

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

New era.
Same mission.
More **impact**.



A LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

"The future of gender justice will always be led by communities themselves."

Dear Friends,

Every person deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life, access a quality education, earn a sustainable livelihood, and build a future resilient to climate change. At Rise Up Together, we work alongside visionary local leaders to help make that future possible. **2025 marked a defining year for Rise Up Together.** After 16 years as a fiscally sponsored project of the Public Health Institute, we officially stepped forward as an **independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit** – an important milestone that strengthens our ability to invest in local leadership, respond to emerging global challenges, and deepen our long-term impact.

This transition came at a critical moment for gender equity worldwide. Across the globe, women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people continue to face escalating threats to bodily autonomy, education, economic opportunity, and safety. Climate crises, rising authoritarianism, and shrinking civic space are disproportionately impacting women and girls and putting decades of hard-won progress at risk. At the same time, significant reductions in foreign assistance and growing pressure on civil society organizations are disrupting essential services and creating new challenges for the local leaders and communities driving change. **And yet, amid these challenges, local leaders continue to drive bold, community-led solutions that are transforming lives and reshaping systems.**

In 2025, Rise Up Leaders continued to drive transformational change in communities around the world, **successfully advocating for 13 new and improved laws, policies, and programs that positively impacted 24.7 million people globally.**

To help fuel this work, **Rise Up Together invested more than \$1.3 million in grants and support** to local leaders and organizations working to improve health, education, economic opportunity, and climate outcomes for women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people worldwide.

This year also reaffirmed something we have always known: sustainable progress depends on strong civil society, collective action, and grassroots leaders and organizations that are deeply rooted in their communities. From advancing gender-based violence prevention and girls' education to championing reproductive justice, economic opportunity, and climate resilience, **Rise Up Leaders are strengthening democracy and accountability by ensuring communities most impacted by injustice are shaping the policies and decisions that affect their lives.**

We are profoundly grateful to the community that made this year possible. To our inaugural Board of Directors and longstanding Leadership Council, thank you for helping guide Rise Up Together through this historic transition year with extraordinary generosity, leadership, and vision. And to our donors, partners, and supporters, thank you for standing alongside our global team and leaders working every day to build a more just and equitable future for all.

Most importantly, we celebrate the Rise Up Leaders at the heart of our global movement. Your power, persistence, and leadership continue to remind us that transformative change is possible – and that the future of gender justice will always be led by communities themselves.

With conviction and hope,

Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning and Josie Ramos
Rise Up Together Co-founders



RISE UP TOGETHER AT A GLANCE

MISSION

Rise Up Together partners with women, girls, and allies who are transforming their communities and countries as part of a global movement for justice and equity. We improve education, health, economic opportunity, and climate outcomes by building power with local leaders to create a better future for all.

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

1,080 alumni to date

In 2025, we built power with 100 Rise Up Leaders, expanding our total global network to 1,080 alumni.

100 LEADERS IN 2025



Rise Up Leaders at our Leadership & Advocacy Accelerator in Nairobi, Kenya, 2025.

\$1.3M invested

We invested over \$1.3M in direct grants and field-building support to tackle critical challenges affecting women, girls, and gender-nonconforming people across the globe.



Rise Up Leaders at our Leadership Accelerator in Rajasthan, India, 2025.

24.7M people around the world

Rise Up Leaders successfully advocated for 13 new and improved laws, policies, and programs, impacting 24.7M people around the world.

13 LAWS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS



Rise Up Leaders's hands at our Leadership & Advocacy Accelerator in South Africa, 2025.



Women with disabilities participating in a digital literacy training in Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory, conducted through advocacy engagement with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & DIGITAL INCLUSION

EXPANDING DIGITAL SKILLS FOR 17.3M WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

IN NIGERIA

Through advocacy led by **Rise Up Leader Stephen Idoko**, **17.3 million women with disabilities across Nigeria have gained greater access to digital skills training** - opening doors to education, employment, and economic opportunity.

This victory is about far more than technology. It is about ensuring women with disabilities are not excluded from Nigeria's economic future. In Nigeria, up to 90% of people with disabilities live in poverty, often due to barriers in education, employment, and access to resources. For many women with disabilities, inaccessible workplaces, discrimination, and limited access to training continue to restrict economic opportunity.

