PROJECT
Soar

Annual report 2018
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 girls 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

Gloria Steinem

The Project Soar pledge:
All girls must stay in school.

“...the chargée d’affaires at the United States Embassy in Morocco”

Stephanie Miley
2018

Snapshot

Empowering girls throughout Morocco

19 Project Soar squads

14 Girl Leaders Clubs

33 Project Soar squads

850 hours of academic support

33 squads in Morocco

869 hours of empowerment

5 days training Empowerment Facilitators

72 Empowerment Facilitators

74 volunteers

4418 volunteer hours donated

500 BeGirl menstruation kits distributed

86% passing rate Academic Scores for PS Girls

January 2018

December 2018

726 teenage girls served

869 hours of empowerment

“...explanation 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

Project Soar

Girl Leaders Clubs

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.”
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.

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.
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.

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

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.

"Roar like a Soar Girl"

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.
“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

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

### INCOMING REVENUE

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<td>Perreault Foundation</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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### OUTGOING CASH

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<th>2018</th>
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<td>Personnel &amp; Professional Services</td>
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<td>Other Direct Costs</td>
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### DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

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

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**In-Kind Donations**

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

**$10,000+**

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

**$1,000 - 5,000**

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

**$500 - 999**

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

**MEANS THEY WILL GROW UP TO BE EMPOWERED WOMEN WHO WILL SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**
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 Akir
Field Manager
Heyab-Martam Ogabson
Program Development and Evaluation Manager
Jaaved Galja
PSI Liaison
Noor Boughrad
Program Coordinator
Fatmaezzahra Amechnou
Financial Coordinator
Fatima Ait Ouknini
Field Coordinator
Carrie Thomson
Finance & HR Manager
Saida Oumaatalla
HQ liaison

Moroccan Board Members
Jennifer Borch, President
Houssnia Tiana, Vice President
Nadine Hanafi, Secretary
Chris Redecke, Treasurer
Nezha Youssifi, Advisor elect

US Board Members
Maryam Montague
Patrick Benjaminsson
Jennifer Borch
Per Stjödel

Site Facilitators
- Project Soar in a Box

September training group
Noura Aattar
Saadia Bouaden
Onakomaiya Damikola
Khadija Zinrahou
Medelene Baker
Latifa Elbaradi
Lauren Spiewak
Asmae Lachqar

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

Site Locations
Ait Bougmaz
El Kebab
El Khong

Oulad Mbarek
Ouiragha
Ribat Imheer
Skilt Jabber

Souk Elhemis Dades
Taroudant
Touama

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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Follow Us

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