

# MALALA<sup>»</sup> FUND

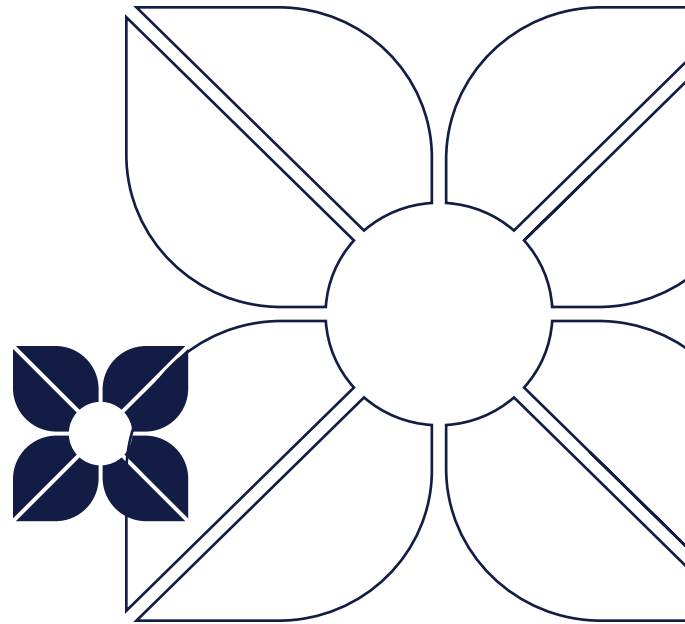
APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023



**ANNUAL REPORT**



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FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

# A note from Malala



## This was a year that tested the resolve of girls worldwide.

Malala Fund began our fiscal year shortly after the Taliban revoked its promise to permit girls to return to school. Fighting in Ethiopia's Tigray region continued to claim lives, devastate communities and upend learning; even after a peace agreement was reached in November 2022, girls and women still struggle to recover from the psychological and economic toll of war. Catastrophic floods in Nigeria and Pakistan wiped away classrooms, homes and livelihoods. And roughly 41% of lower income countries reduced their spending on education after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each of these crises compounded the everyday challenges that we know girls already face at home and in their communities, including the discriminatory beliefs that tell girls: you are not as smart as boys, you are not strong enough without a husband, your schooling doesn't matter, and you are not worthy of chasing and fulfilling your dreams.

## And yet – despite all of it – girls remain defiant. And so do we.

As we enter our 10th year of operation, Malala Fund is as determined as ever in our fight to protect and expand girls' education. Accomplishing change at the highest levels starts from our work on the ground. With a strong foundation and focused resources, our partners will be able to anticipate disruptions, develop response plans and act quickly when challenges arise to ensure that education remains a priority for leaders around the world.

We continue to expand our Education Champion Network and empower education advocates and activists who have long standing knowledge of how to affect change and address barriers to education in their communities.



Through the Girl Programme, we are cultivating the next generation of young leaders and the movements they champion so girls can develop their advocacy skills and effectively demand equal rights for themselves and their peers. By fostering this strong group of individuals and investing in their organisations, we can ensure our work will have longevity and we can continue to drive progress towards our shared goals.

The only way Malala Fund can deliver a better future for girls is if we are prepared for whatever comes in the future. And we know we will be if we continue to have strong allies like you by our side.

Here's to many more years working together,

*Malala*



ABOUT US

# The state of girls' education



Nearly 120 million girls remain out of school today – a number that may not fully represent the scale of the issue as the world continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.







## Access to free, safe, quality education for girls is made more difficult by the following factors:

### + Cuts to education budgets

National education systems were already stretched thin before the COVID-19 crisis. Since then, two-thirds of low- and lower-middle-income countries have reduced funding for school resources and infrastructure. In order to increase girls' enrolment and graduation rates, governments must increase the amount of money they put toward education, investments that will allow schools to train and recruit teachers, build modern facilities and provide support to girls at risk of dropping out.

### + COVID-19's lasting impact

School closures during the pandemic made it difficult for girls in lower-income households to continue studying since many lacked access to technology that would allow them to learn remotely. Furthermore, COVID-19 increased rates of poverty, child labour and teenage pregnancy, decreasing the likelihood girls would be able to return to the classroom once they reopened.

### + Regional conflicts and threats to safety

War and violence drastically reduce opportunities for girls to continue their education. Girls and young women living in

areas with conflict are 90% more likely to be out of secondary school than those living in areas without violence.

