

Our Sisters **DARE TO DREAM**



Women's Global Education Project
2021 Annual Report



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From Our Executive Director

Dear friends,

Over the past 18 years, I have been continually inspired by the girls in our programs: their exuberance, resilience, and desire to give back to their communities. This year's report, *Our Sisters Dare to Dream*, shares the stories of the girls and boys we serve, our local partners, and their dreams for the future.

You will read about Magdalena from Kenya (page 10) who dreams of becoming a doctor to care for the health needs of others, and to follow in her sisters' footsteps as a WGEF scholar! You will also meet Fatou (page 9), an 18-year-old high school student in Senegal who dreams of making her community a safer, more peaceful place, and who recently spoke on a local radio station about the consequences of violence against women and girls.

On page 13, you will read about how Women's Global Education Project realized our own dreams. In March 2021, we received a \$750,000 investment from Twitter co-Founder and Block, Inc. executive Jack Dorsey's #startsmall initiative! This grant allowed us to accelerate our COVID response efforts, and begin to scale our programs to serve more women and girls in the years to come!

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 99.7% of our scholars completed the school year and plan to continue their education, and more adolescent girls are qualified for university and higher education opportunities than ever before! We have proved that our programs are changing the lives of girls and their communities, and providing opportunities for girls and boys, along with their mothers and fathers, to dream about the world they want to create.

I am grateful to our community for your commitment to our mission, and look forward to continuing to work together to build a more equitable, prosperous world led by girls.



With gratitude,

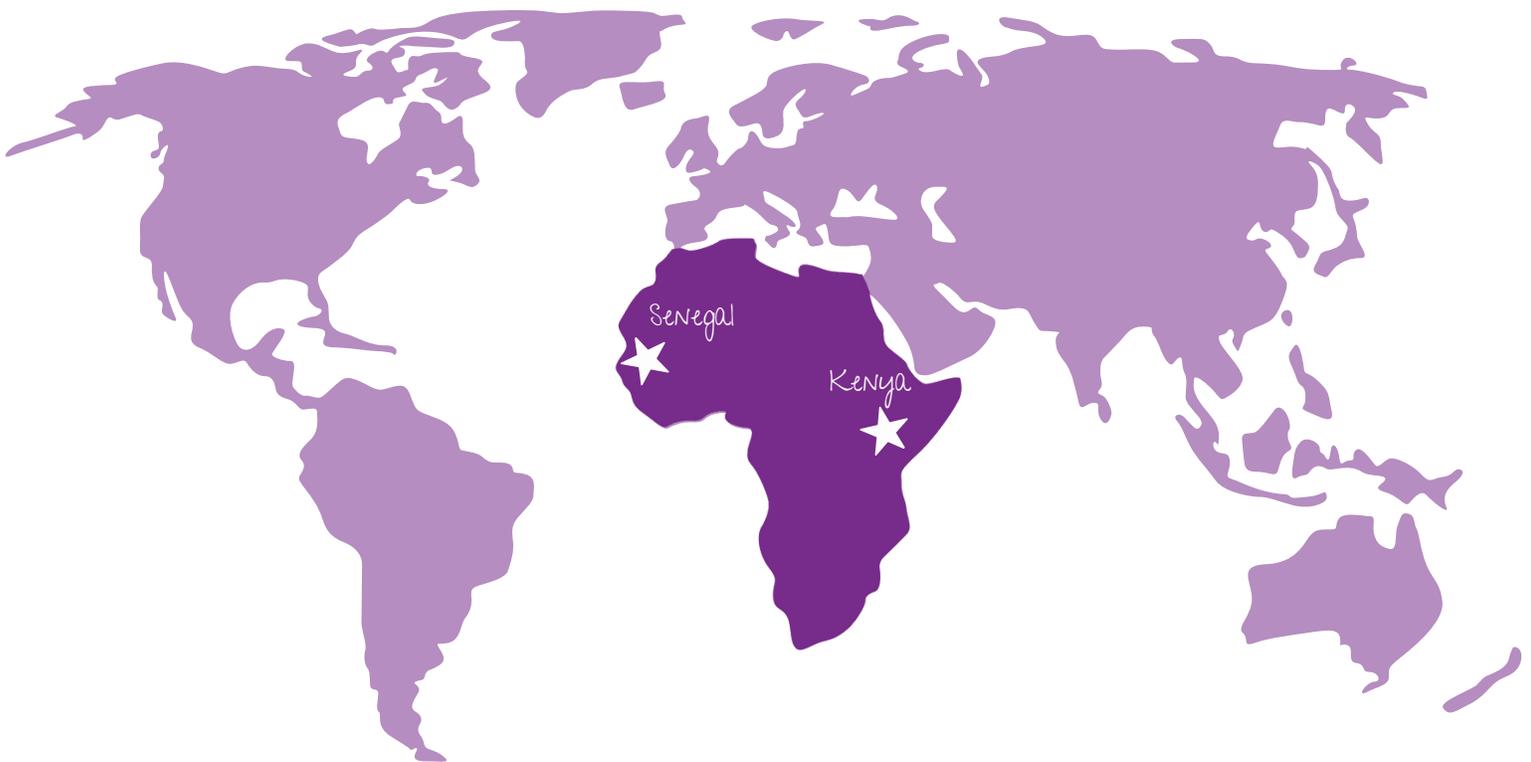
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Maglio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Maglio
Founder & Executive Director, WGEF

