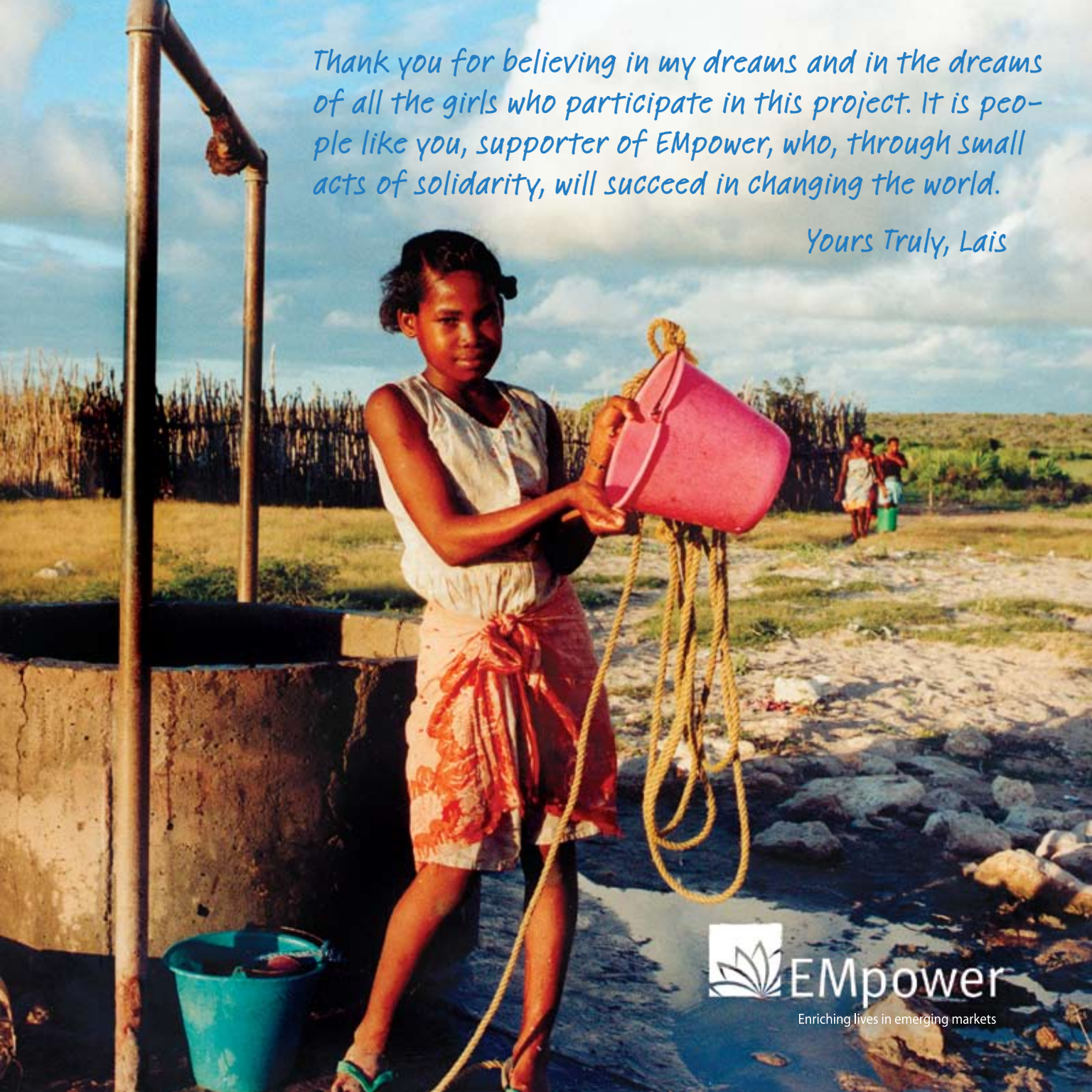


Thank you for believing in my dreams and in the dreams of all the girls who participate in this project. It is people like you, supporter of EMpower, who, through small acts of solidarity, will succeed in changing the world.

Yours Truly, Lais



letter
from the
cover

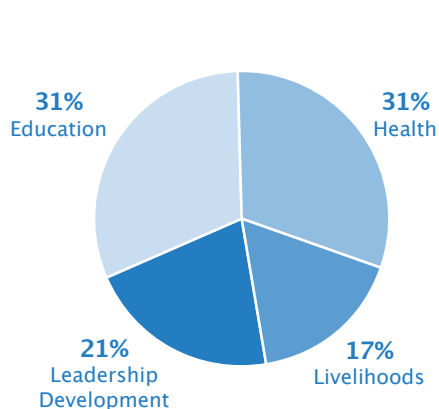


Grupo Primavera, Brazil Lais Gonçalves de Lima's neighborhood outside São Paulo was plagued by drug dealers, gangs and prostitutes. But she escaped the streets and found a place where she belonged at Grupo Primavera. Primavera's after-school program inspired her to excel. Today Lais is studying business administration at a renowned school. She dreams of attending college and becoming an engineer.