### + Increased intensity of natural disasters

Flooding and droughts are becoming more intense and frequent due to climate change, causing severe damage to school buildings and the roads to access them, which can take months or years to rebuild. Our research shows that if these trends continue, by 2025 climate change could prevent at least 12.5 million girls annually from completing their education.

### + Gender discrimination

Pervasive sexism results in policies that stifle girls' opportunities to learn. Beliefs that girls are inferior to boys and should be responsible for household upkeep stop girls from going to school and hold them back when they do. Our research reveals discrimination in girls' access to learning opportunities in subjects like STEM and female teachers' underrepresentation in secondary education and school leadership roles. Many teaching and learning approaches continue to reinforce discriminatory attitudes. Lack of government action to ensure girls' safety also enables high rates of sexual and gender-based abuse in and on the way to school.



## OUR MISSION

**Founded by Malala and Ziauddin Yousafzai in 2013, we champion every girl's right to 12 years of free, safe, quality education.**



Together with our **board, leadership council, donors, staff, champions and girl activists**, Malala Fund is creating a more equal world by making sure all girls can go to school.

## What we do

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### **We invest in and build networks of education advocates**

Through our Education Champion Network, we invest in local educators and activists – the people who best understand girls in their communities – in regions where the most girls are missing out on secondary school. We leverage their collective power to create broader change and make it easier for all girls to learn.

### **We advocate to hold leaders accountable**

We advocate at the global level – for resources and policy changes needed to give every girl a secondary education. The girls we serve have high goals for themselves – and we have high expectations for leaders who can help them.

### **We help develop the next generation of young leaders**

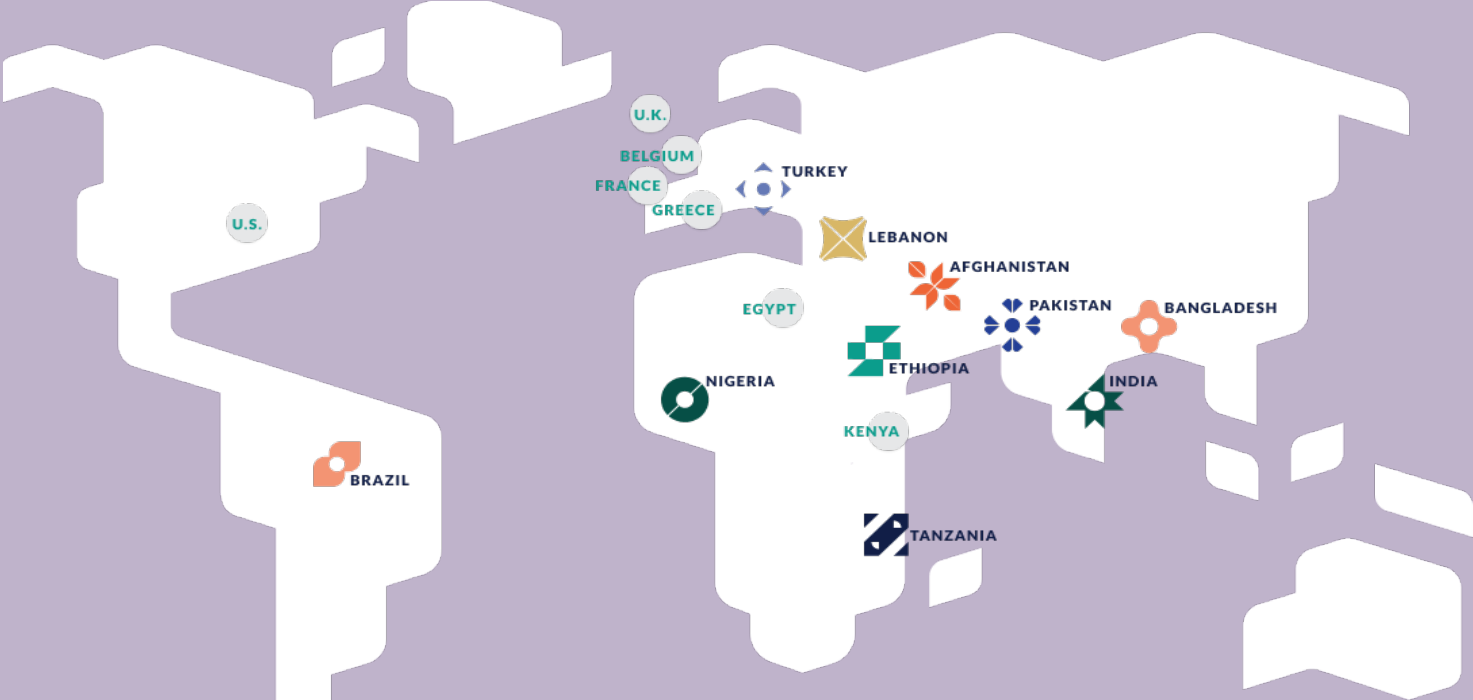
Malala Fund gives girls the tools they need to advocate for education and equality in their communities and a platform for the world to hear their voices. We believe girls should speak for themselves and tell leaders what they need to learn and achieve their potential.