"Digital skills help break these barriers by opening pathways to remote work, online entrepreneurship, digital services, and access to global markets," Stephen explained. "With digital skills, women can run online businesses, provide services such as social media management or virtual assistance, participate in the gig economy, and access online learning opportunities."



RISE UP LEADER
Stephen Idoko

COUNTRY
Nigeria

FOCUS AREA
Economic Opportunity & Digital Inclusion

IMPACT
17.3M women with disabilities across Nigeria

17.3 MILLION women with disabilities across Nigeria gained greater access to digital skills training.

WHAT CHANGED

Stephen secured the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities as a priority group within Nigeria's National Digital Literacy Framework - embedding accessibility and inclusion into a key national development strategy.

In Nigeria, digital literacy increasingly shapes access to education, employment, entrepreneurship, and financial independence.

Yet millions of women with disabilities continue to face systemic barriers to technology training. Through many years of working alongside disability communities across Nigeria, Stephen repeatedly encountered women who had never received digital training or meaningful exposure to technology beyond basic cell phone use.

“This gap is deeply concerning because access to technology increasingly shapes who can participate fully in society and the economy,” Stephen said. “If Nigeria is to achieve its goal of 95% digital literacy by 2030, women with disabilities must be part of this transformation.”

With training, funding, and support from Rise Up Together, Stephen organized women with

disabilities as advocates, built coalitions with disability rights organizations, engaged national decision-makers, and leveraged media advocacy to push for change. His efforts helped secure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities as a priority group within Nigeria’s National Digital Literacy Framework – embedding accessibility and inclusion into a key national development strategy.

The impact is already being felt.

Stephen’s advocacy contributed to the launch of one of the first digital literacy trainings specifically designed for people with disabilities in Nigeria’s Federal Capital Territory. More than 70% of participants were women with disabilities, and for many, it was their first meaningful opportunity to engage with digital tools.

For Stephen, Rise Up Together’s support was critical to advancing this work.



Rise Up Leader Stephen Idoko (front row, far right) with participants at a capacity-building workshop for women with disabilities in Nigeria, organized by Inclusive Friends Association with funding from Rise Up Together.

IN STEPHEN’S WORDS

“Rise Up Together has helped me strengthen my engagement with policymakers, build strategic partnerships, and advocate more effectively for inclusive policies. They have also amplified the visibility of our work and reinforced the importance of ensuring that women with disabilities are included in national development conversations.”

STEPHEN IDOKO, RISE UP LEADER

Today, Stephen remains hopeful as more women with disabilities gain access to digital training, launch businesses, and step into leadership roles within their communities.

“What gives me hope is the growing movement of women with disabilities who are raising their voices

and demanding inclusion in Nigeria’s development journey,” Stephen shared. “I believe the next generation of women with disabilities in Nigeria will have far greater opportunities than those who came before them.”



Rise Up Leader Stephen Idoko at a digital skills training for women with disabilities in Nigeria.



Rise Up Leader Stephen Idoko (far right, front row) at a Rise Up Together-funded capacity-building workshop for 20 women with disabilities in Nigeria, September 2025.



Rise Up Leader Agnes Nzisa (third from right) with students and educators in Nairobi, Kenya.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & EDUCATION

PROTECTING 1.29M LEARNERS AND TEACHERS FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

IN KENYA

A girl should never have to choose between her education and her safety. Yet across Kenya, school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) continues to disrupt learning, undermine confidence, and push girls out of the classroom.

For **Rise Up Leader Agnes Nzisa**, changing that reality has become both a professional mission and a deeply personal commitment to justice.

“Schools should be sanctuaries for growth, yet too often they are places where systemic inequalities and violence take root,” Agnes shared. “School-related gender-based violence acts as a silent barrier by forcing girls out of education and stripping them of their agency.”

Although Kenya has existing laws addressing gender-based violence, major gaps remain in how violence is identified, reported, and prevented within schools. Without clear reporting systems, trained educators, or consistent protections, many students – especially girls – continue to face unsafe learning environments.

With training, funding, and ongoing support from Rise Up Together, Agnes strengthened the Safe Schools Project by bringing together educators, civil society organizations, government leaders, and community advocates to push for policy change across Nairobi County.