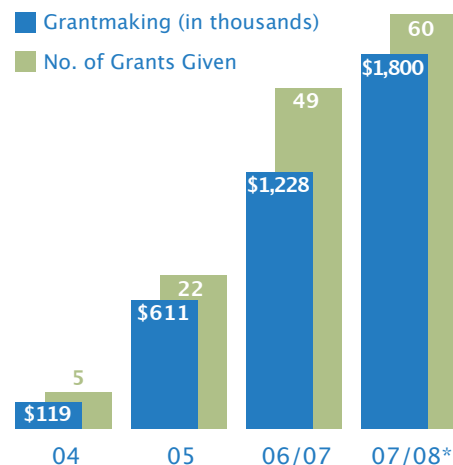
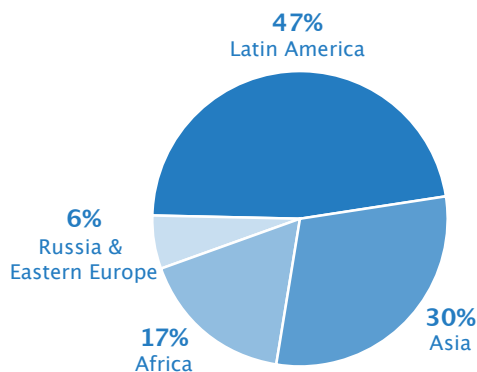
"I learned that if you believe in your dreams," she said, "all you need is faith, strength and courage to make them come true."



EMpower connects the resources and expertise of Emerging Market (EM) professionals with grassroots organizations that improve the lives of marginalized **young people** in EM countries. From the board room to the busy intersection in Mumbai, EMpower engages our constituents in an exchange of ideas on practical solutions to complex problems. EMpower helps build strong programs in education, leadership, livelihoods and health that unleash the potential of youth.

