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## THANKYOU CHARITABLE TRUST

**FINAL REPORT: January – December 2021** *(Reflecting updates through March 2022)*

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### INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to share this final report on Co-Impact's work since Thankyou Charitable Trust provided a general operating support grant. We have appreciated the flexibility in how we might best deploy the funds, and as anticipated, we used them to help us deepen our planning around the organizational shifts as we launched the Gender Fund, and are on track to fully spin out our operations from our fiscal sponsor.

In the following, we have provided a brief update on some of the key deliverables that were covered in the previous reports, as well as deliverables that were due upon completion of the grant term.

### FOUNDATIONAL FUND

#### Reporting Milestones

- April 2021: Site visits for next round of Design Grants conducted (may be virtual)
- May 2021: Design Grant recommendations drafted
- June 2021: Design Grants awarded

Attached please find a copy of the semiannual report we recently provided to our Foundational Fund funding partners covering the period of July-December 2021.

All 7 Design Grants that were awarded in Round 3 were awarded as originally planned and are on track to finalize the prospectuses by the end of August 2022. Unfortunately, due to risks associated with travel and local challenges each Program Partner was facing because of Covid-19 and the subsequent variants, the Co-Impact team had to postpone the planned site visits until March/April. Those site visits are

currently underway, as this report is being submitted.

A complete list of grants awarded from the Foundational Fund and Gender Fund since Co-Impact's founding in 2017 can be found on our website here: <https://www.co-impact.org/grants/>

## **GENDER FUND**

### Reporting Milestones

- September 2021: Gender Fund Open Call for Country Level Grants
- November: 2021: Initial global/regional and research grants
- November 2021: US \$300 million has been committed from a group of (at least 3) lead donors to the Gender Fund in time for launch

The first Gender Fund Open Call for country-level grants, launched in September 2021, closed in December 2021. The open call encouraged a range of Global South-based organizations – civil society groups, think-tanks, academic institutions, professional associations and networks, women's rights groups and feminist movements – from the 13 focus countries to share their ideas for advancing gender equality, systems change and women's leadership. The open call for Country Level Grants included three grant types - Anchor, Domain, and Catalytic - and focused on women-lead initiatives. As we review the submitted concept notes and make decisions on grant awards, we will ensure that at least 75% of the Anchor/Domain grants and 100% of the Catalytic grants are women-led. In alignment with Co-Impact's commitment to language justice, we also accepted concept notes in six languages (Bahasa, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog).

During this period, the Co-Impact team conducted 3 interactive webinars that aimed to help potential applicants understand (i) the purpose and criteria by grant type and (ii) the focus on systems and institutional change, as well as (iii) provide an opportunity to ask questions and get clarity to strengthen their applications. Over 1,500 participants registered and participated in the 3 webinars and many others viewed the recordings online. We also conducted extensive outreach, especially at regional and country levels.

In addition to country level grants, we also launched our first round of funding to advance Women in

Leadership in Law & Economics and Practitioner-Oriented Research grants under the Gender Fund in July 2021 through targeted requests for proposals (RFP). For the Women in Leadership grants, a total of 21 organizations were invited to submit a concept note which were reviewed internally and by a group of Global South-based independent experts in law, economics, and/or women's leadership. A subset of nine organizations were invited to develop and submit detailed proposals, of which the following five organizations were selected to receive grants:

- Asia Justice Coalition
- GQUAL
- Institute for African Women in the Law
- International Association of Women Judges.
- Red Alas

For the Practitioner-Oriented Research grants, a total of 26 organizations were invited to submit a concept note through a similar targeted RFP process; the notes were reviewed internally and also by a group of independent Global South-based experts in research on gender. Based on the concept notes, a subset of eight organizations were invited to develop and submit detailed proposals. Of these, the following five organizations were awarded grants:

- Equis: Justicia para las mujeres (Equis: Justice for women)
- India Institute of Technology Delhi
- International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific
- National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).

Since we announced the development of the Gender Fund at the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in June 2021, we have been building relationships, solidifying partnerships, and confirming commitments with new funders ahead of the launch of the Fund which happened on 17th March 2022. At launch, we had secured US\$320.5 million from a diverse group of funding partners. We are thrilled by the initial group of philanthropists and foundations who are coming together to make this possible. This group includes: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Cartier Philanthropy; the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Elizabeth Sheehan; Estee Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation; Kate James and

Hans Bishop; La Alayata Foundation; MacKenzie Scott, The Rockefeller Foundation, Roshni Nadar Malhotra / HCL Corporation; Target Foundation; Thankyou Charitable Trust; Tsitsi Masiyiwa; Vijay and Marie Goradia Foundation. There are also several additional donors who prefer their contributions to remain anonymous. Current funding partners for the Gender Fund can be found on our [website](#).

## **OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

### Reporting Milestones

- January 2021: Develop an Operational Roadmap that lays out the core activities, milestones, and broad transition timeline
- July 2021: Incorporate new entity and apply for 501(c)(3) public charity status with the US Internal Revenue Service.
- June 2021: 2-3 high level ambassadors and advisors aligned with Co-Impact in time for launch of Gender Fund.
- December 2021: Independent Board of Directors established.
- Spin out from fiscal sponsor New Venture Fund on course to conclude by end of 2022

As of the submission of the report, we have incorporated the new non-profit entity and are on track to apply for 501(c)(3) public charity status. In parallel, we are progressing with our spinout workplan with the aim to fully spin our operations from New Venture Fund by the end of 2022. Certain functions will be spun out between now and the end of the year, according to the predesigned plan.

We have partnered with Patterson Belknap Webb and Tyler and our external general counsel, Nic Campbell of The Campbell Law Firm, on incorporating the independent entity and applying for 501(c)(3) exemption.

A core aspect of the evolution of Co-Impact has been our governance structure. As we launched Gender Fund in March 2022, the composition of our new Board of Directors has now been finalized and published on our [website](#).

Similar to the Advisory Board currently operating for the Foundational Fund, we have also formed an Advisory Board for the Gender Fund, comprised of representatives from the funding community as well as independent experts. The bios of our Gender Fund Advisory Board members can be found on our [website](#).

## **CONCLUSION**

The support from Thankyou Charitable Trust has been instrumental in responding quickly and efficiently to the needs of Co-Impact and our program partners; and in ensuring our spinout from the fiscal sponsorship model and the incorporation of the new entity were designed with appropriate assessment and planning. We hope to continue our work with the Thankyou Charitable Trust to advance the rights of women and girls in a more equitable world.

## **Co-Impact Financial Overview covering 01.01.2021-**

### **12.31.2021 Narrative Summary**

We elected to use the general operating support received from Thankyou Holdings to support Co-Impact with its scaling and spinout efforts, as we work to set up an independent entity and expand our grantmaking portfolio by launching the Gender Fund. This includes the following:

- Dedicated support with designing an operational roadmap for phased spinout.
- Engaging legal and other support to set up the independent entity and apply for a 501(c)(3) status;
- Refining our organizational policies and practices (compensation philosophy, job bands, competency framework, decision-making matrix, DEI practices, etc.);
- Conducting evidence reviews and assessments to support the development of the Gender Fund;
- Engaging strategic advisory in grantmaking approach, ideology, and structure;
- Developing a message, branding, and communications materials on the Gender Fund;
- Supporting with screening applications for new job posts;
- Identifying relevant Contact Relationship Management and Grants Management Solutions, rollout, and procurement of relevant licenses; - Enhancing company cybersecurity measures;
- Continuing the efforts towards promoting collaborative philanthropy and expanding Co-Impact's pool of funders; - Supporting other scaling- and spinout-related activities.