Who we are

Women's Global Education Project (WGED) is an award-winning nonprofit committed to promoting **gender equality and women's empowerment** in rural regions of Africa. Scores of girls and young women are left behind and do not have the opportunity to attend school especially in rural communities. They do not have the opportunity to attend school. A lack of education keeps girls from achieving their full potential and contributes to cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. **We partner with dynamic local leaders** and take a contextualized, comprehensive approach to ensure that the structures preventing girls from attending and succeeding in school are dismantled. **Educating girls is the key** to building a more equitable world. When a girl succeeds in school, it creates a "multiplier effect" that positively impacts earning potential, health and future opportunities - **not just for herself, but for her entire family, village and community.**

Where we work



We work in Fatick, Senegal and in Tharaka-Nithi county, Kenya - regions that are 200+ kilometers away from their capital cities

KEYSTONE

PROGRAMS



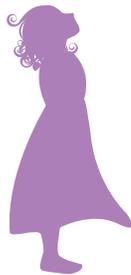
Sisters to School

Sisters to School provides comprehensive scholarships for girls from primary school through university, health education workshops on reproductive health, personal hygiene, violence prevention, after-school clubs for boys and girls promoting gender equality, and regular parent support and community engagement meetings.



Our Sisters Lead (OSL)

OSL cultivates and promotes the leadership skills of high school girls through workshops on public speaking, conflict resolution, and advocacy. Provides resources for students to design community programs on the issues that matter most to them.



Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP)

ARP keeps girls safe and prevents them from dropping out of school. Girls who attend ARP celebrate their transition into adolescence with a week of empowering workshops, singing, and dancing, and education for families and communities members about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C).



Our Sisters Read (OSR)

OSR builds foundational reading skills and promotes a lifelong love of learning among rural primary school students through access to reading resources and digital literacy. Adult literacy classes and teacher trainings increase community ownership.

In Their Words Testimonials

JOSPINE, KENYA SCHOLAR

Josphine, 16-years-old, has been in our program for 2 years. She is inspired by her how hardworking her mother is and aspires to be the same way. She dreams of giving back to her family and community. "I want to achieve my PhD certificate to inspire and support my family, brothers, and sisters. I want to be an engineer to give back to my community and help those who are struggling."



YAYA, SENEGAL LEADER

Yaya, a high school student in *Our Sisters Lead* program in Senegal, dreams of a better world where his boys and men speak alongside their sisters and mothers.

"In my family, I will start by helping my mother to do some household chores because I am sensitive to the dimension of the fight for the preservation of the rights of girls and women. Just because you are a boy doesn't mean you shouldn't do certain tasks in the household. We have the strength to do certain domestic tasks in order to help our sisters."