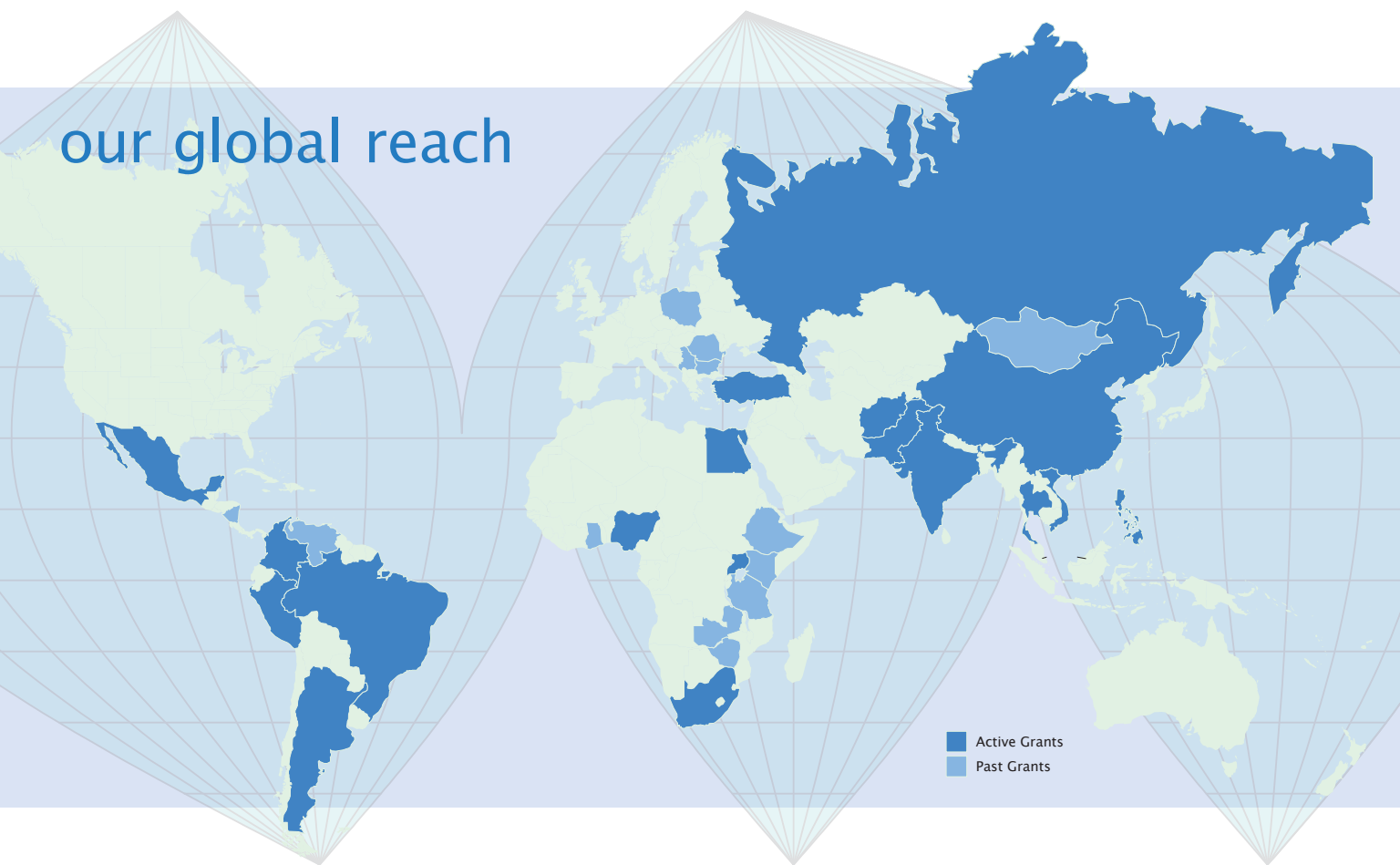


(as of December 2007)



*projected totals

our global reach



*“Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. **Empowered**, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society’s margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every **opportunity** to participate fully in the lives of their societies.”*—Kofi Annan

preparing minds

Education is the essential bridge between childhood and adulthood. Yet, around the globe, 100 million children are out of school; 65 million of them are girls. Overcrowded classrooms, poorly trained teachers and inadequate supplies conspire against learning. Those who attend school often finish their education lacking basic skills. **Without a good education, young people cannot become productive participants in the global economy.**

For EMpower, education is an essential investment. As the level of education increases, so does the chance to hold a steady job, have a healthy life and support a family. The results can be measured. Better education equals lower infant mortality, fewer unwanted pregnancies and the reduction of violence. It can safeguard youth against HIV and other scourges, which leads many to call education the “social vaccine.”

EMpower supports innovators who make schooling available and relevant to young people who might otherwise never know the inside of a classroom. The emphasis is on fundamental language, computer and practical life skills.

Civil Association for Equality and Justice, Argentina





a learning platform Ruchika, India

Untold numbers of children in India ride the trains each day, shining shoes, selling tea or scrounging for rupees rather than learning to read and write with their peers. Inderjit Khurana, the founder of Ruchika, set up makeshift schools on railway platforms where these children congregate. For a few hours each day, they can learn from a caring teacher and eat a nutritious meal. Once a week, they can get a medical checkup and take a shower.

Through its platform schools and other innovative outreach programs, Ruchika has educated thousands of children. Its philosophy and methods have spread to other states of India. Inderjit Khurana has been recognized for her groundbreaking work on the PBS special "Ordinary Heroes," by the 2007 Clinton Global Initiative and as a finalist for the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child.

EMpower is proud to have supported Ruchika since 2000 with \$116,750 for its nutrition and health programs and also with funds for an endowment, a cornerstone for sustainability in the years to come.

strengthening voices

Society's full potential is realized when the voices and visions of young people are valued. When their participation is denied, alienation, instability and violence often follow. Societies that embrace young people and support their development are in the best position to overcome poverty and cope with the challenges of development.

EMpower believes that all young people have the right to enjoy the fruits of full citizenship. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. **EMpower encourages youth engagement and creativity, two keys to overcoming adversity.**

EMpower's partners are pioneering new ways to amplify young people's voices, strengthen their role in their communities and raise their awareness of their rights. Our partners are mentors who promote intergenerational dialogue. They foster communications skills and provide training for advocacy to develop young leaders.



Big Brothers Big Sisters, Russia

new voices for change

Centro Mujeres, Mexico

In Baja California Sur, 21-year-old Perla leads her peers into the streets of La Paz advocating for access to information about sexual and reproductive health. The isolated peninsula along the Pacific coast has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in Mexico. Its young women may be expelled from school if they become pregnant. Centro Mujeres mobilizes Youth in Action to spread the word on how to protect against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and also how to recognize and combat discrimination. This bona fide youth-led initiative equips young people to be change-makers in their communities.