## **Foundational Fund**

### **Narrative Report**

#### **Period Covered:**

**July 1 – December 31, 2021**

(Reflecting activity through March 2022)

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are pleased to share our semi-annual report to our Core Partners, reporting on activity across all areas of our work since July 2021. In spite of the ongoing challenges of the COVID19 pandemic, we continue to provide tailored support to meet our partners' needs, including on the core features of organizational strengthening and learning, measurement and evaluation, and to learn about real-time systems change. We have fully executed grant agreements and embarked on the systems change phase of support for three of our Round 2 initiatives, and we have been conducting site visits and finalizing prospectuses and milestones for our Round 3 design grants. We have maintained our engagement with Core Partners, Co-Investors and Community Members and are excited by how our partnership with The Philanthropy Workshop has been received by funding partners. We have also formally launched our Gender Fund, established the Gender Fund Advisory Board and made our first grant awards. Finally, we have established our new governance structure and are pleased to report that our initial Board of Directors has been formed and will be formally ratified in May. We share detailed updates on all these dimensions in this report, and look forward to engaging with the Core Partners at our upcoming meeting on 28th June.

## **PROGRAM**

### ***Round 1***

The Co-Impact team has continued to support our first round of systems change grants totaling \$71m, and our Round 1 program partners continue to make significant progress in their work.

We are learning alongside our Round 1 partners about real-time system change. Here we highlight the importance of making a consistent and persuasive case to government for the necessary systemic change amidst a range of competing priorities. In Liberia, our partner Last Mile Health (LMH) has steadily pursued the long-term sustainability of the Community Health Assistants (CHA) program. There have been successes in terms of alignment of policies and practices, but the long-term success of the program also hinges on committed resources from the government itself. In February 2022, with support from LMH, the Liberian Ministry of Health hosted a high-level meeting with House and Senate Committees for Health to advocate for political support for the National CHA program and to request increased fiscal space for 500 Community Health Services Supervisors (CHSS) on government payroll. LMH and MOH leveraged this meeting by combining voices from the CHAs on the ground with hardcore evidence analysis (including a cost-effectiveness study that support investment in the CHA program) to pursue high-level political buy-in in order to then secure the expanded fiscal space. The sustainability agenda definitely has a positive arc, but it is important to note that this progress is not linear and has experienced several challenges, including the increasingly difficult macro-economic context in Liberia and COVID-19 related challenges, which have led to the overall contraction of fiscal space in Liberia.

We continue to tailor our support to meet our partners' needs, including on the core features of organizational strengthening and learning, measurement and evaluation (LME). Based on positive performance and evolving organizational vision, we are entering into an additional \$3m organizational strengthening partnership with Project ECHO for the next 3 years which will focus on the strategic development and strengthening of organizational and governance structures, processes, and policies that will effectively support and sustain Project ECHO's replication and scaling across diverse contexts. We also engaged substantively with Partnership for Economic

Inclusion (PEI) and ECHO in their revision and updating of their overall approach to measurement. Both partners have emerged with significantly strengthened LME plans and structures.

### **Round 2**

Since the last report, we have formally embarked on the systems change phase of support for three of our Round 2 initiatives (led by Harambee, Lend-a-Hand India, and One Acre Fund partnering with Landesa). The respective grant agreements are fully executed, and first disbursements made. We have not included a dashboard for Round 2 initiatives and will provide updates for these partners as and when we receive their formal progress report submissions. You can find a brief description of these partners and an overview of their approach in the grants section of [our website](#).

Following in depth discussions with the organization's board, leadership and key stakeholders, we have made the decision to extend the Design Grant to Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) for an additional six-month period and offer a parallel Design Grant to support Jagdeesh Rao Puppala in order to provide opportunity to more fully develop the Commons Collaborative systems change initiative in India.

### **Round 3**

Since our last meeting in October 2021, Co-Impact's Round 3 Design Grant process has continued successfully. It remains largely aligned with the approach and timeline communicated in our prior updates, albeit with a few tweaks necessitated by disruptions due to the Omicron wave of Covid-19. For example, the Co-Impact team had to postpone its planned site visits until March/April (now underway), and almost every Program Partner experienced major interruptions in work due to widespread staff illness as well as additional lockdowns imposed by governments.

Adjusting to these challenges, we have adopted a process that builds on the experience of Round 2, where our recommendations were based on the sum total of our engagements with the team (plus other contextual actors, and feedback from Team Leads). With the adjustments we've made, we feel confident that we will deliver strong recommendations for systems change grants to the Advisory Board on-schedule based on our 2+ years of engaging with these Partners, while also providing Partners with an extra 3-4 weeks in Q2 to finish their strong drafts.

Drawing upon lessons learned and our collective ongoing dialogue, our systems change grant decisions for your approval in June will particularly consider 3 factors that focus on the most important aspects for engaging in deep systems change work:

- Strong leadership and organization, including 2nd tier of leadership, governance, Board alignment, culture, inclusion, and a learning orientation.
- Systems change focus and potential, including systems change as the end goal, a credible concept for this, savviness re: political economy, ability to work with government, etc.
- Commitment to gender equality & intersectionality as a central feature of the work and the organization, including equitable outcomes, women's agency & leadership, an understanding of power dynamics, etc.

As a reminder, in this cohort there are 8 initiatives we are considering for systems change grants, including one (the South African ECD Initiative, led by Ilifa Labantwana) that was previously extended from Round 2 due to Covid-19.

### ***Venture and Ecosystem Grants***

Our grant relationships with our venture grant and ecosystem grant program partners - the Center for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS), IDInsight and J-PAL – are now formalized through fully executed grant agreements. All three grants seek to strengthen governance elements for systems change, particularly better use of evidence by governments to inform policy and practice, as well as shifting incentives to reward outcomes rather than compliance with procedures.

### ***Engaging with and learning from others in philanthropy: spotlight on organizational strengthening and learning, measurement and evaluation***

Organizational strengthening and learning, measurement and evaluation (LME) are core features of our bespoke support to program partners, as illustrated with the examples of ECHO and PEI in the Round 1 update. In addition, we engage on these issues with peers in the philanthropic sector. In this way we continue to reflect and improve our own practices, and share what we are learning in contribution to the field.

Part of our core message is that organizational strengthening and LME ought to first and foremost contribute towards our partners' strategic coherence. By this we mean working with partners to carve

out the time, space and resources to focus on defining their own vision, priorities and needs, rather than trying to fit into the vision of a funder. So often, we as funders can pull organizations into many directions, impose our own priorities or elevate our own measurement preferences ahead of that of our partners. There is immense opportunity for funders to flip the dynamic by stepping back and getting behind the partner's vision, including which outcomes to pursue and how to measure them, and what kind of organizational capacities are most needed for the partner to evolve according to their vision. In this approach, trust in the partner becomes a necessary ingredient of grantmaking. This need not detract from our learning and accountability as funders; we can draw upon the data and insights collected for the partner's own LME priorities to also serve our purposes.

During this report period, we engaged substantively with philanthropic and other development partners on both topics. We hosted three workshops as part of our collaboration with [The Philanthropy Workshop](#) (TPW) through the Systems Change Action Lab (SCAL). In the first session, Rakesh Rajani, Vice President of Programs, introduced the idea of working towards equitable system change at scale, highlighting two main points. First, there are no blueprints to follow and so recognizing contextual specificity and adopting a "systems mindset" is key; and second, trust in partners is essential, without creating a binary between trust and impact, which are in fact complementary. In the follow-up session, Yasmin Madan, Director of Programs, dived further into how we support partner's own organizational strengthening, highlighting the importance of finding organizations that are true to their mission and have representational and locally rooted leadership, and then focusing on strategic coherence as a critical lens of how to support their systems change initiative. CoImpact's new selection criteria developed for the most recent Gender Fund open call for country-level grants reflects this, as the categories provide equal focus on the people and the purpose, rather than just looking for the right plan or strategy. Varja Lipovsek, Director of LME led a third TPW session on our purpose and approach to LME, illustrating why it is imperative that LME functions and practices respond to the needs of the partner organization; in turn, this builds trust, brings open dialogue and leads to better accountability. In a similar vein we have also engaged with other LME spaces, such as the [Scaling Up Community of Practice](#), and the [Esade Center for Social Impact's](#) Community of Practice on Impact Measurement and Management.

