

PROJECT
Soar



*Annual
report*
2018

Letter from our Director

Dear friends of Project Soar,

We kick off every year selecting a theme that acts as Project Soar's roadmap for the 12 months to come. In 2018 it was GROWTH, and I am happy to report that we kept to our commitment!

Spring of 2018 found us hard at work revamping Project Soar-in-a-Box (PSB), our portable girls empowerment toolkit. Our signature curriculum is now lighter and brighter, making it easy for Project Soar facilitators to provide 60+ hours of afterschool empowerment to squads of teen girls everywhere, no matter how remote the area. PSB materials are packed into a duffle bag on wheels, keeping us nimble! I shared PSB with organizations and girls' rights defenders from all over the world at the Girls Not Brides Global Meeting in Malaysia in June. In August, we grew more supporters when the New York Times discussed our work in their Saturday Profile. As a follow on, in September, I was invited to spend the afternoon with feminist icon Gloria Steinem in her Manhattan home to discuss Project Soar. Many years ago, Gloria spoke of women's rights at my school and altered the course of my future - meeting her was a feminist dream come true!



So much of the credit for what we do belongs to the Project Soar Girls, themselves, and the amazing Empowerment Facilitators who act as their collaborators. As our mission is Training Teenage Girls to be the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, we worked to fulfill our promise in July when we trained a network of teen girl leaders from all over Morocco in two separate camps - these girls were set up to lead their Girl Leader Clubs at their different locations. Growing our Moroccan footprint, in the Fall of 2018, we also equipped a new cohort of 24 Moroccan Women Empowerment Facilitators with PSB. With their help, we are now working in 30 locations around Morocco, empowering hundreds of teen girls. To participate in Project Soar, girls (with the written support of their parents) must take a pledge to stay in school. Girls who stay in school are 3x less likely to become child brides. That's the kind of math we like around here!

A profound thank you to all those who make our work possible - our dedicated staff, facilitators, board members, volunteers, donors and contributors. A special shout out to the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the Australian Embassy in Morocco for their support. And stay tuned for 2019, when our theme of the year is CROSSING BORDERS.

With the hope of a more just world,

Maryam Montague
Founder & Director

"We are impressed and inspired by the life-changing impact on individuals and communities that we have witnessed in our work with Project Soar." "[Project Soar] has been a transformative power in the lives of these young women and girls."

- the chargée d'affaires at the United States Embassy in Morocco

Stephanie Miley

ESSENTIAL Facts

WHAT

Nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, registered in the US and Morocco

WHEN

Established in 2013

WHERE

Headquartered in Douar Ladaam village, Marrakech, Morocco

WHO

Moroccan teen girl beneficiaries

HOW

Signature empowerment curriculum helping girls understand their:

VALUE
VOICE
BODY
RIGHTS
PATH

The Project Soar pledge:

All girls must stay in school.

OUR Mission to empower teenage girls to become leaders of TODAY and tomorrow



2018 Snapshot

Empowering girls throughout Morocco

19 Project Soar squads

January 2018

14 Girl Leaders Clubs

33 Project Soar squads

December 2018



726 teenage girls served



33 squads in Morocco



869 hours of empowerment



850 hours of academic support



86% passing rate Academic Scores for PS Girls



5 days training Empowerment Facilitators

72 Empowerment Facilitators



74 volunteers

4418 volunteer hours donated



500 BeGirl menstruation kits distributed



1 Meeting with idol Gloria Steinem

2 Embassy visits at Project Soar HQ



1 Feature in the NY Times calling our work "a transformative power in the lives of young women and girls."

"I can't possibly explain how much Project Soar has changed my life. I didn't have confidence in myself before. I never knew my own talents but now I share them with people as much as I can."

Mina,
PS Girl, Sidi Slimane

SIGNATURE Programs

Empowerment Workshops

All over Morocco, Project Soar Girls participate in weekly 90 minute Empowerment Workshops in Girl Squads. Workshops start with the Project Soar core affirmations - *I am Strong, I am Smart, I am Capable, I am a Leader, I am a Feminist!* *Girl Power!* Workshops are based on the Project Soar Empowerment Pillars and focus on a single topic, such as, *I have potential* or *I know my goals*.

Every workshop includes time dedicated to:

- Education**
- Girl-centered Activity**
- Meditation**
- Journaling**

Empowerment workshops take place at NGOs, girls' boarding houses and youth centers, and are led by trained Empowerment Facilitators.

