations to mobilize resources to Gender issues in Africa with the initial activity being to raise $50M to support the first year of the Co-Impact Gender Fund in Africa.
Partnerships and Alliances

Our belief in community and field building is rooted in feminist values and we work in solidarity with others who share similar goals.

Our contributions are a small part of a much larger community of actors, all working to make systems work better for everyone. We are immensely grateful to learn from and collaborate with others. As such, we are part of several affinity groups and peer networks with a common goal of using our collective platforms and voices to advance justice and equality:

- **Learning and technical partnerships** to benefit our partners. With *The Philanthropy Workshop*, we have expanded learning and education opportunities for our funding partners and with the *Societal Platform* team, we are supporting several program partners with access to Societal Platform thinking and assets.

- **Regional partnerships** to advance a collaborative, long-term approach to giving.
  - In Africa, we joined the *Africa Philanthropy Forum* as they launched the *Africa Gender Initiative (AGI)*, during their annual conference in October 2022. The AGI will serve as a platform for bringing together African philanthropists and foundations to mobilise resources for gender equality in Africa. The initial activity of the AGI is to facilitate the mobilization of $50M over 10 years for gender equality, supporting the work of the Co-Impact Gender Fund in Africa.
  - In Asia, we are working together with the *Edelgive Foundation* in India.

- **Alliances with feminist and grassroots organizations**, feminist networks and funders to strengthen the voice of the whole sector, dismantle inequitable power dynamics, effect transformational change and increase the funding for the feminist community as a whole.
  - We are currently affiliated to the Feminist Movements Alliance to lend our voice and support to increase funding and political action for feminist organizations and their work.
  - We will provide at least 10% of funds raised under the Gender Fund to feminist and women’s rights groups and movements.


- **Partnerships and Alliances** to benefit our partners. With *The Philanthropy Workshop*, we have expanded learning and education opportunities for our funding partners and with the *Societal Platform* team, we are supporting several program partners with access to Societal Platform thinking and assets.

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- **Our Commitments**
  - We have made statements and commitments in solidarity with others including Co-Impact Statement on Justice, Equity, and Inclusion and Co-Impact’s Statement on the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe vs. Wade Ruling.
  - We joined hundreds of philanthropic organizations from around the world signing the *International Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change* and making specific commitments to address the growing climate emergency. We continue to learn from the work of our program partners and seek to lean more into what we can do to support work at the intersection of climate, gender and justice.
  - We have also committed to advance gender equality via the *Generation Equality Forum* and we are part of the Global Goals Week partners community that advances the Sustainable Development Goals.
What We Are Learning

Here's some of what we are learning about how to collectively achieve more lasting change that improves the lives of many:

Embrace collaboration for increased impact
Collaboration, joint strategizing, and pooling resources can achieve more than individual action. It increases available funds over a longer period of time to help tackle multi-issue, systemic problems at scale and provides opportunities for ecosystem actors to learn from each other and leverage expertise and resources.

Adopt a systems approach and long-term thinking
Addressing deeply entrenched norms and structures and shifting the power dynamic within government and market systems takes time and requires a diverse range of actors. By focussing on tackling the root causes of inequality and discrimination within systems we can increase the pace and scale of change.

Build trust capital
Trust capital is as important as financial capital. Organizations need financial capital, but they also need funders to trust them to make decisions on what works best in their local contexts and flexibly respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

Invest in building stronger organizations
Philanthropy can make a sustainable investment in the future by providing organizations and their leaders with the support to invest in building their organizational capacities, systems and structures.

Center gender justice and equity
We must take on a conscientious approach that views gender issues with an intersectional lens and strives to advance representational leadership, gender-inclusive design, and women’s leadership.

Collaboration, joint strategizing, and pooling resources can achieve more than individual action.
How We Are Evolving

We approach our work with a beginner’s mindset, and hope that we - like our partners - bring the curiosity to question, the ability to change assumptions and frameworks, and the desire to continually learn and adapt.