Last but not least, in the previous report we reported substantively on the insights from the partner perception survey conducted by the Center for Effective Philanthropy; in January 2022 we published

the full report, together with an [accompanying blog](#). In the blog, we report on key features of the exercise, what we heard and learned, and the actions that we commit to take to do better. We share these to be transparent about our thinking, to invite readers to hold us to account, and to contribute to shared learning in the philanthropic community.

## **PHILANTHROPIC COLLABORATION**

Looking back over the past year, we are excited by the progress achieved by program partners with support from the Foundational Fund amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have maintained our engagement with our Core Partners, Co-Investors and Community Members and are excited by how our partnership with The Philanthropy Workshop has been received by funding partners. Given the prolonged nature of the pandemic, we have continued to embrace a targeted outreach and engagement approach. We are energized by the momentum we're seeing since the announcement of the Gender Fund to accelerate progress towards gender equality and women's leadership. Building on our experience over the past year, our team continues to engage the funder community and potential new prospects virtually. Where feasible and whilst observing COVID-19 precautions, we have begun to take a small number of meetings again in person. COVID-19 developments permitting, we hope to stay on this path.

### **Core Partners**

We have continued to deepen our working relationship with our Core Partners' team leads - with a very productive format and cadence of regular calls. This has allowed us to dive deeper on matters related to philanthropy, program, operations, and further strengthen the respective relationships. We are also pleased to report that Tim Hanstad, since stepping into his role as Advisory Board Chair, has supported our outreach and engagement efforts and facilitated a number of new conversations with potential donors.

### **Co-Investors**

Whilst our program partners are sophisticated and experienced fundraisers in their own right, we have also continued to support them in their fundraising efforts, in accordance with our values (especially that of being program partner-centered) and our approach to organizational strengthening. Program partners' ability to raise the remainder of funds for their initiative is critical to the overall impact we and they are seeking, and they are progressing well with ensuring adequate resourcing is in place. We aim to understand where they are having successes and encountering

challenges; we stand ready to support our program partners, and encourage our funding partners and others to do the same. Co-Investors have the option to either transfer the funds directly to Program Partners or through Co-Impact. Where relevant and feasible, Co-Impact continues to play a connecting and advocacy role in supporting our program partners to facilitate their engagements with potential new funders.

### ***Round 1***

We have continued to play a substantive role in connecting our Round 1 partners to potential co-investors to unlock funding. Program partners have continued to be successful in securing co-investment from philanthropists, foundations, corporates, governments, and multilateral institutions. Since the last report, they have collectively secured \$6.6m additional coinvestment, bringing the total to \$62.6m in funding committed for their systems change initiatives. This means that Co-Impact's initial \$80m investment has enabled Round 1 program partners to secure an additional 78% in direct co-investment from other funders.

### ***Round 2***

Round 2 system change partners – Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, Lend a Hand India, and One Acre Fund – have been announced and we hope to see positive developments with regard to co-investment for these new systems change initiatives going forward. We will work with Round 2 program partners to identify strategic engagement opportunities with existing and prospective funders.

While developing and finalizing the extended design grant phase for Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Co-Impact engaged with other funders who are either currently funding or intend to support FES and/or Jagdeesh Rao Puppala.

### ***Round 3***

All Round 3 program partners are fully engaged in Design Grant efforts which will run through to summer 2022. Our main approach is to help strengthen the program partners' own fundraising efforts. We look forward to working together with partners as well as sharing opportunities, where relevant, with our current funding community and other potential prospects on co-investment connections and commitments for these program partners.

## **Co-Impact Community**

As of March 2022, we have 28 individuals actively participating in the Co-Impact Community includes the following executed agreements: 11 individuals/foundations, 1 membership shared by two foundations, and one group of five individuals.

Given many of the donors in the Community executed grant agreements in 2018 for a three-year term, we are in conversations with them about renewing their agreements. Of the eight donors we are in discussions with, five have already signed new agreements and we are positive about the remaining three. Some community donors are opting to continue to support the Foundational Fund, others are contributing to both the Foundational and Gender Fund, and others to the Gender Fund.

## **Funder Engagement**

The funding community are highly engaged and part of an active learning and sharing journey curated by our team. Funders and the Co-Impact team participated in a number of activities from July to December 2021. We regularly engage our community of funders as well as prospects through a variety of platforms and forums such as “The Conversation Series” convened every third Thursday of the month to enable cross-learning opportunities and foster community and engagement; “The Gender Fund Deep Dive” in November 2021 which convened funding partners from around the world, both existing partners and those exploring partnership, to learn about the Gender Fund; “Funding Community Newsletter Winter 2021” with input from four different funding partners, as well as learning sessions and one-to-one conversations over Zoom. Engagement on our private platform remains consistent; we have an average of about 50 unique visits per month and continue to share reports from program partners, updates, and sector news on the platform.

Following the launch of our strategic partnership with The Philanthropy Workshop (TPW) in August 2021, we hosted a TPW & Co-Impact virtual Town Hall in September with Renee Kaplan (CEO, TPW) and Olivia Leland (Founder and CEO, Co-Impact), to kick off the partnership and share more about the vision to provide more and deeper learning and engagement opportunities for our funding partners while also sharing more with the TPW community about our work on systems change and gender equality. The partnership, which is curated jointly by TPW and Co-Impact team, has been going on well. We have launched the new “Co-Impact Systems Change Action Lab: Equitable Systems Change at Scale (SCAL)” - a series of eight engaging sessions from November 2021 to July 2022, where participants jointly grapple with the urgent question of how philanthropy and social investors can

best support locally-rooted and inclusive systems change in a way that provides meaningful, sustainable, and structural changes to a vastly inequitable society. The sessions cover discussions on systems change; organizational strengthening; Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation; as well as collaborative philanthropy.

### **Donor engagement for the Gender Fund**

Since we announced the development of the Gender Fund at the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in June last year, we have been building relationships, solidifying partnerships, and confirming commitments with new funders ahead of the launch of the Fund which happened on 17th March 2022. Through the Gender Fund, we are aiming to raise and disburse \$1 billion over the next decade to support predominantly women-led Global South organizations with the large, unrestricted, long-term, and flexible funding needed to transform systems to be more just and inclusive, advance women's power, agency and leadership at all levels and shift harmful gender norms that prevent progress. At launch, we had secured US\$320.5m from a diverse group of funding partners.

We are thrilled by the initial group of philanthropists and foundations who are coming together to make this possible. This group includes to date: BMGF; Cartier Philanthropy; Elizabeth Sheehan; Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation; Kate James and Hans Bishop; La Alayaya Foundation; MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett; Muirfield Foundation; Neverl and Beryl Kambasha/BeeNev Kambasha Foundation; Roshni Nadar Malhotra / HCL Corporation; Target Foundation; Thankyou Charitable Trust; The Children's Investment Fund Foundation; The Rockefeller Foundation; Trevor and Mayda Mapondera/Catalyst Foundation -SHE Project Zimbabwe, Tsitsi Masiyiwa and Delta Philanthropies; Vijay and Marie Goradia Foundation. There are also several additional donors who prefer their contributions to remain anonymous.

We believe it's important for the work of the Gender Fund to be supported by a regionally diverse group of funders, to foster greater collaborative philanthropy and cross-learning globally, so we are working on a number of regional funding partner cohorts. In this regard, we are delighted to be working with Tsitsi Masiyiwa and the African Philanthropy Forum to bring together a group of philanthropists from across Africa, and with Vidya Shah and EdelGive Foundation on a similar model to support this work in India. We are in the early stages of discussing a similar model in Latin

America.