Since 1991, Centro Mujeres has been the only organization in Baja California Sur dedicated to helping young people become their own best advocates and take responsibility for their futures. Each year they raise the awareness of over 10,000 young people through peer advocacy, public campaigns and cooperation with local schools, government agencies and the media.

EMpower is proud to have supported Centro Mujeres since 2005 with \$75,000 in grants to train youth advocates.



“This program influenced me in every way. It especially taught me how to influence and lead others and how to be resourceful. I learned that knowledge is power.”—Perla

honing skills

The largest wave of young people in history—1.7 billion strong—will enter the global labor force over the course of the next decade.

Chronic poverty passes from generation to generation unless young people acquire the tools to earn a living wage. For those who cannot, the consequences can be devastating, including long-term unemployment, alienation and involvement in high-risk or illegal activities.

EMpower partners with organizations helping young people to earn an income—through training, on-the-job learning, mentorship, access to micro credit and an array of other activities. The skills and confidence they gain increase their employability and ability to earn a living. By focusing on the fundamentals of how to budget, save and access available resources as well as teaching technical and entrepreneurial know-how, these organizations foster the economic potential of the next generation.



Friends for Street Children, Vietnam



Black Umbrellas is the only project that let me struggle for six months before I earned one cent but allowed me to use their services. And now my business is on its feet. They gave me a chance when nobody else would. —Gladman

developing entrepreneurs Black Umbrellas, South Africa

Gladman lives in Khayelitsha outside Cape Town. In South Africa's fastest growing township, needs are many and opportunities are scarce. Unemployment is staggering. Gladman used to stand on the side of the road in search of day labor. Now he operates his own company that does tiling, paving, painting, plastering and bricklaying.

Black Umbrellas provides seed loans and back office support to young black entrepreneurs in South Africa. The first group of 60 micro-entrepreneurs launched their businesses and, in turn, created 450 jobs.

EMpower is proud to have supported Black Umbrellas since its inception in 2006 with \$55,000 in grants for its critical back office services, business skills training and seed grants for entrepreneurs.



nurturing bodies

Adolescents make decisions that have lifelong consequences. Yet many do so without guidance or the knowledge and skills to protect themselves. **Up to 70 percent of all preventable deaths globally result from health-related patterns and behavior that began during adolescence.** Half of all new HIV infections occur among young people, especially women, between 15 and 24 years of age.

EMpower believes that all youth are entitled to healthy lives. Accurate information promotes informed decisions. It also increases access to services necessary to implement these choices.

EMpower supports organizations that provide health education and services that are culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive and able to incorporate the needs and preferences of young people. These community-based programs engage young people as peer educators and activists. As influential and trusted communicators, they show other youth the way to lead healthier lives.

Hands in Hand, Vietnam



NISHTHA, India



broadcasting health Minga Peru, Peru

Letters to Minga Peru arrive by boat from distant villages along seven rivers in the Peruvian Amazon. Written on paper, the backs of bags or even bark, they convey the worries and concerns of their writers—teen pregnancy, sexual violence, AIDS and other sensitive topics.

Since 1998, Minga Peru has received more than 6,000 letters from the radio audience of Bienvenida Salud (Welcome Health). The broadcast draws on its listeners' stories and concerns to develop content that responds to the people's interests and needs. This groundbreaking, intercultural program reaches an audience of over 65,000 in the province of Loreto, where poverty and teen pregnancy rates are among the highest in Peru. Radio is an indispensable tool for reaching the isolated river communities. The on-air programming is backed up by a network of health providers, teachers and young women leaders trained by Minga Peru to deliver accurate health information and referrals.

EMpower is proud to have supported Minga Peru since 2002 with \$205,000 in grants to provide essential health information and services.



dear friends:

This report is just a glimpse of our shared accomplishments over the past eight years. We are proud of the contributions of our grantee partners toward a world where all young people have a deep sense of self-worth and pathways towards a brighter future. We are inspired by their results and by what we can achieve together in the years to come.

EMpower reflects the philanthropic interests of the EM community. Our common experience and resources allow us to understand and address the inequalities in EM countries in a direct and meaningful way. We do that by raising funds and making grants to innovative groups providing opportunities to the most vulnerable yet most vital element of any country: its young people.

We and our grantee partners collaborate in mutual respect. Your support allows us to do the legwork—seeking out promising community-based initiatives, awarding grants and working with our partners to ensure successful results.

Since our founding in 2000 we have invested over \$3 million in these partnerships. Each year we expand our reach. After investing in countries like Brazil, India and South Africa, we have included important but more philanthropically challenging EM countries such as China, Nigeria, Russia, and Turkey. We have also strengthened relationships and support for long-standing grantee partners. But the more we do, the more we realize how much remains to be done.