Guided by the experience of our Foundational Fund and many consultations* with our community, below are some of the actions we are taking:

- **Moving decision making closer to the context:** Our sourcing process for new initiatives is now led by our regional teams, guided by external reviewers, local advisors, feminist leaders and experts. Learn more here.
- **Making grantmaking processes clear and simple:** We have worked to streamline and simplify our grantmaking processes to reduce time and burden of applying.
- **Resourcing historically underfunded issues** by finding and funding issue areas that are the biggest boulders holding women and girls back - including labor/workforce participation, unpaid care, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and secondary school completion.
- **Meeting partners where they’re at in terms of measurement:** while focusing on improving systems and lives for people, we work with program partners to define the outcomes that make sense in their context and measure them in ways that support their strategies.
- **Developing a support infrastructure for program partners,** including investing in a network of local coaches in the global south, creating open-source training and development materials.
- **Promoting language justice** by accepting proposals in 6 languages, translating key sourcing documents, and interpreting briefing sessions as relevant across our regions to increase the transparency and inclusion of our processes.

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* For example, see consultations report that informed the initial design of the Gender Fund.
Liberia’s National Community Health Assistant Program

Delivering Universal Healthcare Through Stronger National Community Health Systems

In Liberia, over 1.2 million people live more than 5km from a health facility. This often means they have limited access to basic health services, lifesaving treatment for common childhood illnesses, family planning, and prenatal care. Liberia’s government has committed to provide primary health services to the doorstep of people living in remote communities by deploying professional community health workers through its National Community Health Assistant (CHA) Program.

Partnership with Co-Impact

In 2020, Last Mile Health received a Co-Impact grant to support the government’s vision to provide universal access to primary healthcare for all Liberians through the community health workforce. Expected impact of this initiative is:

• Access to basic primary healthcare to 1.2 million rural Liberians.
• Under-five child mortality reduced by 20%.
• Gender equity and representation advanced within the CHA program.

For enduring change at scale, the shifts in the system planned are:

• **National scale and sustainability:** With Co-Impact’s support, Last Mile Health, in partnership with Liberia’s Ministry of Health (MOH) and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, is working alongside a powerful coalition of government entities, donors, and NGOs to scale-up the CHA program in all counties in Liberia and to build readiness to transition management to the government.

• Since 2016, the program has deployed 3,911 CHAs.
• CHAs are serving over 811,000 people and have delivered over 1.9 million treatments and malnutrition screenings to children under five.

• **High quality delivery:** To maintain high quality standards of CHA-led care, the initiative is investing in improvements in CHA clinical practice and assessing (1) the availability of medicines and (2) correct treatment rates. Both have shown steady improvements in LMH-supported counties. Results show improved care from 0% to 81.6% by community health workers in intervention areas in Grand Bassa County, Liberia, where LMH directly manages the implementation of the National CHA Program.

Advancing Gender Equity

Despite accounting for 70% of the health and social care workforce globally, only 17% of the community health workers employed by the national program are female. Last Mile Health is supporting the Liberia MOH to improve gender equitable health outcomes for all and ensure adequate representation and leadership of women within the system itself. A gender assessment of the National CHA Program to identify gendered barriers to becoming a community health assistant is informing policy changes and program and curriculum design.

These efforts have led to a clear political mandate to support improved gender equity. In June 2021, the Liberia MOH made a commitment to increase the number of female community health workers in the national CHA program.

Watch this 1 min video on how Last Mile Health is working with the Liberian government and other partners to transform Liberia’s public health system.


“With Co-Impact support, our model has evolved from looking solely at service delivery to building an enabling policy environment, shifting international funding flows and working hand-in-hand with government to train and equip community health workers.”

- Britney Varpilah, Deputy Country Director, Programs for Last Mile Health in Liberia.
Our People and Culture

Building a robust, diverse and cohesive team is a priority for us because how we work together is key to achieving our aspiration for a more just world.

We are proud that this is reflected in our vibrant team of talented professionals based in 8 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America.

Our global team has almost doubled in size since the COVID pandemic. As we grow and as our organizational culture evolves, we are investing in providing an enabling, collaborative and caring environment for our team - something which has become even more important in a virtual working environment.

Our annual retreats provide a vital opportunity for us to come together in-person to connect, discuss key issues and strategies, and align on priorities.