We continue to focus on identifying new funders and stewarding these relationships to a commitment. We are offering funders the potential to commit at different funding levels; lead donors who contribute over \$100m over 10 years across both the Foundational Fund and the Gender Fund are invited to join the Co-Impact Board of Directors (subject to approval by the Board). Those who commit over \$25m over 5 years to the Gender Fund are invited to take a seat on the Gender Fund Advisory Board. Champion donors who commit \$15m over 5 years are invited to become members of the Gender Fund Philanthropy Council and one member of the Philanthropy Council will also sit on the Gender Fund Advisory Board. We have also opened up the Fund to lower donations of between US \$1.5m and US \$5m over three to five years. Through the Fund, we are aiming to increase the share of funding available and allocated for gender equality and encourage more funders to make significant, longer term and unrestricted gifts.

We are also excited about the cross-learning and engagement that is already happening between funders across both of our funds, and we look forward to continuing to build on this in the future.

## **INFLUENCE**

Co-Impact's advocacy and communications priorities focused on the development or revision of key publications and maximizing the reach and impact of our key moments (international days, partner convenings, and program outreach efforts). All efforts aimed at a more proactive approach to strategic communication – to build the organization's brand and visibility, profile grant opportunities, and grow Co-Impact's influence.

A number of these moments were profiled via social media and the results were positive ([link here](#)).

Between July 1st and December 31st, Co-Impact's Twitter followers grew by more than 20% from 4160 to 5020. This spike was mainly triggered by the Gender Fund announcement during the Gender Equality Forum (GEF) on June 30th and the subsequent week of activity, and then the Open Call launching in September which prolonged interest and engagement right up until its December closing. It was, however, also influenced in part by other campaigns and events promoted during this period, such as the evidence review campaign, and various events and speaking engagements that we participated in and promoted on our channels, for example The Philanthropy Workshop (TPW) Town Hall, 14th September 2021 and Women Leaders in Global Health Conference, 15th-16th November 2021. More detail on the full list of events we participated in are below.

Overall, during this period, the most popular content on both Twitter and LinkedIn was that relating to the Gender Fund announcement and Open Call, followed by other Gender Fund-related content such as our advisor profiles, followed by our statements and materials made for key dates and events such as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

**Lessons learned:** For our future communication efforts, we are learning that our audiences are especially responsive to audiovisual content and the sense of unity and excitement that comes from announcements, events, or mobilization around key dates. We must therefore be strategic about which upcoming key dates, international events, and internal moments we mobilize around and the types of assets we create accordingly, aiming to have one of these “moments” at a regular cadence to maintain interest and momentum. That being said, we are also looking at ways to promote evidence-based content in a way that aligns with this approach to make it more accessible and relevant for our various audiences.

Furthermore, the support from our partners and their use of our social media toolkits has been integral to our reach and growth in followers, exposing us to more audiences and helping us to build excitement and a sense of community around these key moments for both Co-Impact and the wider network.

**The following publications were published:**

- Co-Impact’s revised [Handbook](#)
- [Organizational Strengthening Guidebook](#)
- [Learning, Measurement & Evaluation Guidebook](#)
- [Promoting Higher-impact Philanthropy: What We’ve Learned:](#)

In particular, in December 2021, Co-Impact published a report - [Promoting Higher-impact Philanthropy: What We’ve Learned](#) - that looks at different typologies of philanthropists, indicating how we give and how these fit into systems change thinking. Alongside this, a typology of the cycle of a systems-change philanthropist was created. This report provides some key insights into why there are fewer higher impact / systems change philanthropists and unpacks the journey individuals take towards becoming systems change philanthropists. This work provides a communications opportunity to advance Co-Impact’s goal to influence more and better philanthropic funding.

**Co-Impact participated in 10 events / initiatives.** Influencing by leveraging key events and initiatives focused on increasing funding for locally-rooted, primarily women-led organizations, and promoting an increase in resources towards organizations addressing systemic discrimination and inequality. The narrative focus at these events/ initiatives covered a wide range of topics, such as, education, philanthropy, Women's leadership, the Gender Fund open call, and health.

Key events included:

- ***InfluencerHer Project, August 2021:*** Olivia Leland was interviewed to talk about what she learned from GEF and how best Philanthropy can move forward in support of sustainable change.
- ***The Philanthropy Workshop (TPW) Town Hall, 14th September 2021:*** The Town Hall was curated as a Zoom meeting where the TPW and Co-Impact's partnership was formally introduced. The forum helped to advocate for the benefits of the partnership and increased engagement for new learning opportunities with a global community of social investors.
- ***Women Leaders in Global Health Conference, 15th-16th November 2021*** – Panelists explored the movement to decolonize global health from the lens of philanthropy. They also re-examined which organizations and individuals receive funding, how those decisions are made, and who gets to make those decisions. Co-Impact was represented by Yasmin Madan, Director of Programs.
- ***Africa Practice Podcast, 18th November 2022:*** Co-Impact's Vice President of Program, Rakesh Rajani, was interviewed by Marcus Courage. He spoke about Co-Impact, the Gender Fund, and Co-Impact's value and approach (why some systems do not function, who we are leaving out, and what kind of levers can be used to change systems so that they benefit all people equally). This podcast was amplified through Africa Practice's newsletter (This Week In Africa), with over 6,000 subscribers.
- ***Print media coverage, 19th November 2022:*** Co-Impact's Director, Strategic Advocacy and Communications, Renee Olende, was featured in Business Day profiling Co-Impact's Gender Fund. The global online reach of this publication of 1,100,000 users and an Africa-specific print circulation of 100,000 readers.
- ***Broadcast media coverage, 3rd December 2022:*** Mary Wandia, Co-Impact's Africa Program Director, featured on CNBC Africa. As part of the Gender Fund Sub-Saharan Africa outreach effort, this interview was watched by 116,800 viewers.

- ***Delivering TVET at Scale RewirEd Summit, 12th December 2021:*** Co-Impact's Associate Director, Doris King, joined Program Partner Lend-A-Hand India, Luminus, and the Swiss Federal university for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET) in a joint plane discussion that covered systems change approached, lessons learned, the geographical coverage of the program partner work, further plans for scaling and the role of philanthropy and specific Interest in technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- ***30th Anniversary Partner Perspectives Webinar Series, December 2021:*** Managing Director, Philanthropic Collaborations, Anna-Marie Harling spoke about Co-Impact's mission for global systems change, her vision for the future of philanthropy, and the impact of our continued partnership.

### **Gender Fund Launch, 17th March 2022**

The objective of the Launch was to tell the story of Co-Impact and articulate the vision of the Gender Fund and its approach. This was achieved by leveraging the voice of others to actively communicate the organization's goals and the importance of collaboration, and the opportunity the Fund presents to advance women in leadership and gender equality.

During the Launch, Co-Impact received tremendous support from funding partners, program partners, advisors and boards, who all came together to amplify the launch through social media, press interviews, participation as panelists during the conversation series, helping to develop communication assets such as the launch video montage and other high quality tools. The collective effort helped to make the Gender Fund launch a success. The communication assets and activities curated are listed as follows: the [Conversation Series webinar](#), [press release](#) and media pitching to secure media coverage, [social media toolkit](#) to guide partner amplification efforts, [Launch video montage](#), [IWD campaign promotion](#), [Co-Impact website refresh](#).

### **Upcoming events in 2022**

Co-Impact will hold a regular webinar titled The Co-Impact Conversation Series, every third Thursday of the month. This is an informal monthly gathering that brings together Co-Impact's program partners, funders (both current and late-stage prospective donors), board members, advisors, and other interested groups across both of our Funds. These stakeholders will come together to learn about the work of our program partners and critical stakeholders moving the needle for systems

change. All webinar episodes will be curated topical issues relating to Co-Impact's work.