RISE UP LEADER
Agnes Nzisa

COUNTRY
Kenya

FOCUS AREA
Gender-Based Violence Prevention

IMPACT
1.29M learners and teachers in Nairobi County

1.29 MILLION learners and teachers reached across Nairobi County, Kenya.

WHAT CHANGED

Agnes helped secure a countywide policy strengthening how schools prevent, report, and respond to gender-based violence – helping make education safer for girls across Nairobi.

That advocacy helped drive the development and adoption of Nairobi County's School-Related Gender-Based Violence Policy, helping create safer and more equitable learning environments for students across the region. **The policy helps ensure students have access to safer learning environments through stronger reporting systems, trained educators, and more coordinated responses to school-related gender-based violence. Developed in collaboration with the Directorate of Education and civil society partners, the initiative has already reached more than 1.29 million learners and teachers.**

Building on this growing momentum to address gender-based violence in schools, Agnes' advocacy helped strengthen reporting and support systems for survivors, contributed to broader regional advocacy efforts to protect students, and is now expanding into additional counties to help create safer learning environments for even more girls.

"Rise Up Together has been a powerful catalyst," Agnes reflected. "Being part of their global network has provided the strategic tools and the brave space needed to refine my advocacy project. It has shifted my lens from localized advocacy to a more holistic, systemic approach. The network also connects me with a community of leaders who face similar challenges, proving that while our contexts may differ, our collective power is universal."

For Agnes, the work is ultimately about what becomes possible when girls feel safe enough to fully participate in school and in society.

Today, Agnes remains hopeful as more girls and young people across Kenya speak up, demand accountability, and advocate for safer futures.

"We are moving toward a Kenya where every girl can walk into a classroom with her head held high," Agnes said, "knowing the system is designed to support her, not fail her."



Rise Up Leader Agnes Nzisa in Nairobi, Kenya, where she is helping ensure girls can learn in schools with stronger protections from gender-based violence.



Rise Up Leader Agnes Nzisa speaking about school-related gender-based violence.

IN AGNES' WORDS

"Safety is the bedrock of learning. When a girl feels safe, she isn't just surviving the school day - she is thriving within it."

AGNES NZISA, RISE UP LEADER



Rise Up Leader Krishna Kant with women from the Sauria Paharia Indigenous community in Jharkhand, India.

CLIMATE JUSTICE & INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR OVER 46,000 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

IN INDIA

For generations, the forests of the remote hill regions of eastern India have sustained the **Sauria Paharia, an Indigenous community whose lives, livelihoods, and traditions are deeply connected to the land** – providing food, medicine, water, income, and cultural identity. But as climate stress and deforestation intensify, those lifelines are increasingly under threat, placing women and children at greater risk of food insecurity and poor health.

Rise Up Leader Krishna Kant has spent more than a decade working alongside the Sauria Paharia community to help protect both forests and the people that depend on them. Today, his work is helping reshape how environmental solutions are designed in the region – centering Indigenous knowledge, women’s leadership, and long-term climate resilience.

“Healthy forests are not simply ecosystems - they are lifelines,” Krishna explained. “When forests thrive, communities thrive. When they degrade, the ripple effects touch every aspect of daily life – from food and water to income, health, and culture.”



RISE UP LEADER
Krishna Kant

COUNTRY
India

FOCUS AREA
Climate Justice & Indigenous Rights

IMPACT
46,000+ Indigenous people in eastern India

46,000+ Indigenous people in eastern India gained stronger food security and climate resilience.

WHAT CHANGED Krishna helped secure a government order to restore forests with native food-producing plants identified by Sauria Paharia women – strengthening traditional food sources and climate resilience for Indigenous families.

That work recently led to a major breakthrough: the Government of Jharkhand issued an order requiring regional forest restoration programs to plant food-producing tree and plant species identified by Sauria Paharia women leaders - helping restore traditional food sources, strengthen climate resilience, and improve food security for more than 46,000 Indigenous people in eastern India.

"Being part of the Rise Up Together network has supported and strengthened my work by providing a powerful sense of solidarity and shared purpose," Krishna shared. "The tools, resources, and relationships I gained helped me think more strategically about community-led solutions and how to mobilize people, knowledge, and partnerships in the pursuit of lasting change."