I AM
Strong
I AM
Smart
I AM
Capable
I AM A
Leader
I AM A
Feminist



Girl Leaders Clubs

Project Soar Girl Leaders Clubs (GLCs) enhance girls' leadership skills learned through the Project Soar in a Box (PSB) curriculum and enables program alumni to stay connected while addressing community issues. Clubs also establish a girl advisory panel that assist in the governance of Project Soar and further girls' advocacy.

In 2018, 14 GLCs launched with 153 Girl Leaders across Morocco. They attended a workshop to inspire them to work together and lead the girl power movement.

HQ Expansion

In 2018 our Headquarters grew! We rented a second building (right across the street!) due to the increased demand to accommodate Project Soar Girls coming from over 20 surrounding villages. We now have:

- Double the indoor space**
- Three additional classrooms**
- Office space!**
- An open area salon**

Our dream is to build our own Center one day, where we can comfortably house all our activities under one roof and have outdoor space for sports.



PSB Expansion

We expanded the Project Soar in a Box empowerment program to more locations throughout Morocco. In addition, we began efforts to launch our first international expansion in Uganda. We will partner with Open Space Forum to run a pilot program and reach 100 teenage girls in five schools in and around Kampala. The official launch of the program is scheduled for the first quarter of 2019.



PS Girl Spotlight

Meet 10th grader, Latifa Elmouden! Latifa's grades skyrocketed as a result of her hard-work and help from our academic support program. Through Project Soar, she has been able to overcome intimidating school subjects like Math and Physics and receive grades as high as 18 out of 20!

What does Project Soar mean to you?

Project Soar is huge for me! Thanks to Project Soar, my life and studies have improved. I benefited so much from the empowerment workshops and learned how important it is to speak up for myself and express my opinions. Now if I want something, I go for it!

What does it mean to be a Project Soar Girl?

As a Project Soar Girl, I can provide my friends with positive energy and encourage them to do their best. A lot of my friends have even started coming to me for advice!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be an activist and one day lead an NGO that helps orphans.



What is an Empowered Girl? Project

As a culminating activity of the empowerment workshops, each squad worked on a joint project entitled, *What is an Empowered Girl?* to represent what the girls learned throughout the PSB program.



SIGNATURE Programs *continued*

Girl Leader training in Essaouira

In July 2018, we hosted our first Girl Leader Training in Essaouira where 20 Girl Leader Clubs and their officers from around the country met to further develop their leadership skills, build comradery with other clubs in the network, and begin action planning for activities in their communities.



"Roar like a Soar Girl"

This is How I Soar

Over the course of the year, we produced our first film, *This is How I Soar*, to highlight the impact of our work. The film has served to increase public awareness of girls' empowerment issues and increase the demand for girls' empowerment programming.



“The girls improved both in school and in their personal lives. I witnessed girls become more lively and excited about the PSB program which resulted in higher grades in school. The girls’ parents noticed these positive changes as well.”

Zeinab,
**PSB Facilitator,
El Henchane**

Financials & Donors

OUR AMAZING

	2018	2017	2016
INCOMING REVENUE	\$ 262,704	\$ 140,482	\$ 81,427
Starting Bank Balance 1/1/2017	\$ 28,566	\$ 39,166	\$ 42,105
Private Individual Donations	\$ 78,985	\$ 57,034	\$ 39,322
Perreault Foundation	\$ 50,000		
Government Support			
<i>United States</i>	\$ 66,256	\$ 44,282	
<i>Australia</i>	\$ 22,402		
<i>Morocco</i>	\$ 45,061		
OUTGOING CASH	\$ 221,575	\$ 106,885	\$ 39,688
Personnel & Professional Services	\$ 91,007	\$ 38,159	\$ 14,012
Staff social benefits	\$ 2,297		
Supplies and Equipment	\$ 32,013	\$ 29,090	\$ 14,428
Travel and Transit	\$ 59,677	\$ 14,823	\$ 2,018
Contractual Expenses	\$ 23,485		
Other Direct Costs	\$ 13,097	\$ 24,814	\$ 9,229

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Donations received January 1 to December 31, 2018. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

In 2018, Project Soar was honored to be supported by three governments: the United States, Morocco, and Australia.