## **Operations**

### **Our Team**

Since Planning for and securing initial funding for the Gender fund, we have worked to expand our team to Africa, Asia, and Latin America, to enable us to support both the Foundational Fund and the Gender Fund. The bios of our team members can be found on [our website](#).

## **LONG-TERM VISION, BLUEPRINT, AND THE GENDER FUND**

We have continued on the path of expanding the Co-Impact model, launching the Gender Fund in March, and changing our operating model and governance structure to be more sustainable over the long term.

### ***Our Operations***

In connection with developing the Gender Fund and expanding from a single fund to a "fund of funds," we have planned for – and largely executed, with some elements still underway – an evolution of our operating model. We have worked toward setting up our new entity and establishing our operations independent of our fiscal sponsor.

### ***Our Governance***

A core aspect of this evolution has been our governance structure. Our new Board of Directors has been formed. Bios can be found on our website, [here](#).

An Advisory Board for the Gender Fund has been formed. Bios can be found on our website, [here](#).

## **CONCLUSION**

We are pleased to report good progress by our program partners despite continued challenges from the pandemic, as well as strong engagement with our funding partners and exciting possibilities for further engagement across both of our funds. We are delighted to report the establishment of our new Board of Directors and continued progress on our plans as we move towards becoming an independent entity, as well as the formation of a Gender Fund Advisory Board.



**Gender Fund Narrative Report**  
**Period Covered: July 1 – December 30, 2021**  
*(includes March 2022 Gender Fund Launch highlights)*

**Introduction**

Through the Gender Fund, we are aiming to raise and disburse \$1 billion over the next decade to support predominantly women-led Global South organizations with the large, unrestricted, longterm, and flexible funding needed to transform systems to be more just and inclusive, advance women’s power, agency and leadership at all levels and shift harmful gender norms that prevent progress.

We are pleased to share our semi-annual report on the Gender Fund, reporting on activity across all areas of our work since 1st July 2021 and including highlights from the first quarter of 2022. With the guidance and support of the Gender Fund Advisory Group, not only have we made significant progress with our Open Call and have already awarded our first global grants for Research and Women in Leadership, we also formally launched the Gender Fund on the 17th March this year. We have learned some important lessons over the last 6 months, which we will take forward to refine our grantmaking processes and approach. We are also making significant progress in fundraising, having raised \$320m to date. We share detailed updates on all these dimensions in this report.

**Program Update**

**Open Call for Country-Level Grants**

The first Gender Fund Open Call for country-level grants, launched in September 2021, closed in December 2021. The open call encouraged a range of Global South organizations - civil society groups, think-tanks, academic institutions, professional associations and networks, women’s rights groups and feminist movements - from the 13 focus countries to share their ideas for advancing gender equality, systems change, and women’s leadership. The open call for Country Level Grants included three grant types (Anchor, Domain, and Catalytic; see more detail via [this link](#)) and a focus

on women-led initiatives (we will ensure that at least 75% of the Anchor/Domain grants and 100% of the Catalytic grants are women-led). In alignment with Co-Impact’s commitment to language justice, we also accepted concept notes in six languages (Bahasa, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog).

During this period, the Co-Impact team conducted 3 interactive webinars that aimed to help potential applicants understand i) the purpose and criteria by grant type, and ii) the focus on systems and institutional change, as well as provide an opportunity to ask questions and get clarity to strengthen their applications. Over 1,500 participants registered and participated in the 3 webinars, and many others viewed the recordings online. We also conducted extensive outreach, especially at regional and country-level.

**Response:**

We received over 1,100 applications that met our eligibility criteria related to Global South, geographic focus, and partisan politics/legislative lobbying. Almost 90% of the applications were female-led (including non-binary). The majority of the applications (over 63%) were for Catalytic grants, with some degree of regional variance. The table below provides details by region and grant type:

	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Latin America</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	584	388	135
<b>Anchor</b>	28%	29%	13%
<b>Domain</b>	10%	9%	11%
<b>Catalytic</b>	62%	61%	76%

**Process**

The first round of the review process is currently underway and will be completed by April 2022. Each application was assessed by internal and external reviewers. Each region has identified external experts, including feminist leaders, gender experts, and civil society leaders who bring a deep understanding of the sectors and contextual knowledge. A subset (estimated at 60-90) of applicants will be invited to submit a detailed proposal. The scoring criteria has been transparently shared on the Co-Impact website.

**Women in Leadership in Law and Economics**

The first round of funding to advance Women in Leadership in Law and Economics under the Gender Fund was launched in July 2021 through a focused Request for Proposals. A total of 21 organizations were invited to submit a concept note which were reviewed internally and by a reference group of

Global South independent experts in law, economics and/or women’s leadership. A subset of nine organizations were invited to develop and submit detailed proposals, of which five organizations received grants to advance women in leadership in law (see table below).

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Global/Regional</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Red Alas	Latin America: Mexico, Brazil and Peru	5 years	\$2,000,000
Institute for African Women in the Law	Africa: Ghana, Senegal and South Africa	5 years	\$1,500,000
GQUAL	Global Latin America: Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Argentina Africa: 2 countries TBD	3 years	\$1,351,474
Asia Justice Coalition	Asia: Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka	4 years	\$2,500,000
International Association of Women Judges	Global Africa: Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa Latin America: Mexico Asia: Philippines	5 years	\$2,500,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$9,851,474</b>

Further information on the initiatives is below:

[Red ALAS/Universidad Torcuato di Tella](#)

Led by Red ALAS and fiscally sponsored by Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, the initiative seeks to change legal education in Brazil, Mexico, and Peru by transforming law schools to open spaces and encourage leadership for all women by supporting law professors who carry out research and teach about law and gender.

[The Institute for African Women in Law](#)

The Women’s Excellence in Law and Leadership (WELL) initiative, led by The Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL) initiative, aims to launch projects in the focal countries of Ghana, Senegal, and South Africa with the goal of strengthening the capacity of women in law to lead across different sectors in academia, the bar, the bench, women in government agencies, women human rights defenders, and develop a pipeline program for law students. The proposed initiative will combine leadership training of women, with advocacy and alliance building with key stakeholders and

gatekeepers, to propel system-wide changes across the continent, starting with the three focal countries. The programs will be grounded in feminist intersectional approaches that pay attention to and avoids gender essentialism—the idea that all women are the same. An intersectional framework will help identify and employ an intra-categorical SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats) analysis that prioritizes women facing a double or triple jeopardy, in other words, women who are a marginal group within the larger marginality of all women.

#### [GQUAL/CEJIL](#)

Led by GQUAL, and fiscally sponsored by CEJIL, this initiative aims to fix the underrepresentation of women in critical parts of the legal and political field by achieving gender parity in the composition of international tribunals and monitoring bodies. The initiative proposes to achieve this work in Latin America & Caribbean (Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, and Argentina) and Africa (2 countries TBD). While prioritizing the work in the selected countries, the campaign might adjust its strategies and advance work in others if opportunities arise.

#### [International Association of Women Judges](#)

Led by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), the initiative will pilot programs in five countries: Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Mexico, and the Philippines. The IAWJ seeks to advance human rights and equal justice for women and girls by empowering women on the bench to overcome gender bias in the laws and their application. This initiative will support IAWJ to grow its membership, expand programming and design country-relevant initiatives in five countries based on data collection and country-needs.

#### [Asia Justice Coalition](#)

Led by Asia Justice Coalition (AJC), the initiative aims to develop women's leadership in international law by building expertise and facilitating constructive dialogue and developing expertise-building interventions between women in legal scholarship, practice, policy, and research (legal practitioners) and women-led survivors groups of international crimes. For women legal practitioners, this initiative provides a supportive network of colleagues and builds expertise engaging practically in international law. For women-led survivor groups, it increases the avenues available to access justice and accountability. This initiative builds women leaders in international law through constructing a formal network of women legal practitioners in three Global South jurisdictions: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and India.