MARIE, SENEGAL ADULT LITERACY TEACHER

Marie, an adult literacy teacher, is helping other mothers learn to read and write. "When we first began classes some of us did not even know how to write our first names or our phone numbers. Now I am achieving my dream of pursuing an education," paving the way for other mothers, and setting her own daughter up for future success!



How we help girls succeed



Barriers that can prevent girls' success:



Poverty that affects families' ability to pay for school or food



Undervaluing of girls' abilities and potential



Gender bias and expectations for girls to help with household chores



Poor health education and resources for menstrual health



Female Genital Mutilation or cutting (FGM/C)



Early marriage and early pregnancy

WGEP works in remote communities where enrollment rates are exceedingly low: only 39% of girls attend secondary school, and fewer than 15% graduate from high school.

Source: UNESCO 2019 Report

THEORY OF CHANGE

WGEP works together with girls, women, their families and communities to enrich girls' knowledge, confidence, leadership, and inspire a love of learning, so girls are better able to make their own life decisions and lead healthier, happier lives.



Access to Education



Literacy



Leadership



Reproductive Health



Supportive Environments



Bodily & Legal Rights

NANCY, KENYA SCHOLAR

Nancy, pictured alongside her brother, Emmanuel, shared: "The challenges in my life motivate me to be better... I know that if I can work hard enough to get through school and help my siblings, I will be a better person and have a better life for my family." Nancy is the primary caretaker for her four siblings; her father died when she was young and her mother struggles with her mental health and is unable to care for them. Nancy is determined to achieve her dreams: she is studying education at Tharaka University, and dreams of becoming a teacher and business woman! Through the pandemic, WGEP supported Nancy and her siblings with food, menstrual products, solar lanterns, mobile phones, books, and soap.



FATOU, SENEGAL LEADER

Fatou is an 18-year-old high school student in *Our Sisters Lead* program in Karang, Senegal. As a mentor in the program, she is using her knowledge in public speaking, conflict resolution and advocacy to inspire future leaders! She is passionate about gender equity, and even spoke on a local radio station on the consequences of violence against women and girls.

PURITY & MAGDALENA, KENYA SISTERS

Purity is a high school scholar who dreams of becoming a lawyer so that she can fight for the rights of the poor people out of her experience on family land disputes. Her younger sister, Magdalena, is a 3rd grader, who recently joined Purity at a back-to-school meeting for WGEP scholars. Magdalena dreams to follow in her sister's footsteps as a WGEP scholar, so that she can become a doctor! She is determined to be a doctor because of her mother's health complications. Purity's scholarship motivates Magdalena to work hard so that she can finish primary school, go on to secondary school, and pursue her dreams!



MAME DIARRA, SENEGAL SCHOLAR

Mame Diarra attends high school in Sokone, Senegal. Thanks to *Sisters to School* scholarship support, she has gained more confidence and performed well on her exams. Mame Diarra shared what WGEP's support through the COVID pandemic meant to her: "WGEP provided moral support for me through phone calls, as well as food and toiletries... and hand sanitizer and masks so we could protect ourselves from contracting the virus... My education means everything to me; I know that with my education I will have a bright future. When I grow up I want to become a geological engineer. My dreams are first to finish my studies, to be an engineer, to become a respectable woman, to support my parents, my family, my community, to help people for good and to finish their education!"



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IMPACT

178

high school students

trained in leadership skills

775

girls

received scholarships

242

girls

graduated from the
Alternative Rite of Passage program

764

children

joined after-school clubs



837

women

took part in adult literacy classes

3,583

community members

took part in mobilization activities

5,083

books and lanterns

distributed to 62 under-resourced schools

1,894

families

received COVID relief supplies

School Retention Rate

(AKA the number of scholars who completed the entire school year, and plan to continue their education)

