



# TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

## New Transformation Partnerships Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why are we changing our Grants Program?

Working with our incredible grantees, we have been able to improve the lives of women, girls, families, and communities over the past 18 years. We recognize, though, that we can do even more by working with our grantee partners to address the **root causes** of global gender equality. Transformation Partnerships will enable us to support broader, systemic change.

### 2. Will we still have a monthly Featured Grantee and educational materials?

**Yes. Our Featured Grants will not change.** We will continue to fund a monthly Featured Grantee and provide our chapters with a wide range of learning materials on the featured country, issue, and project.

### 3. How will these new Partnerships be funded?

Transformation Partnerships will use the funding previously allocated to our Sustained and Impact Partnership Grants, which amounts to about \$400,000 per year.

### 4. Why are we replacing the Sustained and Impact Partnership Grants?

Over the years, our Grants Program has evolved as we learned more about the most effective ways to create change for women and girls and the best practices in grant making. We introduced our Sustained Grants in 2012 and then our Impact Partnership Grants since 2016. A special, multi-stakeholder committee composed of staff, board, and volunteers, studied our successes and lessons learned, as well as current best practices in grant making. They recommended the Transformation Partnerships model to delve deeper into the root causes of global gender equality, which our board enthusiastically adopted.

### 5. When will these changes take place?

We will complete our current three-year commitments to our Sustained Grantees at the end of 2021. Our new Transformation Partnerships will begin in 2022.

### 6. How many Transformation Partnership grants will we award each year? Will there be a different one each month?

We expect to have a small number of Transformation Partnerships per year – perhaps two or three – and they may last for multiple years. We want to focus on a small number of organizations so that we can support, learn from, and create true, equal partnerships. This will result in improved outcomes and greater impact for women and girls.

### 7. What are the size of the Transformation Partnership grants?

Our plan is to offer two types of grants: **Initial Planning or “Getting to Know You” Grants** of up to \$35,000 to give grantees and Rise the opportunity to define goals and plan a change strategy, and **Implementation Grants** that will offer multi-year funding to implement the change strategy.



## 8. Who will be the recipients of these Transformation Partnerships?

We will give priority to our past grantees who are working on systemic change, but we may also work with new partners.

## 9. How will these new grantees/partnerships be selected? Who will select them?

Transformation Partnerships will be selected by invitation only. We will be establishing a new, Transformation Partnerships Sub-Committee, made up of member volunteers, board and staff members, who will identify, vet, and approach possible partners rather than soliciting applications. We will give priority to our past grantees who have demonstrated impact working in systemic change, and who have a deep understanding of the political and socio-economic issues in the country in which they work. The organizations must also meet basic Rise grant criteria (e.g. the grantee must be a US 501(c)3 corporation or have a fiscal sponsor that is a US 501(c)3 corporation, and we will not fund organizations with political or religious affiliations.)

## 10. What types of issues/challenges will we be funding?

We intend to make investments in areas where we can make the biggest impact on achieving global gender equality. While there has been progress made in certain areas (i.e. girls' education and maternal health), many studies have shown that we can make the biggest impact in the areas of economic equality and access to decision-making power. Two other meaningful areas of opportunity are education and ending gender-based violence.

## 11. What are some examples of the types of projects we will be funding?

Some examples may include:

- Funding an organization that is working with banks and other lenders to implement non-biased lending criteria so that women could access credit to start their own businesses.
- Funding a collaboration with a country's Ministry of Education to train teachers about the rights of girls and enforce punishment for sexually abusive teachers.

## 12. How is this different from the types of projects we are already funding?

While some of our funded projects have addressed systemic change, our funding has been largely focused on delivering **direct services** to women and girls. This type of funding is crucial and will continue through our Featured Grants. Our new Transformation Partnerships will be focused on addressing the root causes of global gender inequality that hold women back around the world. We want to transform the beliefs, practices, and laws so women have equal access to resources, decision-making power, and opportunity.

## 13. Will we be targeting certain countries?

We are open to working where we can have the most impact. It is possible that we might target certain areas or regions with our Transformation Partnerships.

## 14. Will we be providing grants to organizations here in the US? (perhaps organizations working with Indigenous Americans)?

No. We will continue to focus our Grants Program, including the new Transformation Partnerships, on projects in low-income countries around the world.