# Our investments

This fiscal year, Malala Fund awarded nearly \$14 million in grants to organisations in 9 key programme countries and 8 additional locations – our largest annual investment to date. We disbursed funds through our core initiatives, the Education Champion Network and Girl Programme Fund and Fellowship, while also setting up a new fund to address the crisis in Afghanistan. We awarded additional grants to key partners who address issues that directly impact girls’ ability to access education.

Fiscal Year	Champions supported	Girl Programme fellows + partners	Additional partner organisations	Countries	Cumulative amount invested	Cumulative students reached	
1	2017–18	9	–	–	4	\$3.5M	792,873 <sup>1</sup>
2	2018–19	27	–	–	6	\$7.3M	1,676,294 <sup>2</sup>
3	2019–20	39	–	–	7	\$11.7M	2,338,053 <sup>3</sup>
4	2020–21	61	–	23	8	\$15.9M	14,278,302 <sup>4</sup>
5	2021–22	81	25	75	10	\$25.8M	17,955,582 <sup>5</sup>
6	2022–23	102	49	198	9	\$39.7M	21,009,583 <sup>6</sup>



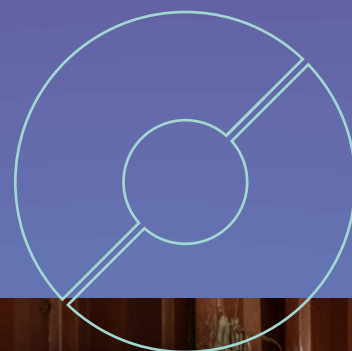
Colour icons = key programme countries

○ = Grants outside our key programme countries to support special initiatives, research and resettlement for Afghan activists and girls



LOOKING AHEAD

# Future-proofing our work



Globally, girls faced tremendous challenges to access education: violence, oppressive governments and catastrophic natural disasters. These shocks are part of a larger pattern of increasing global threats shaping an uncertain and turbulent future. When shocks occur in regions where gender equality and education access are especially precarious, the fallout upends decades of hard-fought achievements for girls.





Malala Fund knows while we can't predict the future, we can prepare for it. At global events, we advised leaders on the potential impact of climate change and conflict on girls' education and proposed solutions that allow girls to continue learning through violent outbreaks or extreme weather events. We positioned ourselves at the forefront of conversations to ensure education support reaches girls who need it. And we stepped up where governments have failed, funding alternative education to support girls who have been shut out of the classroom while calling on authorities to meet their commitments to girls.

By providing both stopgap measures and advocating for comprehensive solutions, we hope to bolster education systems and make them more resilient to unforeseen events in the long term.

Highlights from our work this year include:

### Keeping global attention on Afghan girls and women

Afghanistan is the only country with an effective ban on girls' education, one of many Taliban restrictions that prevent girls and women from participating in public life. When the Taliban assumed control of the Afghan government in 2021, Malala Fund paused in-country grantmaking to refocus our efforts on keeping Education Champions secure and restoring the rights of Afghan girls and women.

Malala Fund continues to urge political leaders, international institutions and high-level officials to end the Taliban's imposed gender apartheid. We also facilitated the relocation of 266 Afghan girls' education activists and human rights defenders and their families and continue to support their resettlement, livelihood and advocacy efforts.

- **Supporting local activism and alternative education for girls**

In July 2022, we launched the Afghanistan Response Fund to distribute \$567,000 in grants to provide alternative learning and support local campaigning to reopen girls' schools.