This portfolio is well-balanced geographically but focused on law. There is scope and interest for Global South-rooted peer to peer learning and knowledge exchange possibilities as well as the chance to leverage the global networks, spaces, and legitimacy of the global organizations. The focus

on women in the judiciary provides an opportunity to test whether a targeted approach might provide more effective institutional change as compared to a more diverse portfolio. In the first six months, we will support program partners to clarify outcomes and develop a simple learning, measurement, and evaluation plan. The plan will be guided by their capacity, interests, and needs, and will include key hypotheses and a set of learning questions.

**Initial Lessons**

- Our first observation is that the quality and depth of the proposals we received highlights the need to invest in institutional and systemic solutions to the lack of women in leadership in the field of law. Pending an internal session with the team to discuss lessons of the sourcing process - which will inform and improve the next round of funding - initial reflections have already shed some important points to consider going forward.
- On sourcing, carrying out a more in-depth and timely consideration list and being intentional and proactive in reaching out to women’s professional associations and networks in the field. We could begin the sourcing earlier in the year, to allow ample time for concept notes, feedback and engagement, and proposal development.
- It has also become clear that more clarity is needed around what we are looking to fund; many concept notes focused on policy changes in economics and law to advance gender equality, but not advancing women in leadership as professionals in the field.
- The next round of funding will focus entirely on advancing women in leadership in Economics (to balance out the domain). Our sourcing approach will be different; we will gain support from a consultant to help us conduct mapping and use that to reach out to critical organizations and leaders in the field. These will include both established organizations that are keen to advance women in leadership seriously, as well as less known organizations and leaders who bring bold and creative ideas for institutional reform.

**Practitioner-Oriented Research**

The first round of funding to advance Practitioner-Oriented Research under the Gender Fund was launched in July 2021 through a focused Request for Proposals. A total of 26 organizations were invited to submit a concept note; the notes were reviewed internally and also by a reference group of independent Global South experts in research and gender. Based on the concept notes, a subset of eight organizations were invited to develop and submit detailed proposals. Of these, five organizations were funded (see table below).

Organization	Region / country	Term	Amount
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Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi	Asia / India	5 years	\$500,000
International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific	Asia, Africa / Indonesia, India, South Africa, Kenya	3 years	\$479,388
National council of applied economic research (NCAER)	Asia / India	5 years	\$499,435
Equis: Justicia para las mujeres ( <i>Equis: Justice for women</i> )	Latin America / Mexico	4 years	\$500,000
Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP)	Africa, Asia, Latin America / Kenya, Senegal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and Peru	2 years	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,478,82</b>

Further information on the initiatives is below:

[Indian Institute of Technology](#)

IIT-Delhi proposes to design a research-backed framework to strengthen the country's academic and research pipeline for entry, retention, professional growth and female leadership in STEM education, research, and professions. Since their absence is most glaring at elite engineering institutions, we intend to focus our research on the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (as our "field") and IITs in general. Comprehensive, substantive, and meaningful inclusion of female students, faculty and researchers at these institutions would generate female role models inside and outside the institution and at various levels, who would be able to influence and shape the environment for gender equality in STEM in India.

[International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific](#)

This proposed three-year initiative led by International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP) and The George Institute for Global Health (TGI) will address the lack of systematic evidence on what drives the effectiveness of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at the periodic reviews conducted with the 189 States that have ratified the CEDAW Convention. IWRAP AP is partnering with TGI and with four national organisations in India, Indonesia, Kenya, and South Africa to address this knowledge gap by identifying CEDAW-aligned legal and policy interventions that reduce and prevent gender-based

violence (GBV) and protect women. This partnership aims to offer good practice examples, guide the enactment of law reform, and strengthen the power of the CEDAW Committees to demand accountability from State parties. Women's rights organisations (WROs), especially those from marginalised groups and from countries where governments are restricting civil society activity under the guise of prioritising pandemic response, see the CEDAW review mechanism as a critical platform for realising women's rights and ensuring State accountability.

#### [National Council of Applied Economic Research \(India\)](#)

The NCAER National Data Innovation Centre, seeks to establish a gender data hub. This hub envisages using existing data and new data as a vehicle for engaging feminist scholars, activists, and policymakers. These stakeholders will be invited to undertake and/or guide gender-focused analyses of public policies—both women-focused and gender-neutral—in the economic, health, and educational domains in India. Some of the policies of interest include cash incentives for girls' education, reducing inequalities in access to health services, and development of a social registry for improving access to government benefits. In recent years, Indian national data collection systems have faced considerable challenges. Lack of data, ironically at a time when data are most needed, has hampered both the evaluation of public policies and an understanding of women's lived realities. Building a data-focused coalition that utilises diverse data sources will help bring feminist voices to the policy table in a non-partisan manner.

The initiative will engage practitioners through an initial consultation about the strategy for ensuring that evidence is produced and disseminated in the most useful way for transformative practice. Following this initial consultation, the team will develop a plan that includes collaboration in defining research topics, developing a strategy for research updates, evolving data platforms that make data available to journalists, activists, and policymakers, and providing consultation to practitioners for their work and research design.

#### [Equis Justicia para las Mujeres AC \(Mexico\)](#)

Equis initiative will contribute to concrete plans of action to address discrimination in the judicial system in targeted State institutions: namely the Judicial Powers, Justice Centers for Women, and social reintegration authorities in Mexico. Together, they are responsible for the implementation of laws and public policies aimed at preventing the deprivation of liberty, the treatment of women while in the judicial system, and the social reintegration of freed women. Utilizing participatory methodologies bringing together women's networks as well as representatives from the state institutions, the initiative aims for a deeper, root-cause understanding among state actors of the interconnected and systemic factors which lead to the higher rates of women in prison and their treatment within. A key component is expanding the training of judges on the "methodology to judge with a gender perspective" and following the effects of this training (i.e., changes in sentences / rulings) over time. A linked component will address the social re-integration of freed women.

## [Partnership For Economic Policy Inc](#)

PEP proposes to undertake a gender-sensitive policy analysis of the labor market in six countries: Sri Lanka, Philippines, Senegal, Kenya, Brazil and Peru. The process is one of co-production of knowledge together by PEP country-based researchers, government representatives, as well as members of other key organizations, such as labor unions, employer associations, and women's advocacy groups. The initiative will examine the legal, social and economic labor market barriers that affect Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP) in decent work through quantitative and qualitative analyses in each country. With support from PEP staff and mentors/experts, teams of local researchers and government officers will conduct the studies, ensuring the policy relevance of the work to the intended research users and increasing the likelihood of research uptake. The results will provide concrete policy recommendations for addressing the systemic barriers to FLFP in decent work. In addition, a cross-country analysis will contribute to regional and global knowledge of FLFP.

This portfolio is geographically balanced and the work to be undertaken aligns with the major themes of interest and intended goals of the Gender Fund. All initiatives tackle a significant barrier to women's equality (e.g., violence against women, barriers to female labor force participation), and aim to improve a systemic response to these barriers as delivered through government policies and programs.

### **Donor Engagement for the Gender Fund**

Since we announced the development of the Gender Fund at the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in June 2021, we have been building relationships, solidifying partnerships, and confirming commitments with new funders ahead of the launch of the Fund on 17th March 2022.

As of the date of publication of this report, we have confirmed commitments of >\$320 million from a diverse group of funding partners.