With funding and support from Rise Up Together, Krishna strengthened community-led efforts by helping elevate the voices of Sauria Paharia women, whose knowledge of local biodiversity and

traditional food systems became central to the proposed solutions. Their recommendations directly informed the government's afforestation strategy, helping ensure that climate action reflected the realities and priorities of the communities most affected.

"Climate justice is not just about protecting ecosystems - it's about reshaping power structures so that all people can participate fully and benefit equally from the solutions we build," he said.

Today, Krishna remains hopeful as more women, young people, and grassroots leaders across Jharkhand step forward to protect both their communities and the natural resources they depend on.

"It's the spirit of collective action - rising together, refusing to be silenced, and envisioning a future where both people and nature thrive - that's what fuels my hope."



IN KRISHNA'S WORDS

"True climate solutions cannot exist without equity. When women's voices, leadership, and rights are prioritized, climate action becomes more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable."

KRISHNA KANT, RISE UP LEADER



Rise Up Leader Ajay Kumar with participants at a state-level meeting in Jharkhand, India, as part of his ongoing work to strengthen child protection in schools.

EDUCATION & CHILD SAFETY

CREATING SAFER SCHOOLS FOR 6M CHILDREN

IN INDIA

Every child deserves to feel safe at school. But across Jharkhand, India, millions of children – especially girls – remain vulnerable to violence, neglect, and abuse within their learning environments.

Rise Up Leader Ajay Kumar is working to change that.

As a result of his efforts, Jharkhand is moving toward one of India’s first comprehensive child protection policies for schools – helping create safer learning environments for 6 million children across 44,835 government-run and private schools.

For Ajay, this work is deeply personal.

As a student, he and many of his classmates experienced different forms of violence in school from both teachers and peers. But what stayed with him most was the silence that followed.

“There was no redressal mechanism, no adult to turn to, no safe space to report what was happening,” Ajay shared. “The silence was not a choice; it was a consequence of a system that had failed children.”



RISE UP LEADER
Ajay Kumar

COUNTRY
India

FOCUS AREA
Education & Child Safety

IMPACT
6M children across 44,835 schools

6 MILLION children across 44,835 government-run and private schools in Jharkhand, India.

WHAT CHANGED

Ajay helped move Jharkhand toward a statewide Child Protection Policy that would give schools stronger systems to prevent, report, and respond to violence against children.

Today, Ajay is working to change that system. Through his organization, Pratigya, he is helping advance a comprehensive Child Protection Policy across Jharkhand's schools that would establish clear safety guidelines, reporting mechanisms, and educator training to help protect children - especially girls - from violence, neglect, and abuse.

For Ajay, child safety and education are inseparable.

IN AJAY'S WORDS

"Safety is not a privilege. It is the very foundation of learning. Only when children feel secure and supported can they truly learn, thrive, and become who they are meant to be."

AJAY KUMAR, RISE UP LEADER



Rise Up Leader Ajay Kumar with students and educators in Jharkhand, India, where his work is helping strengthen protections for children in schools.

With training and support from Rise Up Together, Ajay conducted research, engaged government officials and civil society partners, and helped build momentum for statewide policy reform. What began as research and stakeholder engagement soon evolved into a broader collaborative process bringing together government leaders, educators, and civil society partners around a shared goal: protecting children.

"The department not only acknowledged the findings and validated the need, but they invited us into the process of building the solution," Ajay said. "That moment meant everything. **By bringing government, educators, families, and communities together to shape policy, the**

process shows how local leadership can strengthen democracy by ensuring more people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives."

Building on this momentum, the Department of School Education and Literacy formally acknowledged the need for a comprehensive Child Protection Policy and moved into active leadership of the policy development process. The department convened a state-level consultation with civil society organizations to begin drafting the policy and endorse child safety as a core component of teacher training across the state.

"Rise Up Together has not just built my capacity; it has transformed the way I see, think, and act," Ajay shared. "The network sharpened my lens: how to read power, how to navigate systems, and how to engage decision-makers with both evidence and empathy. Political mapping was a skill that proved invaluable, understanding who holds influence, what motivates them, and how to find common ground has been central to every breakthrough in this journey."