- **Giving Education Champions and youth activists a platform**

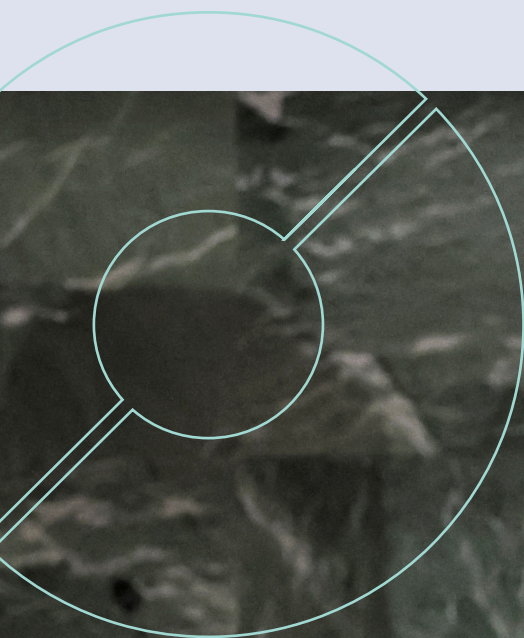
At the Transforming Education Summit, held around the U.N. General Assembly in September 2022, youth activists Somaya Faruqi and Aydin Sahba Yaquoby and Education Champions Enayat Nasir and Deema Hiram shared their demands to restore equal rights for Afghan women and girls. We also partnered with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security to organise a closed-door discussion between foreign policy officials and Afghan activists with the goal of identifying ways the international community could support girls and women in the region.

We organised several knowledge-sharing panels with the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan to help inform reports to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

- **Promoting the Islamic imperative for girls' education**

To counter the Taliban's argument that there is religious reasoning for perpetuating gender discrimination, Malala Fund supported the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR) publication of *Girls' Rights to Education in Islam in November 2022*. The research report was fully reviewed and accredited by scholars at Al-Azhar University, the oldest university in the world and centre of Islamic scholarship.

To mark 300 days of the Taliban's girls' education ban, Education Champions Deema Hiram and Rahim Jami compiled heartfelt messages from 50 Afghan schoolgirls in an open letter asking world leaders, Afghan allies, Islamic scholars, the U.N. and international NGOs to act on school closures. A 'Twitter storm' – buoyed by Education Champions and co-founder Ziauddin Yousafzai – helped garner broad public support and media coverage for their message.







## Protecting girls' education amid conflict in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has made transformational strides in advancing girls' and women's rights in the last decade. The outbreak of conflict in Tigray in 2022 forced 2.3 million children – 1.7 million of whom were girls – out of school and put that progress at risk. Malala Fund mobilised Education Champions and offered learning lifelines to girls. Once fighting ended, we worked with local organisations to ensure that recovery efforts prioritised the needs of girls.

- **Providing humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected families**

Malala Fund provided \$400,000 to partner organisations to protect displaced children at risk of exploitation and neglect and ensure girls could return to school safely. While the war has ended, Ethiopia Education Champions are furthering their efforts by helping displaced students continue their studies and lobbying governments for psychosocial services to help them recover.

- **Sounding the alarm at global events**

Education Champions brought attention to the ongoing conflict and how it could undo years of hard-earned education gains by distributing a spotlight report at side events during the U.N. High Level Policy Forum. Saba Gebremedhin, of the Network of Ethiopian Women Associations (NEWA), delivered remarks on the crisis to U.N. high-level officials on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

- **Incorporating girls' input into the peace process**

On International Day of the Girl, Education for Sustainable Development and WE-Action organised a dialogue with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and 10 girls living in conflict-affected areas. The young women shared their perspectives and asked that the government provide financial resources, so girls can return to school and mental healthcare to cope with traumatic events they experienced during war and COVID-19.



## Building resilience to climate change

Educating girls is good for our planet. Yet more frequent and intense climate shocks are making it harder for girls to learn. Disasters can wipe away schools and roads, destroy houses and decimate crops, forcing families to make drastic financial decisions like marrying off their daughters or sending them to work. Knowing the risk climate change poses to girls' education, Malala Fund made targeted appeals for national and global climate action that addresses girls' needs at key events throughout the year.

- **Bringing girl activists to COP27**

Ahead of the 2022 U.N. Climate Change Conference held in Egypt, Malala Fund Girl Fellows – Tamilore from Nigeria and Arooj and Ayesha from Pakistan – led an online workshop with feminist youth climate activists to understand their demands for how global decision-makers should address climate change.

During COP27, Malala Fund Education Champions from Pakistan and Bangladesh met with climate ministers to make the case for increasing investment in girls' education as a way to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Malala Fund also helped cover travel and registration costs of nine African climate activists from the Rise Up Movement and Nalafem Collective so they could participate in the conference, and published accompanying pieces on Assembly to highlight their perspectives and experiences.