With multiyear funding from the Nike Foundation, we recently launched the Girls' Entrepreneurship Trust, an exciting initiative to address the critical lack of access to skills, know-how and capital that limits young women's ability to earn a living. By supporting programs that develop their entrepreneurial skills, we not only are helping young women extricate themselves from the vicious cycle of poverty and dependence, we are also creating workable models for others around the globe.

Going forward, we will facilitate further learning between our grantee partners. We will also encourage exchange among grantees, private sector and public sector actors on critical topics. Such mentoring will help strengthen programs and their potential for sustainability and scale.

What makes EMpower work is the involvement of so many supporters who believe in our vision and can mobilize a range of resources to change our world. We are indebted to our Board, on both sides of the Atlantic, which stewarded the successful development of a fledgling idea into a multimillion dollar organization, our committed Underwriters without whom we could not thrive, and every one of our donors who helps us make a difference in the lives of so many young people.

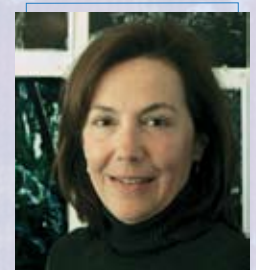
You inspire us and we are grateful for your commitment.

U.S. Staff

Marta Cabrera
Virginia Dooley
Jacqueline Dorante
Julian Liu
Andrea Lynch
Erin Shinneman
Cynthia Steele

U.K. Staff

Fiona Steel



With thanks;

Marta

our team



All these individuals play an active role in the governance, development and oversight of EMpower.

Our most enlightened donors fund all overhead costs so that we can maximize our grantmaking.

U.S. Board

Pedro Beroy

Credit Suisse

Marta Cabrera

EMpower

Joyce Chang

JPMorgan

Peter Clark

The Rohatyn Group

George Estes

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Finisterre Capital

Nikos Makris

BlueCrest Capital

Merrill Lynch

Renaissance Capital

Spinnaker Capital

Simon Treacher

BlueBay Asset

Management

team work

Supporter involvement with EMpower consists of two key elements—**ownership and participation**. In addition to their financial support, our donors are actively engaged through hosting presentations by grantee leaders, fundraising and visiting our grantee partners.



NEED's founder, Anil Singh, with Alex Raguet

“EMpower offers a unique opportunity to get involved in the grant making process at the project level—the who, the where and the what. It's this sort of transparency, participation and, ultimately, familiarity with the grant making process that is so compelling.”

—Brad Wickens, Spinnaker Capital

collaborating on investment

Our supporters are an integral part of our grant making process. Each grant is approved by a committee of EMpower board members and committed supporters during a meeting of our Grants Committee. This is one of the best ways for dedicated supporters to get involved in a meaningful way.

experiencing first hand

Our supporters tell us that one of their most enriching experiences has been visiting our grantee partners on the ground. Supporters such as Pedro Beroy, Peter Spring, Sue Waterbury and Jed Weiss have all rolled up their sleeves and spent quality time with our grantee partners.

One EMpower supporter, Alex Raguet, took a year long sabbatical and met with EMpower grantees in Argentina, Colombia, China, India and South Africa. Alex, an equity derivatives professional, offered advice on microfinance initiatives, knowledge exchange and networking.



owning the cause

EMpower supporters are continually thinking of new ways to raise awareness and funds for our mission. We have been the beneficiary of several charity events, most notably the Emerging Markets Charity Benefit. We have also been the recipient of proceeds from charity trading days.

Last year, Credit Suisse organized a soccer tournament and fundraising challenge. Some 100 Credit Suisse footballers competed for our cause, donning team names chosen from our list of grantees.

encouraging dialogue

One of the best ways to get to know our grantees is to meet them personally. Throughout the year, EMpower arranges presentations in New York and London hosted by our supporters that encourage dialogue on the issues our grantees address in their communities.

These presentations can bring wonderful additional value. For example, Joyce Chang of JPMorgan hosted Eliana Elias of Minga Peru and invited members of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation staff to attend. This led to new multiyear grants by the Foundation to Minga. We always try to leverage our resources for the benefit of our grantees.

join our team

- Make a donation
- Tell a friend about EMpower
- Attend or host an EMpower event
- Become an EMpower Underwriter
- Become a member of our Grants Committee
- Participate in other Committees
- Volunteer with one of our grantee partners
- Visit our website, join our mailing list

Contact us today!
contactus@empowerweb.org

Sou da Paz, Brazil





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