For Ajay, the work is ultimately about helping children feel safe enough to imagine a future for themselves. **"I dream of a Jharkhand where every child walks into school knowing they are safe, valued, and heard," he shared.** "Education, when it is safe, becomes liberation. That is the future I am working toward."



Rise Up Leader Ajay Kumar presents at a state-level meeting in Jharkhand, India, bringing stakeholders together to strengthen child protection in schools.

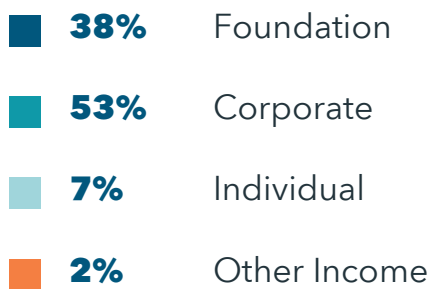


Rise Up Leader Ajay Kumar with students in Jharkhand, India.

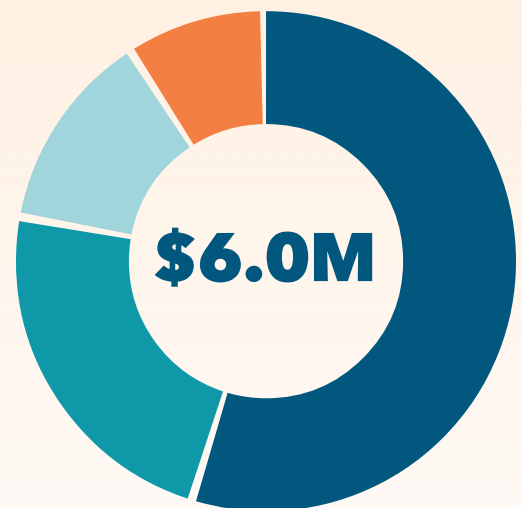
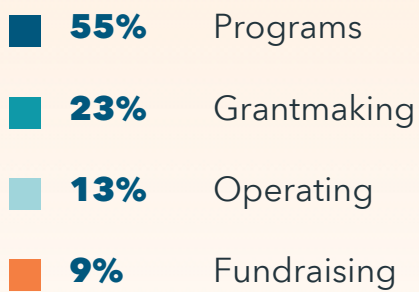


2025 FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE



TOTAL EXPENSES



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH & HEALTH EQUITY

ADVANCING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY

IN CALIFORNIA



RISE UP LEADER

Jennifer Roberson

COUNTRY

United States

FOCUS AREA

Black Maternal Health & Health Equity

IMPACT

Advancing equity within California's Black Infant Health Program

Across California, Black women continue to face disproportionately high rates of maternal and infant health complications - up to and including increased mortality rates - driven by systemic inequities in health care access, treatment, and support. **Rise Up Leader Jennifer Roberson** is working to help change that by advocating for more equitable, community-centered approaches to Black maternal health care - ensuring that lived experience, culturally rooted care, and trusted community leadership remain central to improving outcomes for Black families.

01

Tell us about your background.

I am a daughter, sister, and a community auntie to many little ones. A lifelong learner, I am currently on the path to becoming an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). I've been incredibly fortunate to have a family that has always been my biggest cheerleaders. My dad worked hard to provide for us, and my mom created a home filled with love. While we didn't always have everything we wanted, we always had what we needed.

Growing up, my parents instilled in me the belief that girls can do anything boys can. But as I moved through the world, I quickly learned that women are not always heard - especially when it comes to our health. I experienced firsthand how my concerns were dismissed until they became urgent. That experience fuels my passion for advocacy, ensuring that women understand their rights in health care and feel empowered to make informed decisions with their providers.

02

How has Rise Up Together strengthened your advocacy?

Rise Up Together has taught me how to focus my advocacy efforts in a way that maximizes impact. I naturally see the big picture and understand how interconnected issues are, but in the past, narrowing my scope has been a challenge. Rise Up Together has helped me sharpen my strategy, ensuring I can drive change more effectively by targeting specific issues while still keeping the broader vision in mind.

03

What were you able to achieve with Rise Up Together's training and support?