- **Responding to catastrophic flooding**

### PAKISTAN

From June through October 2022, floods submerged nearly one-third of Pakistan, damaging or destroying more than 27,000 schools. After the water subsided, Malala and Ziauddin visited their home country to assess its damage on education systems and meet with government representatives to strengthen and restore them. Through emergency relief grants, we invested \$700,000 in funding to partner organisations supporting impacted communities. Malala Fund will continue to support relief efforts and provide aid to girls and young women. After Education Champions published [Towards a Resilient Education Recovery from Pakistan's Floods](#), a report laying out plans for a multi-level government response, Pakistan's Education Minister quoted it verbatim at Education Cannot Wait's Financing Conference.

### NIGERIA

Anambra state experienced worse-than-predicted flooding in 2022, with devastating impacts on educational and health facilities that served girls and women. Malala Fund deployed \$170,000 in emergency funding to two community organisations providing food and basic essentials to households in Jigawa and Anambra States.

- **Standing in solidarity**

Malala joined Greta Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate at the weekly Fridays for Future protest in Mynttorget Square in Stockholm, Sweden. Their joint appearance highlighted the link between girls' education and climate justice, while also elevating the plight of Afghan girls.

## Promoting STEAM Education for girls across Pakistan

In its first year, STEAM Education for Girls clubs have welcomed 7,000 students in 422 schools from 45 districts. By 2027, the programme – a partnership with Pakistan's federal government to teach girls science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics – hopes to reach 13,000 public high schools in the country and encourage 5 million girls to study STEAM. The initiative will also further national education policy and make the case for investing in girls' education.



# Leveraging the collective power of education advocates



**Malala Fund's Education Champion Network** invests in the work of educators and advocates to improve access to girls' secondary education in their countries and communities. This fiscal year we distributed **\$6.5 million in grants** and welcomed 23 new Education Champions to address issues ranging from calling for an end to prohibitive policies for student mothers in Tanzania, improving digital access in Bangladesh's coastal areas and reducing child labour rates in Lebanon.

With their grants, Champions campaigned for better education policy in Brazil and Nigeria's national elections, raised awareness of the impacts of climate change on girls' education and advocated for internally displaced girls to continue their education amid war in Ethiopia.



# BANGLADESH



YEAR ESTABLISHED: 2021  
EDUCATION CHAMPIONS: 7

In its second year, the Education Champions Network in Bangladesh addresses the factors that have contributed to a 42% secondary school dropout rate for girls in rural areas. Four new partners joined the Bangladesh Chapter of Education Champions this year to expand access to education to regions with high rates of poverty, child marriage, gender-based violence and abuse. Working in the climate-affected char (islands), haor (wetlands) and coastal regions, Champions' projects will also help provide resources to allow girls to continue learning even as extreme weather disrupts their school schedules.



## Programme highlights:

### Garnering media coverage for education policy

**Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)** organised two education financing policy debates broadcasted on Channel I, one of the Bangladesh's most-watched television channels. In the debates, high school and college students argued that the government should resource schools to improve the safety of buildings and provide learning stipends during climate-related events.

### Raising awareness for climate impact

Through its Adolescent Climate Advocates group, **Friendship** is training secondary schoolgirls to speak out on how their peers and communities can make changes to benefit the planet.

## OUR NEWEST EDUCATION CHAMPIONS



**Shirin Akter,**  
Friends In Village Development, Bangladesh  
(FIVDB)

**Munir Hasan,**  
Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN)

**Kamrul Kibria Ayon,**  
JAAGO Foundation

**Farida Yesmin,**  
Disability Research and Rehabilitation Association  
(DRRA)



Many of Brazil's public schools are underfunded, overcrowded and lack facilities, such as clean water and libraries, that students need to excel. To combat this, Education Champions in Brazil focus on helping Black, Indigenous and quilombola girls from rural communities and poor urban areas get access to quality education. They advocate for anti-racist, inclusive school environments and to boost the national education budget.



## Programme highlights:

### Positioning education as a priority issue in national elections

Ahead of national elections in Brazil, Champions worked with civil society organisations across the country to draft a Letter of Commitment for the Right to Education, a 40-point pact for quality, fully-funded education which secured signatures from 500 political candidates, including President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Champions convened a nationwide coalition of 20 Black, Indigenous and quilombola girls; transgender girls; girls with disabilities and girls who work in rural areas to draft the #MeninasDecidem (#GirlsDecide) manifesto to outline their demands for government officials.

### Training educators and students to teach quilombola curriculum

**Coordenação Nacional de Articulação de Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ)** launched the National Course for Quilombola Girls, a two-year programme for 90 quilombola teachers and students to help foster a connection to their identity and ask school administrations to include lessons on Afro-Brazilian history and culture. Participants came from 21 different Brazilian states, and the programme will reach more than 400 students across the country.