Building a culture of compassion and respect for our diversity involves every member of our team as we dream, execute and achieve impact together; connect with our humanness and nurture our growth individually and collectively.
Our Governance

We are also privileged and grateful to have the support of a seasoned team of leaders and sector experts from around the world as members of our Board of Directors and the Advisory Boards for the Foundational Fund and Gender Fund. We were thrilled to bring these groups together to connect, build community, hear perspectives, and develop a shared understanding of our goals and ethos.

Board and Advisory Boards Members

Board of Directors
Laura García
Gargee Ghosh
Maryana Iskander
Olivia Leland, ex officio
Tsitso Masiyiwa
Ingrid Srinath
Patty Stonesifer

Foundational Fund Advisory Board
Gargee Ghosh
Don Gips
Tim Hanstad
Robyn Calder Harawi
Per Heggenes
Rohini & Nandan Nilekani
Elizabeth Yee

Gender Fund Advisory Board
Tara Abrahams
Rebecca Gyumi
Mabel van Oranje
Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg
Crystal Simeoni
Vidya Shah
Theo Sowa
Lakshmi Sundaram
Elizabeth Yee
Anita Zaidi

“Our Board and Advisory Board members at a retreat in October this year, joined by members of our Philanthropy Council and Co-Impact’s team.”

“Geography should not define destiny. Let’s create a world where all girls can fulfill their full potential.”

– Mabel van Oranje
Social Entrepreneur, Co-Impact’s Gender Fund Advisory Board Member

“Promise of Commons initiative. Photo credit: Mark Katzmann”
Some Voices from our Collaborative

“There’s a need for philanthropy to dramatically increase its resourcing of women’s rights and gender equality. By raising new money, giving strategically, sustainably and with a holistic view to systems change. The Gender Fund has an outstanding opportunity to catalyse much needed change.”

- Theo Sowa -
Co-Chair, Equality Fund

“Very few funders engage as thoughtfully and deeply with our work as Co-Impact does. They are willing to fully immerse themselves into our world and to walk the journey alongside us.”

- Kasthuri Soni -
Chief Executive Officer, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

“Entrenched systems need to be wholly reimagined, and this can only be achieved through bold, broad collaborations in philanthropy that now center gender.”

- Elizabeth Sheehan -
Founder, philanthropist, advocate and global health expert

“By partnering with Co-Impact, we’re able to identify programs that address the barriers blocking women from reaching their full potential as leaders. We need change to happen at every level of society. And it starts with opening more doors for women to step into their power and craft policies that lift others up like them. This is our once in a generation chance to rebuild our systems to finally work for women and girls.”

- Melinda French Gates -
Co-Chair and Board Member of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

“If we are committed to making any progress on addressing extreme rural poverty and climate change impact, we can’t have those conversations without women farmers.”

- Doreen Ndishabandi -
Rwanda Chief of Staff and Director of Government Relations, One Acre Fund.

“Solving each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals requires $2.5 trillion. By working together as part of Co-Impact’s data-driven model, philanthropists and foundations can put their resources and experience behind a set of initiatives that are driving real, measurable change.”

- Dr. Rajiv Shah -
President, The Rockefeller Foundation

“While the global challenges facing humanity are daunting, by leveraging our mutual assets, we know we can unlock proven solutions, deploy new resources, and transform the way we work—from operating in silos to working in solidarity”

- Renee Kaplan -
Chief Executive Officer, The Philanthropy Workshop

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Chief Executive Officer, The Philanthropy Workshop
Thank You!

To our program partners, funding partners, Board, advisors, friends and allies - we look forward to continuing to work together to create a more just and inclusive future for generations to come.
Annexes

Our Funding Partners

Co-Impact's ever growing funding community has embraced collaborative giving to advance just and inclusive systems. Our partners include:

### Foundational Fund

**Core Partners:**
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- IKEA Foundation
- Jeff Skoll
- MacKenzie Scott
- Richard F. Chandler
- Rohini and Nandan Nilekani
- The ELMA Foundation
- The Rockefeller Foundation

**Wider Funding Community:**
- Atlassian Foundation
- Dubai Cares
- Elizabeth Sheehan
- Hampshire Foundation
- LGT Venture Philanthropy
- Light Foundation
- MAC3 Impact Philanthropies
- Nachson and Arieh Mimran
- Natasha Maller
- Target Foundation
- Vijay and Marie Goradia Foundation

