



# October 2022 Featured Project

Girls leading change to transform their lives, families, and communities



**TOGETHER WOMEN RISE**

# Introducing Organization for Youth Empowerment (OYE)

## Girls Leading Change – Las Niñas Lideran el Cambio (Honduras)

Mission: create opportunities for young people to empower themselves and transform their lives, families, and communities

Equips adolescent girls and young women with critical knowledge and tools to lead healthy, choice-filled lives and advocate for comprehensive sexuality education



# About Honduras

- One of the most impoverished and unequal countries in Latin America
- Second highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in the region
- 65 percent live in poverty, 42 percent in extreme poverty
- Gender inequality is the norm
- Many women face domestic violence and discrimination



# Life challenges for women in Honduras

- Some girls barely leave their homes in fear of community violence
- Many consider sexual violence to be normalized
- Lack of access to education and economic opportunities
- Lack of access to accurate, age-appropriate information about sexual and reproductive health
- Limited access to contraceptives and family planning
- Power imbalances in family and intimate relationships, often between younger girls and older men; can escalate to physical, emotional, and/or sexual violence



# The Project

## Education

- Scholarships to 15 adolescent girls living in poverty (less than \$1.90 a day) to continue their secondary educations
- Disbursed monthly, scholarships contribute to expenses related to education, including textbooks, school supplies, internet, transportation, and food
- Girls have ongoing academic and socio-emotional support services at the OYE youth center (homework hub, tutoring, and individual and family counseling)

# The Project

## Capacity-Building in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Leadership and Advocacy

- Scholarship recipients have 40+ hours of SRHR leadership and advocacy training
- They help facilitate abridged 20-hour training of mixed and same-sex sessions to student leaders who then lead school-based or school-adjacent Girls Leading Change (GLC) promotional events for peers
- Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) explores themes of respect, open and assertive communication, consent, and more



# The Project

## Advocacy for Broader Access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- Girl leaders will collect data and women's stories through interviews
- Girls will meet with local authorities, participate in municipal council meetings, organize a community forum, produce and present a 25-minute documentary, and create content for social media
- Goal is to convince government decision makers to expand access to the Municipal Public Policy on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (34,000+ students, grades 1 – 9 )

**YEAR 1** – DIRECT IMPACT: 270 TOTAL (INCLUDING 190 GIRLS AND WOMEN); INDIRECT IMPACT: 8,500 TOTAL (INCLUDING 4,500 GIRLS AND WOMEN)

**YEAR 2** – DIRECT IMPACT: +110 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE (INCLUDING 75 GIRLS AND WOMEN); INDIRECT IMPACT: +2,500 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE (INCLUDING 1,350 GIRLS AND WOMEN)



Item	Description	Cost
Personnel	Includes portion of salary for general projects coordinator and project associate and portion of fringe benefits	\$13,500
Girl Leader Stipends	Portion of stipends for two girl leaders for 24 months	\$5,000
Scholarships	Portion of scholarship cost for each participating girl over two years	\$11,250
CSE, Leadership, and Advocacy Training	Includes portion of food, accommodations, transportation and learning materials for intensive 3-day retreat for (15) girls and project staff; food and materials for 5 supplemental half-day trainings; food, materials and learning materials for 3-day training for (100) student leaders; funds for school-based CSE events.	\$5,750
Public Policy Advocacy and Implementation	Includes portion of costs for two community events (public forum and documentary presentation), communications support for documentary production and content creation.	\$1,500
Monitoring and Evaluation; Indirect Expenses	Communication, transportation, materials and equipment necessary to monitor and evaluate project activities, general operating expenses	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$40,000</b>

# About OYE

- Founded in 2005 by Ana Luisa Ahern, Justin Eldridge Otero, and Jessica Mockrin
- Children of international development professionals, Ana Luisa and Justin lived in Honduras for several years and witnessed the challenges facing people who lived in poverty
- After college, they joined with Jessica and returned to Honduras to start a scholarship program to help five young women go to college
- OYE's comprehensive youth empowerment model creates spaces for young people to engage with peers, develop leadership and life skills, and drive change in their communities through the creative arts, media, sports, and other youth-led initiatives



# Share your thoughts

1. What do you think are the multi-layered benefits of this project beyond an increase in SRHR knowledge?
2. How does the broader community play a vital role in this project?
3. How does the inclusion of boys help advance gender equality? Do you think it is more or less important in the context of this project?