We are thrilled by the initial group of philanthropists and foundations who are coming together to make this possible. This group includes: BMGF; Cartier Philanthropy; Elizabeth Sheehan; Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation; Kate James and Hans Bishop; La Alayta Foundation; MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett; Muirfield Foundation; Neverl and Beryl Kambasha/ BeeNev Kambasha Foundation; Roshni Nadar Malhotra / HCL Corporation; Target Foundation; Thankyou Charitable Trust; The Children's Investment Fund Foundation; The Rockefeller Foundation; Trevor and Mayda Mapondera/Catalyst Foundation -SHE Project Zimbabwe, Tsitsi Masiyiwa and Delta Philanthropies; Vijay and Marie Goradia Foundation. There are also additional donors who prefer their contributions to remain anonymous.

We believe it's important for the work of the Gender Fund to be supported by a regionally diverse group of funders, to foster greater collaborative philanthropy and cross-learning globally, so we are

working on a number of regional funding partner cohorts. In this regard, we are delighted to be working with Tsitsi Masiyiwa and the African Philanthropy Forum to bring together a group of philanthropists from across Africa. In March, two committed funders for the Africa Gender Fund were confirmed: Trevor & Mayda Mapondera and Neverl & Beryl Kambasha.

We are also working with Vidya Shah and EdelGive Foundation on a similar model to support this work in India, and are in the early stages of discussing a similar model in Latin America.

We continue to focus on identifying new funders and on stewarding these relationships to a commitment. We are offering funders the potential to commit at different funding levels; lead donors who contribute over \$100 million over 10 years across both the Foundational Fund and the Gender Fund are invited to be part of the Co-Impact Board of Directors (subject to approval by the Board). Those who commit over \$25 million for 5 years to the Gender Fund are invited to take a seat on the Gender Fund Advisory Board. Champion donors committing \$15 million over 5 years are invited to become members of the Gender Fund Philanthropy Council and one member of the Philanthropy Council will also sit on the Gender Fund Advisory Board. We have also opened up the Fund to donations of between US \$1.5 million and US \$5 million over three to five years.

We believe it's important for the work of the Gender Fund to be supported by a regionally diverse group of funders, to foster greater collaborative philanthropy and cross-learning globally, so we are working on a number of regional funding partner cohorts. In this regard, we are delighted to be working with Tsitsi Masiyiwa and the African Philanthropy Forum to bring together a group of philanthropists from across Africa, and with Vidya Shah and EdelGive Foundation on a similar model to support this work in India. We are in the early stages of discussing a similar model in Latin America.

We also recognize how important it is to have existing funders champion the Gender Fund with their peers and leverage key moments/events to help people close commitments. For instance, we have leveraged key events such as the Gender Fund launch on March 17th as well as the committed funders meeting held on 31st March. We have also received recommendations for prospective funding partners from some of the existing funders. We will continue to build on these connections to bring more funders on board. Through the Fund, we are aiming to increase the share of funding available and allocated for gender equality and encourage more funders to make significant, longer term, and unrestricted gifts.

The committed funder gathering held on the 31st March builds on a series of moments where we have been convening prospective and committed funders to learn more about the work of the Fund and engage with each other. In November 2021, on the 4-year anniversary of Co-Impact's formation, we convened 14 funding partners from around the world for two 3-hour sessions across two days to learn about the Gender Fund, our approach to achieving lasting change, and the way we work with

program partners; to hear the latest updates on our work; to share thoughts and ask any burning questions; as well as to meet members of the Co-Impact team. Importantly, this was a key moment for us to come together for the first time as a community to build and strengthen relationships and discuss how – collaboratively – we can deliver transformative change at scale to impact the lives of millions. We also held a dedicated Learning Session on the Gender Fund on 3rd March 2022 bringing together 21 existing and prospective funders to learn more about progress on gender equality and women’s leadership and how the Gender Fund builds on and extends efforts to date.

## **Communications**

Co-Impact’s communications efforts have focused on amplifying the Gender Fund through a three-month open call outreach process from 30th September to 20th December, and of course on the launch of the Gender Fund in March. We also continued to raise the profile of Co-Impact’s brand and values with key audiences at key moments and events.

### **The Gender Fund Open Call**

To build a robust and diverse pool of high-potential candidates, including from groups that we have identified as historically underfunded, e.g., women's rights groups and movements the open call process was facilitated by high visibility activities, including social media, press, e-blasts, and website announcements. Co-Impact communications targeted 13 eligible countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

To ensure inclusivity, we focused on language justice, ensuring key communication assets were translated into local languages. Overall, the results from the open call were positive securing over 1,100 applications submissions (584 from Africa, 388 from Asia, and 135 from Latin America).

### **Co-Impact’s Participation at Key Events/Initiatives**

We focused on influencing philanthropy for systems change, profiling the Gender Fund, and supporting through our program partners. Key events/ media coverage included:

- ***InfluencerHer Project, August 2021:*** After the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), Olivia Leland was interviewed to talk about what she learned from GEF and how best philanthropy can move forward in support of sustainable change.
- ***The Philanthropy Workshop (TPW) Town Hall, 14th September 2021:*** The Town Hall was curated as a Zoom meeting where the TPW and Co-Impact partnership was formally introduced. The forum helped to advocate for the benefits of the partnership and increased engagement for new learning opportunities with a global community of social investors.
- ***Women Leaders in Global Health Conference, 15th-16th November 2021:*** Panelists explored the movement to decolonize global health from the lens of philanthropy. They also reexamined which organizations and individuals receive funding, how those decisions are

made, and who gets to make those decisions. Co-Impact was represented by Yasmin Madan, Co-Impact's Director of Programs.

- ***Africa Practice Podcast, 18th November 2022:*** Co-Impact's Vice President of Programs, Rakesh Rajani, was [interviewed](#) by Marcus Courage. He spoke about Co-Impact, the Gender Fund, and Co-Impact's value and approach (why some systems do not function, who we are leaving out, and what kind of levers can be used to change systems so that they benefit all people equally). This podcast was amplified through Africa Practice's newsletter (This Week In Africa) with over 6,000 subscribers.
- ***Print media coverage, 19th November 2022:*** Co-Impact's Director, Strategic Advocacy and Communications, Renee Olende, was featured in [Business Day](#) profiling Co-Impact's Gender Fund. The global online reach of this publication of 1,100,000 users and an Africaspecific print circulation of 100,000 readers.
- ***Broadcast media coverage, 3rd December 2022:*** Mary Wandia, Co-Impact's Africa Program Director, featured on CNBC Africa. As part of the Gender Fund Sub-Saharan Africa outreach effort, this [interview](#) was watched by 116,800 viewers.
- ***Delivering TVET at Scale "RewirEd Summit, 12th December 2021:*** Co-Impact's Associate Director, Doris King, joined Program Partner Lend-A-Hand India, Luminus Education, and Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET) in a joint panel discussion that covered systems change approaches, lessons learned, the geographical coverage of the program partner work, further plans for scaling, and the role of philanthropy and specific interest in technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- ***30th Anniversary Partner Perspectives Webinar Series, December 2021:*** Managing Director, Philanthropic Collaboration, Anna-Marie Harling spoke about Co-Impact's mission for global systems change, her vision for the future of philanthropy, and the impact of our continued partnership.

### **Co-Impact Published 'Promoting Higher-impact Philanthropy'**

In December 2021, Co-Impact published a [report](#) that looks at different typologies of philanthropists, indicating how we give and how these fit into systems change thinking. Alongside this, a typology of the cycle of a systems-change philanthropist was created.

The report provides some key insights into why there are fewer higher impact/systems change philanthropists and unpacks the journey individuals take towards becoming systems change philanthropists. This work provides a communications opportunity to advance Co-Impact's goal to influence more and better philanthropic funding.

### **Gender Fund Launch Key Highlights and Activities (17th March 2022)**

The objective of the Launch was to tell the story of Co-Impact and articulate the vision of the Gender Fund

and its approach. This was achieved by leveraging the voice of others to actively communicate the organization's goals and the importance of collaboration, and the opportunity the Fund presents to advance women in leadership and gender equality.

