

# 10 YEARS RISING

Celebrating a Decade of Global Impact for Girls, Youth, and Women



## 2019 EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT



for a more just and equitable world



The Power  
of International  
Education

# A Decade of Rising Up

When we founded Rise Up in 2009, we were a small and scrappy team with a big vision to create change. We knew that girls, youth, and women had the power to transform their lives, communities, and countries, and we wanted to invest in their vision, strength, and solutions.

We began by investing in 38 leaders in Guatemala and Honduras and with an organizational budget of \$250,000. In the past ten years, we've grown to a global network of over **640 Rise Up Leaders** in **17 countries** with an organizational budget of almost \$5 million.

Our award-winning methodology has enabled more than a thousand girls to become leaders and speak out for their rights. We've also invested **\$3.9 million** in Rise Up Leaders' strategies to bring an end to child marriage, support girls to finish school, create economic opportunities for women, and so much more.

Continuous learning and evaluation is central to Rise Up's success, and we are proud to have partnered with the **Institute of International Education** to conduct an external evaluation of our impacts over the past ten years. We are thrilled to share our lessons, impacts, and successes with you.

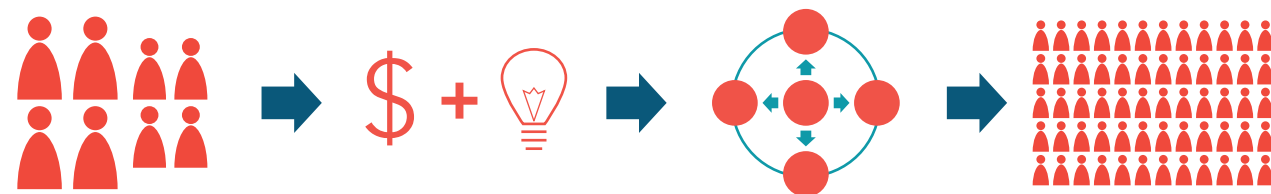
**Denise Raquel Dunning, PhD**  
Founder and Executive Director



# Driving Change From the Ground Up

Rise Up activates girls, youth, and women to transform their lives, families, and communities for a more just and equitable world by strengthening leadership, investing in local solutions, and building movements.

## Rise Up's Model for Exponential Change



Since 2009, Rise Up's powerful network of over **600 leaders** has advocated for **120 laws and policies** impacting **135 million people** in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the U.S.

"I work in a community where the average age of marriage for girls is fourteen.

My mission is to create as many female leaders as I can by channeling opportunities and resources to rural girls and women. **I am raising an army of girls and women equipped with knowledge, resources, and power who are ready to transform their lives and become social change agents.**

Rise Up helped me to grow my work by training me in advocacy and leadership, connecting me with like-minded people, providing a seed grant for my work, and Rise Up has stayed by my side all along the way."



**Tawina Jane Kopa-Kamanga**  
MALAWI, RISE UP LEADER SINCE 2011

# Rise Up Invests in Visionary Leaders

Rise Up identifies and invests in visionary local leaders – providing the tools, training, funding, networks, and resources they need to expand their impact. IIE’s evaluation found that:

- **94%** of Rise Up Leaders report gaining knowledge in girls’ empowerment, advocacy, and leadership
- **96%** feel that being part of Rise Up positively impacted them professionally
- **94%** say Rise Up has been useful in connecting them to networks of funders, government officials, and other leaders
- **87%** see Rise Up’s support as crucial to enabling them to work at their full capacity
- **91%** currently hold a leadership position



# Rise Up Strengthens Organizations and Communities

Rise Up Leaders bring their learnings back to their organizations, enabling their work to be more sustainable and impactful.

- **90%** of Rise Up Leaders feel the training they received helped their organization increase its capacity for advocacy
- **70%** report significantly strengthening the work of their organization by applying skills learned from Rise Up

With support from Rise Up, Leaders transform their communities by improving the lives of girls, youth, and women.

