



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

Transformation Partnerships Frequently Asked Questions

1. How are Transformation Partnerships different from Featured Grants?

Featured Grants are largely focused on delivering **direct services** by funding grassroots organizations that empower and support women and girls in low-income and marginalized communities in the Global South. **Transformation Partnerships** are designed to invest in areas where we can make the biggest impact by addressing **the root causes** of gender inequality. With Transformation Partnerships, we are working to transform the beliefs, practices, and laws so women have equal access to resources, decision-making power, and opportunity.

For example, our Featured Grants might continue to fund an organization providing micro business loans to women, while our Transformation Partnerships might focus on an organization that is working with banks and other lenders to change lending criteria in order to remove barriers for women.

2. How are our Transformation Partnerships selected? Who selects them?

Transformation Partnerships are selected by invitation only. We have a Transformation Partnerships Committee, made up of member volunteers and board members, with support from Rise staff. This committee conducts extensive research to identify and vet potential partners who have had proven results creating systemic change. As part of the vetting process, the committee engages with potential partners to learn more about their work and to gauge their interest in working with Rise. Based on this research, the committee then makes recommendations to the Rise board for approval.

3. Is there specific criteria or guidelines that we follow in awarding Transformation Partnerships grants?

We partner with organizations that have a proven track record in creating systemic change, along with 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 (i.e. the grantee must be a 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.)

4. How much money will we invest in Transformation Partnership grants each year? How does this compare to our investment in Featured Grants? How many grants do we expect to award each year?

We do not have a set number of Transformation Partnership grants that we will award each year. We expect to have a small number of partnerships per year; for instance, we awarded four in 2022 and one in 2023. 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.

5. How much money is awarded with each Transformation Partnerships?

We offer two types of grants:

- **Initial Planning or Getting to Know You Grants** in the amount of \$35,000 to give partners an opportunity to pilot or test a particular strategy and report their findings to Rise.



- **Implementation Grants** – in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year -- that will offer multi-year funding to implement the change strategy.

6. How many Transformation Partnerships grants have we awarded to date? Who are these partners?

Since the program was launched in 2019, we have awarded five Transformation Partnerships grants to: [Shared Interest](#), [Landesa](#), [Equimundo](#), [International Center for Research on Women \(ICRW\)](#); and [Equality Now](#). Details on each of these partnerships can be found on our website under the LEARN tab > Transformation Partnerships.

7. Why are we partnering with such large organizations? Do they really need our money?

Changing systems does not happen overnight; it requires a lot of time – and a lot of resources -- to change long-held beliefs, traditions, and laws. We are partnering with organizations who have been doing this for some time, have a proven track record and the infrastructure needed to achieve systems change on a broad scale. This is how we will truly make an impact on global gender equality.

8. Are we funding specific projects or programs with our Transformation Partnerships?

At times, we may fund a specific project, as we did with Shared Interest. In this case, we funded a specific pilot project to collect data about the most impactful interventions to drive systemic change in the financial system in Malawi.

In most cases (including our other four Transformation Partnerships), Transformation Partnerships involve an **unrestricted grant** to support the overall work of the organization, and our partner will determine the best way to utilize the funds in order to have the greatest impact.

9. Will there be transparency and accounting of how the partner uses the grant? Will budgets be provided and shared with members.

Yes. Each partner is asked to identify the specific focus areas they will be working on and the impact that they hope to make with our grant. The members of the Transformation Partnerships Committee have regular check-ins with each partner to get updates on these focus areas, the work that the partner is doing, and the impact it is having. We intend to share the impact reports and updates provided by the partners; to the extent that they share their budgets, we will share those as well.

10. Will each of the partners provide reports to Rise about the impact of the grant? Will these reports be shared with members?

Yes, each partner will provide impact reports and these will be shared with members via each partner's page on our website. Impact reports may take many different forms; it may be a written report, a PowerPoint presentation, a video, or participation in a Rise webinar.

11. Are there learning materials available to chapters and members about the Transformation Partnerships?

Yes. Materials have been posted on our website about each partnership. Go to the LEARN tab and then Transformation Partnerships.

12. Are we targeting certain countries with our Transformation Partnerships?

We are open to working where we can have the most impact.

13. Does this mean that Rise will be getting more involved in politics/advocacy?

We will not be getting involved in politics, but may work with partners who are helping to change policies. Systems change often requires advocacy to impact social perspectives and public policies – to remove biases about the role of women in society.



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

No. We will continue to focus our Grants Program, including our Transformation Partnerships, on projects and organizations in low-income communities in the Global South.

15. Are there opportunities for members to participate on the Transformation Partnerships Sub-Committee or in other ways related to these partnerships?

There will be opportunities for member volunteers to participate on the Transformation Partnerships Committee. These opportunities will be communicated to members as they come available via the Volunteer page on our website.