During the Launch, Co-Impact received tremendous support from funding partners, program partners, advisors and boards, who all came together to amplify the launch through social media, press interviews, participation as panelists during the conversation series, helping to develop communication assets such as the launch video montage and other high quality tools. This collective effort helped to make the Gender Fund launch a success. Below is a summary of the communication assets and activities.

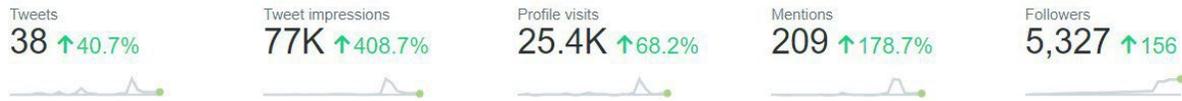
- **Website refresh:** The website was updated with details of the grants and relevant information about the Gender Fund and initial program partners.
- **IWD:** An International Women's Day statement was released across Co-Impact's social media platforms, linking back to the Gender Fund and alluding to the forthcoming Gender Fund launch.

The work and content of partners was reshared on Co-Impact platforms throughout the course of the day, as well as the especially developed pictograms with personal contributions from Co-Impact staff.

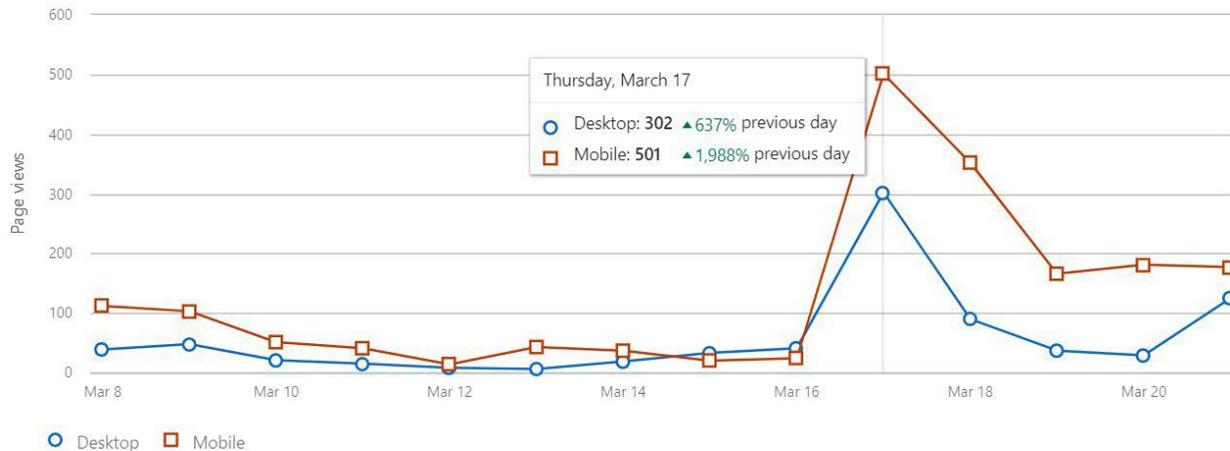
This video was produced to commemorate the day and link it to Co-Impact's mission - also featuring Co-Impact staff, the video was shared on all social media platforms.

- **Video development:** We developed a Gender Fund launch video formed of a collage of clips from the variety of different partners behind the Gender Fund - including funders, advisors and program partners - and has had 1.6K views to date. Alongside this launch video, we also put out a longer form interview video between Melinda French Gates and Tsitsi Masiyiwa discussing the importance of Gender Equality. This was shared on social media - and we will continue to use it in smaller closed meetings with current and prospective donors.
- **Social media amplification:** We developed a package of assets for staff, partners and advisors to support the amplification of the launch across our digital platforms. This included FAQs, key messages, and social media toolkits adapted for each group. In March, at the time of writing this report, there have been almost 30K visits to our Twitter page, 75K tweet impressions, 143 new Twitter followers, and 197 Twitter mentions.

## 28 day summary with change over previous period



On LinkedIn, Co-Impact's secondary platform, we also had a spike in engagement and page views (detailed below), receiving 686 post reactions, 26 comments, and 74 shares in the period 8th-23rd March.



Between June 2021 and March 2022, Co-Impact's Twitter followers grew by more than 20% from 4160 to 5020. This spike was mainly triggered by the Gender Fund announcement during the Gender Equality Forum (GEF) on June 30 and the subsequent week of activity, and then the Open Call launching in September which prolonged interest and engagement right up until its December closing.

The most popular content on both Twitter and LinkedIn was that relating to the Gender Fund announcement and Open Call, followed by other Gender Fund-related content such as our advisor profiles, followed by our statements and materials made for key dates and events such as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

**Press and media coverage:** A range of coverage was secured globally (Africa, Asia, Latin America, UK, Geneva and the US) through the distribution of Gender Fund press releases and media pitching. Below is the summarized short list:

- Barron's / PENTA
- The National UAE
- The Paradise NIG
- Environmental Finance
- CNBC Africa

- Bloomberg Quicktake (over 2.5k views on Twitter)
- Bloomberg (also featured in Next Africa Newsletter)
- Fortune
- Straits Times
- Seattle Times
- Daily Maverick
- AP (as part of globe newswire, also visible here: Investegate, Benziga, and more) o Devex (also featured in Devex Newswire)
- Candid
- News Day Zimbabwe Conversation series: This year we launched a new monthly conversation series, designed to engage with and inform a wide range of audiences about our work. The second of these focused on our Gender Fund launch – we invited some of our advisors and program partners to discuss the topic: Galvanizing Collective Action for Gender Equality. Hosted by Co-Impact’s Founder and CEO, Olivia Leland, guests included: Laura García, President and CEO of Global Greengrants Fund; Crystal Simeoni, Director for Nawi, Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective (The Nawi Collective) o Sohini Bhattacharya, CEO of Breakthrough Trust

The panel offered candid reflections and compelling evidence based on decades of collective experience in activism, advocacy, policy and action. The session had over 400 attendees from 39 countries. The highlights video can be found [here](#).

## **Operations**

### ***Our Team***

We have continued building out our team, especially focusing on expansion in Brazil, India, and Kenya , both in connection with the expansion of our organization to encompass the Gender Fund and to fill vacant positions. The full team works across both of our funds. Since our last report, we have welcomed 10 new team members. The bios of team members can be found on [our website](#).

### **LONG-TERM VISION, BLUEPRINT, AND THE GENDER FUND**

We have continued on the path of expanding the Co-Impact model, launching the Gender Fund in March, and changing our operating model and governance structure to be more sustainable over the long term.

### ***Our Operational Blueprint***

We continue to build toward the blueprint for long-term success, evolving our governance to a structure that will enable us to continue the work of our original fund and to build this second fund, with the option to expand further over time in an enduring institution.

We continue to work toward several core elements of our operations and governance as we expand into our new “fund of funds” model: setting up our new entity and transitioning the governance model; establishing our operations independent of our fiscal sponsor; and expanding our operations funding to a broader set of donors and transitioning oversight of our operations from The Rockefeller Foundation to our new governing board.

A core aspect of this evolution has been our governance structure. Our new Board of Directors has been formed. Bios can be found on our website, [here](#).

Parallel to the Advisory Board overseeing the strategy of our Foundational Fund is a new Advisory Board for the Gender Fund. Bios can be found on our website, [here](#).

### **Conclusion**

It has been an exciting 6 months! We have been focused on formally launching the Gender Fund, making our first grants, continuing to bring on new funding partners, building out our strategy to listen to and build bridges and alliances with others working in this space, and starting to build community across our partners. We now look forward to working with the Gender Fund Advisory Board and all of our partners to make our collective vision a reality.