With Rise Up Together's training and support, I was awarded a \$100,000 grant to advocate for greater equity within California's Black Infant Health (BIH) program. I am deeply committed to this program because I know it transforms lives. My advocacy focuses on removing barriers to employment at BIH sites - particularly the unnecessary degree requirements that have been added over time. These requirements limit opportunities for highly capable individuals with a deep passion for improving health outcomes for Black birthing people. Lived experience should be valued just as much as formal education. Unfortunately, even former BIH participants - who could bring invaluable insight and connection to the work - may be ineligible for employment due to these barriers. With this grant, I aim to drive meaningful change so that BIH can better serve the community by ensuring its workforce reflects the people it supports.

04

What keeps you inspired and motivated?

Every hug, every message, every moment when a woman reaches out to say, "You helped me reach my goal" or "You connected me to a resource I didn't know existed." Knowing that even one person's path is a little smoother because of my work keeps me going.



Jennifer Roberson (far right) with fellow Rise Up Leaders at our Leadership & Advocacy Accelerator in California, 2024.

WHAT CHANGED

Jennifer is working to remove hiring barriers within California's Black Infant Health Program so more people with lived experience and deep community knowledge can help support Black mothers and families.



Rise Up Leader Juany Garcia (center) expanding girl-led advocacy and leadership opportunities with girls in Guatemala.

GIRL-LED LEADERSHIP & DEMOCRACY

SUSTAINING GIRL-LED MOVEMENTS

IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Years of investing in local leadership have laid the foundation for lasting, locally owned advocacy in Central America - demonstrating the long-term sustainability of Rise Up Together’s model.

Today, longtime Rise Up Leaders Juany Garcia in Guatemala and Emérita Valdez in Honduras continue advancing girl-led advocacy efforts in their communities with ongoing grant funding, coaching, and partnership from Rise Up Together. **In 2025 alone, their advocacy helped secure new policies protecting the rights, health, education, and well-being of more than 158,000 children, adolescents, and young people across Guatemala and Honduras.** This year also marked another major milestone as Juany established her own nonprofit organization to continue expanding girl-led advocacy and leadership opportunities in Guatemala.

RISE UP LEADERS
Juany Garcia & Emérita Valdez

COUNTRIES
Guatemala & Honduras

FOCUS AREA
Girl-Led Leadership & Democracy

IMPACT
158,000+ children, adolescents, and young people

158,000+ children, adolescents, and young people across Guatemala and Honduras.

WHAT CHANGED

Juany and Emérita helped secure new municipal policies protecting the rights, health, education, and well-being of young people - demonstrating the lasting power of locally led movements in Central America.

Today, Juany and Emérita are demonstrating exactly what Rise Up Together set out to build: locally rooted leaders with the skills, partnerships, and confidence to sustain change long after a single grant or program has ended. Their work also demonstrates how supporting youth leadership and civic participation helps strengthen more inclusive democratic processes across Central America.

While Rise Up Together's direct work in Central America concluded in 2024, the transition reflects the ultimate goal of our model: local leaders with the power, partnerships, and capacity to sustain change long after our direct role has ended. Together, they will continue strengthening democracy, expanding civic participation, and building more resilient civil society institutions for years to come.



Juany Garcia
GUATEMALA

IN JUANY'S WORDS

"Even amid global challenges, children and young people are already deeply engaged in social movements. Their voices are strong, and it will be difficult to silence them or leave them out of decisions that affect their lives."

JUANY GARCIA, RISE UP LEADER



Emérita Valdez
HONDURAS

IN EMÉRITA'S WORDS

"The development of local leadership and the participation of girls, adolescents, and young people strengthen civil society by fostering a more active and representative citizenry. They bring new perspectives to decision-making, increase transparency, and renew democratic participation."

EMÉRITA VALDEZ, RISE UP LEADER

RISE UP TOGETHER'S INAUGURAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As Rise Up Together entered its first year as an independent nonprofit, we were honored to welcome an inaugural Board of Directors whose **collective expertise spans global health, gender equity, philanthropy, technology, finance, policy, and movement-building**. United by a shared belief in the power of locally led change, these accomplished leaders bring decades of experience advancing equity, strengthening institutions, and building innovative solutions to complex global challenges. **Their guidance will help strengthen Rise Up Together's long-term sustainability, sharpen our strategic vision, and ensure we continue investing boldly in the leaders and movements driving gender justice work around the world.** We are deeply grateful for their partnership, generosity, and commitment to this work.