Kenya

WGEP Scholars

99.5%

National Average

55%

Senegal

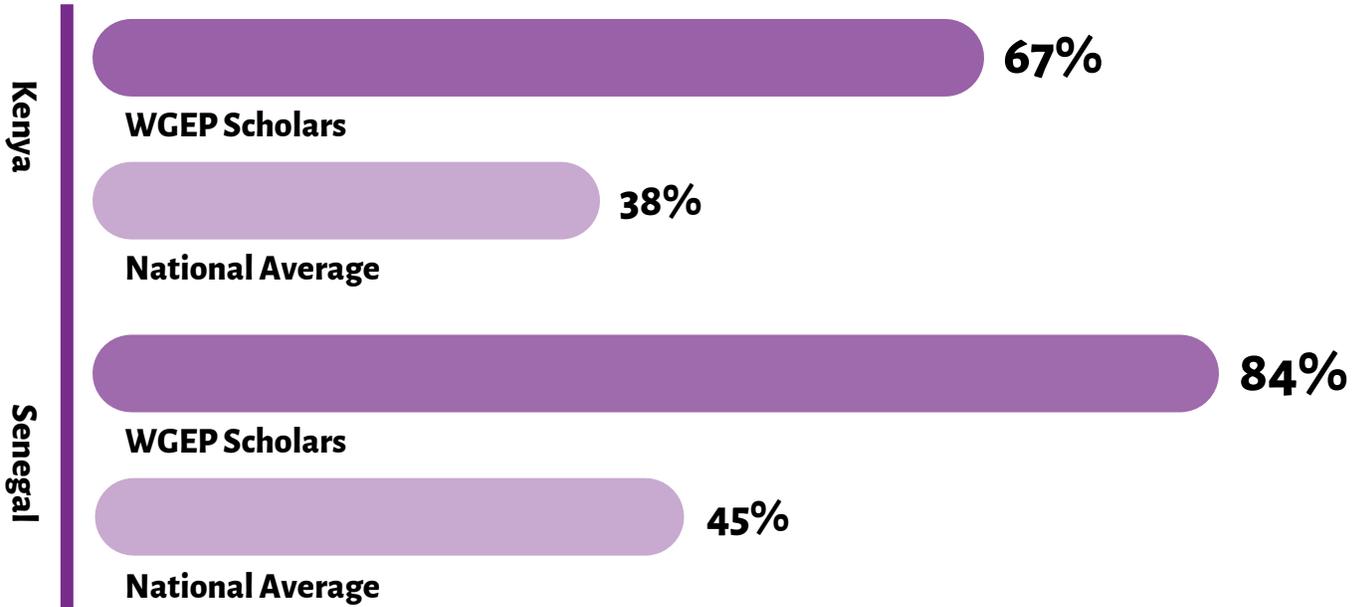
WGEP Scholars

99.8%

National Average

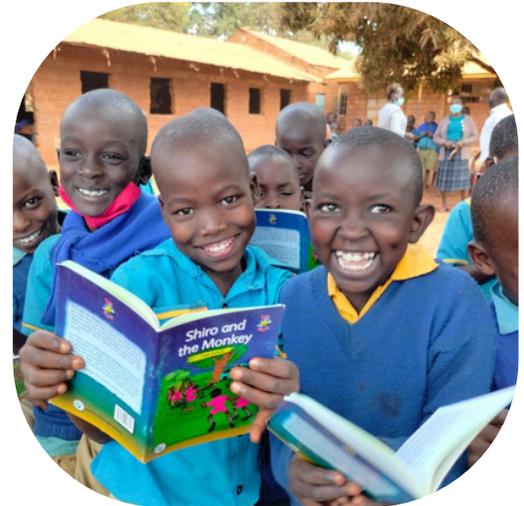
31%

Qualifying for College and University



Why do we include boys?

In every village that we work, we know that building a more gender equal world is not a one-sided equation; the responsibility cannot fall on women alone. WGEP's program model is innovative for our inclusion of boys, parents, and community members. Boys in our after-school clubs and leadership retreats become comfortable with tough questions challenging gender norms, and learn how to better advocate for their sisters!



From Scholar to Graduate: Meet Fridah!

Fridah, a 24 year old woman from the Karurukuni village, went on to study Gender & Political studies (with honors!) after graduating from our Sisters to School program in 2012. When asked how WGEP supported her education, Fridah stated, "I joined WGEP's Sisters to School program in 2012, and was supported through my secondary education, and university! Through scholarship support, health education workshops, and computer training, the program prepared me for future vocations, and made me passionate about women's rights and gender equality."