- **86%** report enabling positive change in their communities
- **85%** report improving the leadership or advocacy capacity of girls, youth, or women



“After becoming a Rise Up Leader, I understood better that adolescent girls were especially disadvantaged.

With coaching and resources from Rise Up, our organization has strengthened its institutional capacity to support adolescent girls to advocate to ensure that key decision makers fulfill their mandate and invest resources in adolescent girls.

**Giving real power to adolescent girls is not easy. Girls developing their own voices and thoughts with their own heads and hearts challenges a culture of silence, machismo, and patriarchy.”**



**Saúl Interiano**

GUATEMALA, RISE UP LEADER SINCE 2013

# Rise Up Powers a Global Movement for Gender Equity

**Rise Up Leaders become powerful advocates for girls, youth, and women.**

- **98%** of Leaders say Rise Up taught them to be more effective advocates and strengthened their commitment to advocacy
- **95%** developed new advocacy efforts

**Rise Up Leaders create large-scale change through advocacy and innovation.**

- **66%** advocated to change a policy, increase a budget, or pass a new law
- Of these, **73%** achieved new and improved legislation

We have built  
a network of  
**600+**  
visionary  
leaders

**120+**  
LAWS AND  
POLICIES  
PASSED OR  
IMPLEMENTED

LEGISLATION  
IMPACTING  
**135**  
million  
people

“Before becoming a Rise Up Leader, I only had an idea. I got the necessary support, tools, and guidance to translate my idea into action. **And what started as a project has become an organization.**”

I am working to solve the lack of access to affirmative and non-judgemental healthcare services for the LGBTQ+ community in India. The discrimination, social stigma, and homophobia faced by LGBTQ+ communities make them fearful of accessing healthcare.

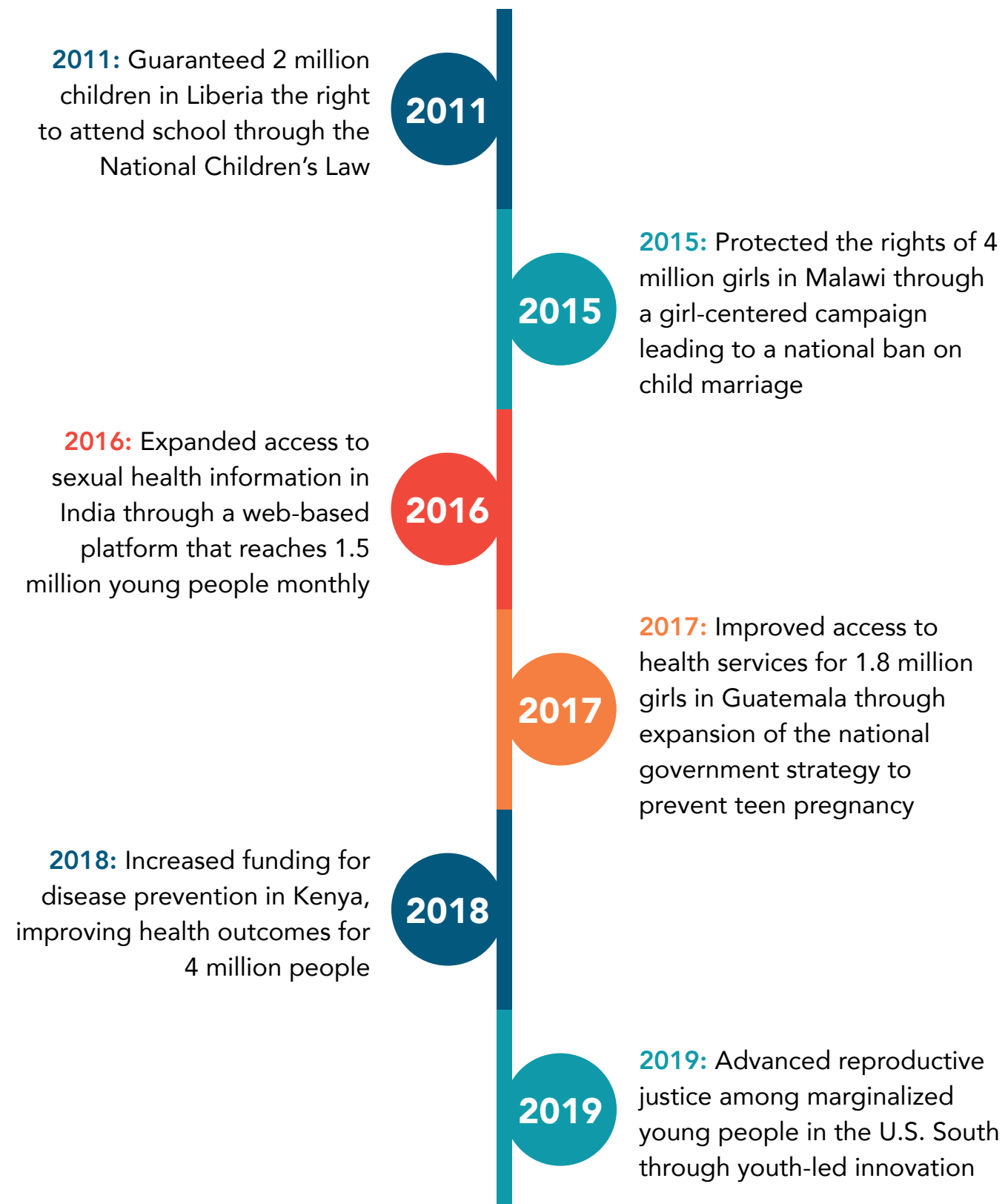
My organization sensitizes health service providers on the needs and challenges of the community. These providers are then listed on our web platform where the community can find and review them. **We are working at the intersection of health and technology to enable equitable healthcare for the LGBTQ+ community.”**