Afia Asamoah

CO-FOUNDER & FORMER GENERAL COUNSEL, WAYMARK, INC.

"Over the past 25 years, I have watched Dr. Denise Dunning build an organization that empowers leaders in their own communities to drive systemic change globally, and here in the United States. My career has been dedicated to advancing equity in health care and creating opportunity for underserved communities, and Rise Up Together embodies this same mission on a global scale. I am honored to join the Board of Directors and contribute my expertise working at the nexus of strategy, health, and equity to help Rise Up Together deepen its impact worldwide."



Shruthi Jayaram

PARTNER EMERITA, DALBERG ADVISORS

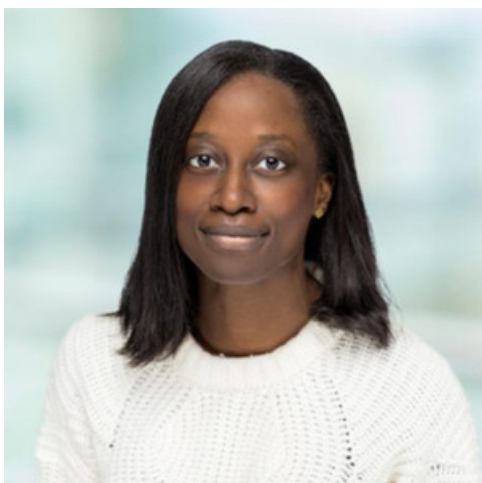
"Around the world, leaders are achieving powerful wins for women and families in their own communities. Rise Up Together specializes in effectively identifying and supporting such leaders. I'm honored to join the inaugural Board in this historic moment for the women's rights movement."



Tom Linebarger

**CHAIRMAN & CEO, MAINSPRING ENERGY;
FORMER CEO, CUMMINS INC.**

"Meaningful change requires more than vision. It requires strategic leadership, financial stewardship, and organizational readiness. Rise Up Together combines a clear mission with strong governance and a strong financial foundation, ensuring that every investment creates lasting impact for women and girls. I am proud to serve on the Board and to bring my experience in scaling organizations with integrity and purpose to support Rise Up Together's global mission."



Jennifer Okwudili

PRINCIPAL OFFICER, GATES FOUNDATION

"Throughout my work in policy, advocacy, and gender equality, I have seen how transformative it is when girls and women lead change. Rise Up Together plays a crucial role in the global movement for gender justice - not only by supporting local leaders, but also by shaping the wider sector with vital expertise and thought leadership. I am excited to serve on the Board and to help strengthen the movement for gender justice that Rise Up Together is driving."



Michelle M. Swenson

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISOR

"As a founding member of Rise Up Together's Leadership Council, I've had the privilege of supporting the organization for more than a decade and watching it grow in extraordinary ways. From a small initiative to a global force advancing gender justice, Rise Up Together's evolution has been remarkable. I am honored to join the Board and help guide the organization as it enters this exciting new chapter of independence and expanded influence."



THANK YOU

Rise Up Together's global team, December 2025.

Because of the unwavering generosity of our donors and partners, Rise Up Together's global network of gender equity leaders and organizations is advancing bold, locally led solutions that are transforming communities and influencing systems around the world. Together, we are building a future where women, girls, gender-nonconforming people, and their allies have the power, resources, and support to create lasting change for generations to come.

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS



**FONDATION
CHANEL**



**FRANKLIN
TEMPLETON**



**THE
STONE FAMILY FOUNDATION**



**The
Summit
Foundation**



Advancing Girls Fund



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Rise Up Together Leadership Council and Board of Directors members at our annual Evening of Impact, April 2025.

for gender justice everywhere

Rise Up Together partners with women, girls, and allies who are transforming their communities and countries as part of a global movement for justice and equity. We improve education, health, economic opportunity, and climate outcomes by building power with local leaders to create a better future for all. Rise Up Together works with leaders in Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the United States to create a future where all people can thrive. Since 2009, Rise Up Together's powerful network of 1,080 leaders has successfully advocated for 246 new and improved laws, policies, and programs, positively impacting more than 251 million people around the world (as of 2025).

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