DREAMS REALIZED

In March 2021, WGEP along with three other girls' education organizations working in rural Africa (WISER, AGE Africa, and Asante Africa Foundation) received a \$3,000,000 grant (\$750,000 each) from Jack Dorsey's #startsmall initiative! This grant was a dream come true, and helped to continue our COVID response efforts, and begin to scale our programs! Strategic Partnerships Manager Harriet Spears spoke to Forbes about the grant, and shared: "Women's Global Education Project has developed highly-effective interventions to help more girls attend and succeed in school— but our biggest growth barrier has always been securing sustained funding... We're grateful to Jack Dorsey for recognizing the importance of investing in girls' education, and for believing that our small organizations are poised for greater impact, if only given the opportunity to dream and grow."



*Top right: Scholars with back-to-school supply kits,
Bottom right: mothers in an adult literacy class*

From Scholar to Program Assistant: Meet Khadidiatou!

Khadidiatou, our newest Program Assistant in Senegal, is one of five former scholars to join our full-time teams! She shared: "It is a great pleasure to join Women's Global Education Project, a dynamic and motivated team that I have admired since my childhood. WGEP accompanied me from the end of elementary school to my final year of high school during which they supported and encouraged me in my studies. So what could be more beautiful than working with them to participate in allowing my sisters to benefit from the same opportunity."



Looking ahead: we're building a library!



Left: construction drawing of the new library and computer center



In 2020, WGEP received a \$494,993 agreement from USAID American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) to build a state-of-the-art library and computer center in rural Tharaka-Nithi county, Kenya. When it opens in 2023, the library will house 10,000 books and 25 computers in a region where no resources like it exist. The center will help build girls' literacy skills, and catalyze an interest in STEM!

Movement Maker growth campaign

The funding we received from #startsmall will work in tandem with our Movement Maker growth campaign! The Movement Maker campaign to raise \$1,000,000 launched before the pandemic, and is powered by passionate supporters of WGEP's vision to accelerate our impact across rural Africa. We have currently raised \$800,000 in pledged funds, and are on track to reach the campaign goal by the end of 2022, which will enable us to reach five important milestones:

1

By 2023, we will serve 10,000+ women and girls in our program annually

2

Double the number of community partners from two to four

3

Operate our library & computer center in rural Kenya

4

Increase funding to our programs by 10-20% each year & grow our staff

5

Sustain our 9-month operating reserve

Ndajee at Home: our most successful event ever

In October, we hosted our second virtual Ndajee (en-DAH-jee) fundraising benefit! Ndajee means "get together" in Wolof, one of the national languages of Senegal, and although we could not "get together" in-person, we are grateful to the 200+ supporters who tuned in to support our work from around the world! We raised \$221,102, our most successful event ever! We honored Kenya Program Director Aniceta Kiriga and longtime advocate Molly Waite with our annual Impact Award for their leadership and determination to help more girls around the world succeed through education.

Clockwise from right: Emcee Jerome McDonnell & Harriet Spears, Molly Waite & Amy Maglio, Ayodele Drum & Dance Community, and Aniceta Kiriga accepting the 2021 Impact Award



Amy Maglio honored by Women of Peace Corps Legacy

In 2021, Amy Maglio (RPCV Senegal 1996-1999) won the Deborah Harding Women of Achievement Award, recognizing outstanding leaders in the Peace Corps community. The Deborah Harding Award honors Peace Corps women whose contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of women and girls in the world.