The lasting effects of the war in the Tigray region looms over girls' futures and livelihoods. Champions in Ethiopia identified opportunities for girls to participate in the peace process, so their concerns and needs would be addressed in rebuilding efforts. In Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia and Sidama, Malala Fund supports projects to improve school conditions, address gender-based violence and end social norms that limit girls' learning opportunities.



## Programme highlights:

### A seat at the table

In February 2023, Champions gathered 35 girls and young women from five regions to strategise their approach to a peace agenda ahead of Ethiopia's national dialogue, which was set to begin in March. During the workshop in Addis Ababa, the girls articulated what they hoped to accomplish through the peace process and developed their case for why leaders should consider their input. Their efforts were rewarded when the Commissioner of the National Peace Dialogue agreed to a meeting with participants and committed to considering their demands.

### Promoting public awareness campaigns to increase enrolment

**Center of Concern** identified eight schools in Sidama's Dale and Hawassa Zuria districts to facilitate dialogues about widespread social norms and educate parents about the benefits of sending their daughters to school. The group held public sessions in markets and religious centres and also trained Community Education Ambassadors to conduct outreach, resulting in 255 students – 128 of which were girls – re-enrolling in school.

## OUR NEWEST EDUCATION CHAMPIONS



**Girma Admas,**  
Positive Action for  
Development

**Kussia Bekele,**  
Resource Center for  
Sustainable Change

**Saba Gebremedhin,**  
Network of Ethiopian Women's  
Associations





The Indian government has yet to expand free, universal education to include secondary school. While the Right to Education (RTE) Act increased primary school enrolment, only 41% of girls attend school past age 14 because families struggle to afford tuition fees, worry about their daughters' safety travelling far distances to school or favour their sons' educations. Champions are collectively working to expand RTE's mandate and eliminate barriers that prevent girls from finishing their studies.



## Programme highlight:

### Influencing school management committees to improve schools

Education Champions have established working relationships with School Management Committees (SMCs) for government schools in 26 districts throughout the country. These associations include local government officials, students and parents and provide governance for schools. Champions worked with local partners to understand how they could influence SMCs' decision-making process to address girls' needs. SMC members worked with administrators to monitor meal quality, weigh in on maintenance budgets and file complaints about building infrastructure and bathrooms to create a safer and more nurturing learning environment for students.





Lebanon’s failing infrastructure continues to negatively impact girls’ education. Budget shortfalls and economic instability also force families to make sacrifices, pulling children from school and sending them to work so they can supplement household incomes. Education Champions in Lebanon are working to protect girls’ rights amid crisis – efforts that include passing legislation to ban child marriage and child labour, which families often resort to when under dire financial strain.



## Programme highlight:

### Keeping the lights on in schools amid power outages

**Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training (LOST)** launched the “Education for girls’ empowerment” project to install solar panels in six public high schools in the underserved areas of Baalbek Hermel and provide electricity to 4,000 students during widespread power outages. The programme has also helped 800 students who were falling behind by providing remedial classes and is ramping up efforts to address school closures and change official exams to a pass/fail system to give students a better chance of succeeding.

## OUR NEWEST EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

**Cecilia Chami,**

Lebanon Family Planning  
Association

**Marwa Chami,**

Amel Association International



**Deenah Fakhoury,**

Global Compact Lebanon  
Network

**Nadine Hamadeh,**

Family Rights  
Forum

**Kadria Hussein,**

Alsama Projects

# NIGERIA



YEAR ESTABLISHED: 2017  
EDUCATION CHAMPIONS: 14

Champions in Nigeria advocate for strengthening policy to fully implement the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act, which guarantees 12 years of free, safe schooling for every child. They worked with partners to develop a civil society organisation (CSO) manifesto leading up to the 2023 national elections. Through the manifesto, they aimed to compel candidates to adopt positions that further education access in the country. The manifesto also asked for a curriculum that better promotes gender equality, increases education funding and establishes accountability.



## Organising education advocates ahead of 2023 elections

Ahead of general elections in March 2023, Education Champions coordinated to develop a strategy, and Malala Fund awarded additional funding to help them canvas for pro-education policy and encourage candidates to adopt a pro-education platform.

## Monitoring implementation of the Child Rights Act in Kaduna State

Education Champions advocated for local government officials to follow through on their commitment under the Child Rights Act to provide free secondary school to students in Kaduna.