### Gender Fund

**Lead Donors:**
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Mackenzie Scott and Dan Jewett
- The Rockefeller Foundation

**Champion Donors:**
- Cartier Philanthropy
- Estee Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation
- Fondation Chanel
- La Altaya Foundation
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra

**Africa Gender Initiative:**
- BeeNev Kambasha Foundation
- SHE Project Zimbabwe
- Tsitsi Masiyiwa

**Wider Funding Community:**
- Atlassian Foundation
- Children's Investment Fund Foundation
- Elizabeth Sheehan
- Instituto Beja
- Kate James & Hans Bishop
- Muirfield Foundation
- Target Foundation
- Thankyou Charitable Trust
- Vijay and Marie Goradia Foundation

Anonymous Donors: Co-Impact has a few donors that are supporting the Foundational Fund and Gender Fund but prefer not to disclose their support publicly.
Our Program Partners’ Initiatives

Foundational Fund

AFRICA
Economic Opportunity
CAP Youth Empowerment Institute: Transforming TVET for youth employment in Kenya - Kenya
Harambee Youth Employment: Scaling pathways to economic opportunity for young Africans - South Africa

One Acre Fund and Landesa: Generating pro poor farm systems in Africa - Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia

Education
CAMFED International: Implementing the “Learning Guide” model to support girls’ success in local secondary schools - Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
DG Murray Trust (DGMT) and Ilifa Labantwana: Building Human Capital Pathways through Early Childhood Development. - South Africa
Food for Education Foundation: Feeding the Future of Africa - Kenya
TaRL Africa supported by Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Pratham USA: Teaching at the Right Level Africa - Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Zambia

Health
Last Mile Health & Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria: (LCHAP) Liberian Community Health Assistant Coalition - Liberia

ASIA
Economic Opportunity
Bandhan Konnagar & Institute for Financial Management and Research with JEEVIKA, Bihar: Graduation Approach to Economic Opportunity - The Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (SJY) program - India
The Commons Ground Initiative - India
Foundation for Ecological Security (FES): Promise of Commons – improving economic outcomes in rural India - India
Jan Sahas: Migrants Resilience Collaborative (MRC) - India

Education
CIIEI @ Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad and PlanieRead: Billion Readers for Life: Same Language Subtitling on TV
Lend A Hand India (LAHI): Project Catalyst - Equipping young people with real skills in Secondary Education in India - India

Health
Project ECHO India & University of New Mexico: Project ECHO - India

LATIN AMERICA
Economic Opportunity
Fundación Capital: Graduation Approach to Economic Opportunity - Colombia, Paraguay, Brazil

Education
Leumann Foundation: Brazil Collaborative Literacy Program - Brazil

GLOBAL AND MULTIREGIONAL

Economic Opportunity
Partnership for Economic Inclusion - Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique,Panama, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia
Rythu Sadhikara Samshaa (RySS) and International Centre for Research in Agroforestry: Agroecological Transitions to Build Equity, Economic and Environmental Resilience - India, Kenya

EcOCosystem
IDInsight: Data on Demand - Asia/Africa

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT): Evidence-to-Policy (E2P) - India, Indonesia, Mexico, Brazil

Health
The Global Development Incubator, Inc: citiesRISE - India, Kenya
Our Program Partners’ Initiatives

**Gender Fund**

**AFRICA**

**Education**
- Alliances for Africa: Improve the responsiveness of tertiary education system in Nigeria to Sexual Harassment - Nigeria
- Centre for Girls Education (CGE): Pathways to Choice - Nigeria

**Health**
- Alliance for Reproductive Rights, Ghana: Putting Women at the Centre of Primary Health Care in Ghana - Ghana
- Gender Dynamix: Pusha Panda Bophelo (Pushing the Health Agenda) - South Africa, Kenya
- Lwala Community Alliance: Lwala Advancing Health - South Africa
- Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust: Rape Survivors’ Justice Campaign - South Africa
- SVRI NPC Collaborative Evidence Building for Impact at Scale: From Local to Global - South Africa

**Women in Leadership**
- Women in Leadership: Education
- Women in Leadership: Health
- Women in Leadership: Gender
- Women in Leadership: Co-Impact: 5 Years of Collaboration for Just and Inclusive Systems