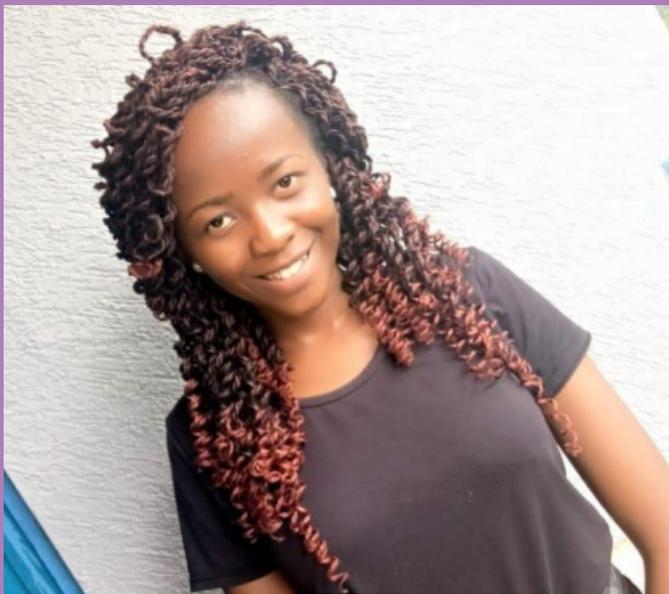
Right: Amy cooking on a mud stove in Senegal, 1998



Virtual Book Club: *The Girl with the Louding Voice*

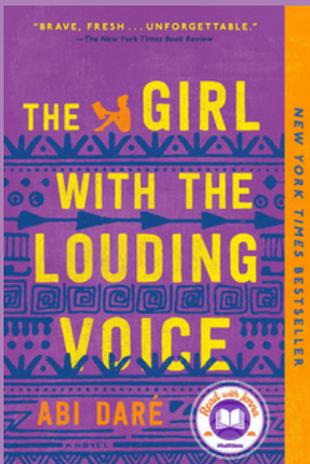


In June, we hosted our first annual virtual book club on *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, an inspiring novel about Adunni, a teenage girl growing up in rural Nigeria, who dreams of getting an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself! Chicago-based author and journalist Andrea Thome moderated a conversation with author Abi Daré, who spoke about the inspiration behind the novel, and her hopes for real-life girls like Adunni around the world.



Meet Cynthia, finding her louding voice as a poet

Cynthia is a 21-year-old scholar and college student at Mount Kenya University, studying public relations and diplomacy. Cynthia began writing poetry as a high school student in 2016, after she received the best grade on a creative writing assignment in class. In 2020, she performed an original spoken word poem at Ndajee called "An African Tear," where she shared: "I am a proud soul, for someone has got my back, the Tharaka Women's Welfare Program, and the Women's Global Education Project have supported me socially, emotionally, spiritually, and even financially." In 2021, Cynthia returned to Ndajee to interview Abi Dare, and perform a new poem inspired by Abi's novel called, "The Girl with No Voice." Cynthia dreams of becoming a professional poet and social media influencer, using her powerful words to inspire future generations of young women, and promote gender equity across Kenya.



G



Lynda Achieng
Kenya Program Manager



Daniela Bovio
Finance Manager



Casimir Coly
Senegal Program Coordinator



Chérif Diatta
Senegal Finance Manager

L



Mbathiou Diouf
Senegal Program Coordinator



Khadidatou Faye
Senegal Program Assistant



Maria Flores
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Sarah Karegi
Outreach Officer, TWWP

O



Asenath Karimi
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Dorcas Kinyua
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Aniceta Kiriga
Program Director, TWWP



Jessica Loesel
Accounting Assistant

B



Junior Macharia
Finance Manager, TWWP



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Executive Director



Moussa Mbaye
Senegal Program Assistant



Lily Messih
Senegal Program Manager

A



Khady Ndong
Senegal Program Assistant



Milton Njeru
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Karamo Sarr
Senegal Technical Assistant

L



Yvette Penda Senghor
Senegal Program Director



Harriet Spears
Strategic Partnership Manager



Rael Wanja
Field Assistant, TWWP

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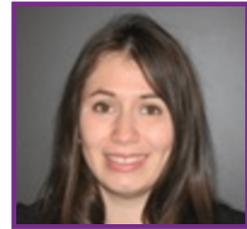
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Bill Taylor

Interns

Grace Derks | Doris Gatumi | Diana Mati | Shallon Nkumbuku | Gabriella Turrinelli

Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

Foundations: \$222,865

#startsmall: \$750,000

Fundraising events: \$276,203

Movement Maker campaign: \$115,976

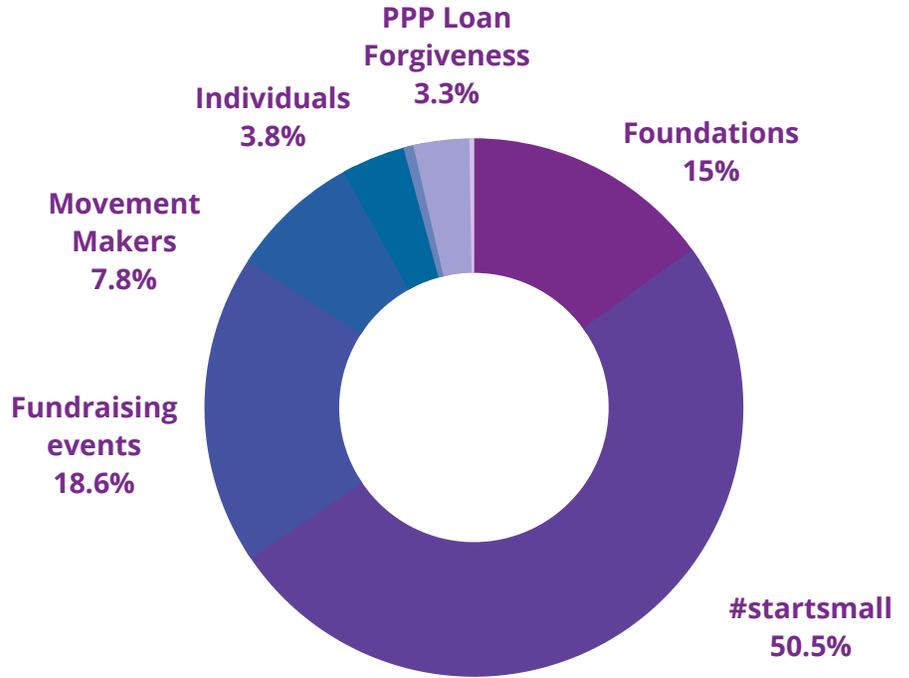
Individual donors: \$56,741

Business donations: \$8,894

PPP Loan Forgiveness: \$49,670

Other: \$4,067

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,484,416



Expenses

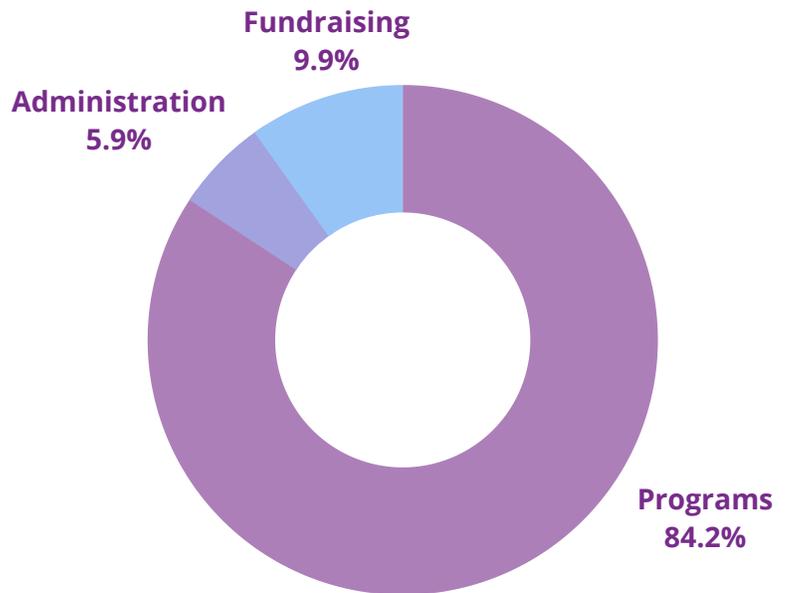
Programs: \$649,411

Administration: \$45,315

Fundraising: \$76,110

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$770,836

**TOTAL NET ASSETS BY THE
END OF 2021: \$1,430,547**



Over 84% of our revenue went directly to supporting our programs on the ground in Senegal and Kenya in 2021!

Supporter Spotlight

Our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for your support in 2021!

\$20,000 & above

Addax & Oryx Foundation
American Tower Foundation
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#startsmall
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