**Shubham Choudhary**

INDIA, RISE UP LEADER SINCE 2017

## Rise Up Leaders' Key Impacts



"I was brought up in a conservative Muslim society where access to reproductive health services for women is limited by religious and cultural misconceptions.

**Being a Rise Up Leader has been a game changer for me in how I approach challenges around social issues.**

**I learned that addressing the challenges of women's reproductive health rights cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes and policy gaps in our system.** That was exactly what the Rise Up Leadership and Advocacy Accelerator taught me.

I now better understand that policies do not succeed or fail on their own merits; their progress depends upon the process of implementation and strategy adopted by advocates."



**Abdulrazaq Alkali**

NIGERIA, RISE UP LEADER SINCE 2016

## The Next Decade and Beyond

---

For ten years, the Rise Up team has been truly privileged to invest directly in hundreds of girls, youth, women, and allies – who in turn have created change for millions more. We are nothing less than awed by the strength and power of Rise Up Leaders, who continue to stand strong, raise their voices, and fight for justice and equity every day.

With the great success of our model globally, we knew it was time to bring Rise Up's work home. In 2019, we began investing in leaders from California's Central Valley and Bay Area to tackle some of our country's toughest challenges. In 2020, we are thrilled to expand our work to South Africa and Brazil, as we also deepen our investments globally.

Rise Up has grown from a scrappy start-up to a renowned leader in the global movement for gender equity. We remain lean, efficient, and firmly rooted in our original vision from 2009 – investing in local leaders to launch their own solutions to the challenges we collectively face. As we look forward to the next decade and beyond, Rise Up will continue to grow our investments in girls, youth, and women, who we know will create impacts far beyond anything we can imagine.



**Denise Raquel Dunning, PhD**  
Founder and Executive Director







# RISE UP

for a more just and equitable world

 [www.riseuptogether.org](http://www.riseuptogether.org)  [info@riseuptogether.org](mailto:info@riseuptogether.org)    [@RiseUpforGirls](https://www.instagram.com/RiseUpforGirls)

© Rise Up is based at the Public Health Institute, a leader in global health and development for over 50 years.