**ASIA**

**Economic Opportunity**
- Chrysalis: Promoting Economic Justice for Women - Sri Lanka
- Kashthakari Panchayat (KP): Reclaiming Livelihoods - Sri Lanka
- SEWA Bharat and Gujarat State Women’s SEWA Cooperative Federation Limited: Grassroots Women’s Enterprise Support System - India
- Breakthrough Trust & Kaivalya Education Foundation: Empowering the youth to transform gender norms - India
- Yayasan Perempuan Kepala Keluarga (Yayasan PEKKA) - Indonesia

**Health**
- Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum APIK Jakarta: Women in Indonesia Lead in the Law - The WILL Initiative - Indonesia

**LATIN AMERICA**

**Economic Opportunity**
- Rabobank: Advancing STEM Innovation and Inclusion in India - India
- Vinodhini Foundation: Professional Assistance for Development Action - India

**Health**
- SABREU - Brazil: Taking an integrative approach to reducing private healthcare costs for poor people in Brazil - Brazil
- Fundar: Allianza Campo Justo - Mexico

**GLOBAL AND MULTIREGIONAL**

**Health**
- Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre For Women (ARROW): Kaleidoscope: Reclaiming Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Justice for All - India, Nepal, Kenya, Benin

**Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP):** Addressing context-specific barriers to female labor force participation in developing countries: A multi-country, mixed-methods, gender-sensitive analysis - Kenya, Senegal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Peru

**Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI):** Collaborative evidence building for impact at scale: From local to global - 1 to 2 of Co-Impacts’ focus countries (to be confirmed)

**Women in Leadership**
- Center for Global Development: The Bridgespan Group, Inc: Centering Intersectional Gender Equity in Philanthropy

**Initiatives supported as of December 2022**
1. The Foundation for Ecological Security Promise of Commons initiative aims to partner with government, NGOs and support village communities in managing 30 million acres of collectively held land and water resources (Commons) for improved economic outcomes for 38 million people. Photo courtesy of FES. Photo credit: Mark Katzmann.

2. Members of Co-Impact's Board and Advisory Board members plus staff at a board retreat in October 2022.

3. Breakthrough's school-based curriculum seeks to shape adolescent gender attitudes through the public education system to catalyze a generational shift towards greater gender equality. Photo courtesy of Breakthrough Trust.


5. During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2022 in New York, we co-hosted a roundtable with the Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation on Corporate Philanthropy – Supporting Gender Equality and Women’s Advancement in the Global South. The roundtable event brought together a group of 36 corporates and corporate foundation leaders to discuss the role of corporate philanthropy in realizing gender equality.

6. Students learning wall plastering as part of vocational education in school through Lend-A-Hand India’s (LAHI) Project Catalyst initiative. LAHI is partnering with the government of three states to transform their education systems to equip at least 1 million youth – including 500,000 girls and young women – with fundamental employability skills, with at least 200,000 (50%) of those who finish grade 12 obtaining and remaining in employment. Photo courtesy of LAHI.

7. Fundación Capital is supporting the integration of the graduation approach into the public systems of Paraguay, Colombia and Brazil so that millions of women and families can achieve sustained income and move out of extreme poverty. Photo courtesy of Fundación Capital.

1. Panel session on women’s leadership at UNGA 2022 co-hosted with the Clooney Foundation for Justice (CFJ) moderated by Co-Impact’s Yasmin Madan. Panelists included Jarpa Dawuni, Executive Director, African Women in Law; Christie Jones, Executive Director, International Association of Women Judges; Viviana Krsticovic, Executive Director, Center for Justice and International Law; and Anita Zaidi, President, Gender Equality; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

2. Co-Impact co-hosted a roundtable with the Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation on Corporate Philanthropy – Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Advancement in the Global South. The roundtable event brought together a group of 36 corporates and corporate foundation leaders to discuss the role of corporate philanthropy in realizing gender equality.

3. Young leaders from slums, colleges, gender rights groups, and other fields come together for the first time for a workshop on mental health in Chennai organized by citiesRISE. Photo courtesy of citiesRISE.

For more information please contact:
info@co-impact.org

CO-IMPACT.ORG