## OUR NEWEST EDUCATION CHAMPIONS



**Abubakar Sadiq Muazu,**  
Centre for Advocacy, Transparency and  
Accountability Initiative (CATAI)

**Adebukola Shonibare,**  
Invictus Africa





Gender discrimination limits opportunities for girls to learn throughout Pakistan. Education Champions focus their efforts on increasing education access through advocacy to build more and better schools, train teachers and address funding deficiencies.



## Programme highlights:

### Expanding STEAM learning

**Teach For Pakistan** inducted 45 female STEAM fellows and coached them to envision a strong STEAM classroom and deliver quality STEAM learning to students in low-income settings. The rigorous recruitment process, coaching and state of the art teaching methodologies of the STEAM fellows led to their students' placing among the top competitors at the Federal Government's STEAM competition held in Islamabad in January 2023. STEAM fellows were also inducted into the Teach for All global STEAM community where they exchanged ideas about effective STEAM teaching methodologies used across the globe.

### Developing girls' leadership skills

From February to December 2022, **Bedari** conducted self-growth workshops in Vehari, supporting 260 girls to build their leadership skills and agency. These workshops actively engage with young girls, equipping them with decision-making skills that have direct impact on their lives. The workshops are an integral part of the project and continue adding demand-based content to the existing curriculum.

## OUR NEWEST EDUCATION CHAMPIONS



**Khadija Bakhtiar,**  
Teach for Pakistan

**Hassan Hakeem,**  
Anthro Insights

**Aisha Ijaz,**  
Aahung

# TANZANIA



YEAR ESTABLISHED: **2021**  
EDUCATION CHAMPIONS: **6**

Tanzania has high rates of early marriage and motherhood and it is common practice in the country to expel pregnant students. Even after the Tanzanian government agreed to end the practice, schools are reluctant to implement change. Now in their second year, Education Champions in Tanzania are working to establish school reentry guidelines and increase funding so schools can accommodate the needs of teen mothers. Champions are also advocating to amend the Law of Marriage Act to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years old.



## Programme highlight:

### Leveraging Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to raise awareness for girls' education

In remote areas of northern Tanzania, **Pastoral Women Council (PWC)** is establishing PTAs in five high schools to increase enrolment for female students and encourage parents to be involved in their daughters' educations. Girls are more likely to stay in school when families care about their child's academic performance and can help resolve issues that make it difficult for them to learn. Through PWC's initiative, PTAs celebrated international days, hosted church events and community meetings to raise awareness of the importance of girls' education. Ngorongoro Girls School PTA advocated for clean water and bathrooms, while Engarenaibor Secondary School sought to fight high absenteeism by rallying motorcyclists to end child marriage and gender-based violence.

## OUR NEWEST EDUCATION CHAMPIONS



**Mgusuhi Maswi,**  
Msichana Initiative Organization

**Pauline Ngurumwa,**  
KINNAPA

**Zahra Selehe,**  
Integrating Capacity and  
Community Advancement



# Handing young women the megaphone



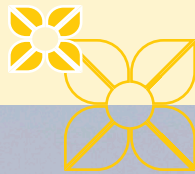
Girls have bold visions for the future – and strong opinions about what leaders should do to achieve them. Through our Girl Programme and digital publication Assembly, Malala Fund puts girls at the forefront of our work, providing them with training to hone their advocacy skills and a platform to deliver their message.



# GIRL PROGRAMME

## Speaking out at global events

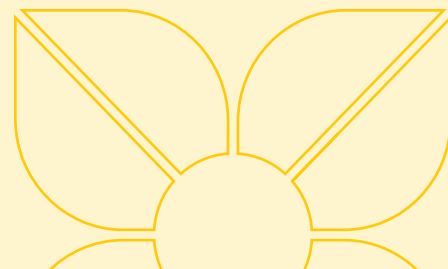
Girl Fellows made their voices heard at COP27, the Future Impact Summit and the 67th Commission on the Status of Women, where they met with government officials, participated in panels and gave speeches demanding action on girls' education. At the 10th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights held in Sierra Leone, Tamilore and Meti, two Fellows from Nigeria and Ethiopia, networked with peer activists from across the continent to foster relationships, share campaign strategies and find ways to align on efforts championing for their rights.



## Developing advocacy strategies

As part of their 18-month programme, Girl Fellows choose and carry out a capstone project to benefit girls in their communities. Here are some highlights from this year:

- At Arooj's Climate Action Club, young people in Pakistan can learn about what causes climate change and what they can do about its impact on their lives.
- In Nigeria, Amina uses radios and games to teach STEM to senior secondary schoolgirls with special needs.
- After the floods in Pakistan, Ayesha created a climate disaster manual to train rescue workers and students in emergency response tactics that are considerate of girls' needs.
- Meti's Safe Space app is an educational platform for young women in Ethiopia to access individual and group counselling and resources for dealing with personal issues.