United States Department Of State, Office of Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Morocco Embassy of Australia in Morocco, Direct Aid Program

Project Soar was able to expand to Uganda thanks to a private individual donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Project Soar staff and all the Project Soar girls are also deeply grateful to more than one hundred individual generous donors in 2018.

In-Kind Donations

Agent GirlPower
 CW Designs
 Frederico Iwakawa
 Krikich Tours
 Lauren Hale
 Patisserie Amandine
 Peacock Pavilions
 Time Tours
 Krikich Tours
 Amandine
 Naranj

Investing
 IN Girls

MEANS THEY WILL
 GROW UP TO BE
EMPOWERED WOMEN
 WHO WILL SUPPORT THEIR
 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

**PARTNERSHIPS AND
 AFFILIATIONS:**
**BE GIRL
 PEACE CORPS
 GIRLS NOT BRIDES**

\$10,000+

Marsha Perreault
 MMontague & Peacock
 Pavilions
 Karen & Stuart Watson:
*Arthur Watson Charitable
 Trust*

\$5,000 +

Huda & Mayada
 Abdulmughni
 Path North
 The Bodhi Tree Foundation

\$1,000 - 5,000

Drift Home Collection
 Jaime Leigh
 Erin Lewis
 Henry McLoughlin
 Arnelle Lozada
 Rotary Club of
 Boca Raton
 Frederik Cefalo & family
 Jillian Korstrom
 Raven and Lily

\$500 - 999

Plan-it Morocco
 Diana Algair
 Jennifer Harr
 Julie E Ballard
 Karen Reider
 Kevin and Diann
 Callaghan
 Kristin Wistar
 Susanne Karlander
 Suanne and Jerry Salley

THE Team



Staff (left to right)

Maryam Montague
Co-founder and Director

Chris Redecke
Co-founder and Logistics
Coordinator

Michelle Hirschfeld
Chief Operating Officer

Kaydee Dahlin
Director of Finance



HQ Staff (left to right)

Jessica Rushing
Program Manager

Wafaa Afkir
Field Manager

**Heyab-Mariam
Ogbasion**
Program Development
and Evaluation
Manager

Jaouad Gajja
PSB Liaison

Noor Boughrad
Program Coordinator

**Fatimaezzahra
Amechnoug**
Financial
Coordinator

Fatima Ait Ouknik
Field Coordinator

Carrie Thomson
Finance & HR
Manager

Saida Oumaatalla
HQ liaison

Board Members

Moroccan Board Members

Jennifer Borch, President
Houssnia Tiana, Vice President
Nadine Hanafi, Secretary
Chris Redecke, Treasurer
Nezha Youssefi, Advisor elect



Site Facilitators

- Project Soar in a Box

September training group

Noura Aattar
Saadia Boualen
Onakomaiya Damilola
Khadija Zinrahou
Madelene Baker
Latifa Elbaradi
Lauren Spiewak
Asmae Lachqar

Manal Mabrouki
Merieme Hamdoune
Jacqueline Bannon
Youssra Ahchi
Hind Akachmar
Rabtaa Azouzi
Chelsea Mullen
Ichrak Mbarki

Brittany James
Imane Bounouaks
Jamila Hadi
Fatimaezzahra Amechnoug
Saida Eljadid
Fadwa Rakhimi
Jayce Arnette
Samira Azzane

Site Locations

Ait Bougmaz
EL Kebab
El Khang
Fes

Oulad Mbarek
Ourtzagh
Ribat Ikheer
Sldi Jaber

Souk ELkhemis Dades
Taroudant
Touama

US Board Members

Maryam Montague
Patrick Benjaminsson
Jennifer Borch
Per Sjödell

Erin Lewis
Sarita Jha
Jennifer Harr
Anna Wang

THEY MAY BE THE MOST
VULNERABLE, BUT
**ADOLESCENT GIRLS ALSO
HAVE THE MOST**

Potential

Call to Action

A girl's *empowerment*
is challenged in every way.

With over 130 million girls out of school
around the world, so many girls are
missing the chance to envision
their *dreams*.

At Project Soar, we know and believe
that every Girl is *capable*.

Our signature empowerment program
enables girls to realize their Value, Voice,
Body, Rights, and Path
and *Soar* higher than the hurdles
placed in front of them.

Our world cannot afford to miss out on the
economic prospects that girls' education
and empowerment entails.

By donating today, *you* contribute to
making the world a better place by
empowering teenage girls to become

*leaders of today
and tomorrow.*



Contact Us

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