## Funding female-led organisations

### \$1.575M through 23 grants

Grants through the Girl Programme support organisations, groups and movements that are led by women or are centred on girls and are working to address barriers to education.

- **Badabon Sangho** trains young women and girls in Bangladesh to advocate for their right to education. The group leads social action projects to raise awareness for societal issues that hold girls back, such as early marriage and gender-based violence. Participants will learn community organising skills to challenge discriminatory systems and engage in sports to build their confidence and connections with young women in their community.
- In six high schools in Tigray, **Maternal, Adolescent, Reproductive and Child Health Research Center (MARCH)**'s "She Heals, We Heal" programme provides safe spaces, mentoring and mental health services to ease the transition back to in-person learning for girls displaced by Ethiopia's civil war. Girls will learn to express themselves creatively through art and showcase their storytelling, photography, painting or musical projects at two community exhibits. MARCH plans to partner with the Ethiopian government to replicate their model in other schools in the region.
- **Zenith of the Girl Child and Women Initiative Support (ZEGCAWIS)** will carry out the #freepadforgirls campaign to supply no-charge period products in secondary schools throughout northeast Nigeria. At weekly club meetings, girls will learn advocacy skills and produce radio programmes to teach listeners about menstruation and other issues that interrupt girls' attendance at school. These young women will also organise community events with religious leaders and local officials to eliminate taxes on period products to further raise awareness for girls' education.
- **The Pink Box Initiative** will invite 5,000 girls to join its girls' clubs at five schools in Tanzania's Mwanza Region to learn leadership skills and build confidence. The group will also establish gender-based violence desks on campuses where trained counselors can help girls escape unsafe conditions and train teachers to identify signs of abuse. Finally, Pink Box representatives will go out into the community to convince parents to send their daughters to school.

# ASSEMBLY

Our digital publication and newsletter gives girls a place to share their opinions, experiences and reflections on the year's most pressing issues – from climate change and racial justice to gender inequality and girls' education access.



**"I am a girl who was born and raised in the era of democracy; education and freedom have a special meaning to me. Then the Taliban came and took those two basic rights from us. I am stuck in a great despair and see only a dark future ahead."**

— **\*Gulnoor,**  
*a young Afghan woman, shares how the Taliban's ban on education has affected girls' lives and efforts to continue their education.*



**"Tunisian girls and women are the most hardworking, inspiring people I know. Yet our society has turned a blind eye to their plight."**

— **Farah Mkaouar,**  
*a student from Tunisia writes about the frustrating plight of Tunisian women in the 21st century.*



**"We saw our homes and crops get washed away in front of our eyes, saw our things floating away in the water but we couldn't do anything."**

— **Sohalia,**  
*a 16-year-old student from Pakistan shares how flooding disrupted her community and access to education.*



Some of our most-read stories featured girls' perspectives on local issues that grabbed international attention

### CLIMATE

From Fridays for Future strikes to COP27, young women called on leaders around the world to take more action to protect our planet.

### GIRLS' EDUCATION ACCESS

From public funding to better student representation, young women shared how leaders can better invest in education access for girls around the world.

### RACIAL JUSTICE

On Assembly, young women shared their experiences with racial discrimination and advocated for more inclusion in their communities.

# OUR READERS



From April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, Assembly's Instagram account ([@on.assembly](https://www.instagram.com/on.assembly)) saw a **200% increase in average reach** and expanded its short-form video content, publishing **40+ videos** with more than **1.6 million views**.

### Top 10 countries by readership:

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. U.S.    | 6. Pakistan     |
| 2. India   | 7. Australia    |
| 3. U.K.    | 8. Philippines  |
| 4. Canada  | 9. South Africa |
| 5. Germany | 10. Nigeria     |

### From April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022 we had:

 **121,385** new visitors

 **180,880** page views

 Majority of users are girls and women **between 18 – 24 years old**

# Stronger infrastructure to support our team wherever they are

Malala Fund’s best work comes when our employees can be their best selves in the office and when collaborating with partners on the ground. That is why we remain committed to recruiting diverse and inclusive talent who represent the regions where we operate and the girls we serve – ensuring staff’s efforts are valued at every level.

The future of our organisation relies on hiring and retaining staff who can adapt, develop and grow as Malala Fund does. This year, we focused on strengthening our human resource infrastructure by:

## **Preparing staff for successful career growth**

With the launch of a Learning & Development Strategy, Malala Fund provides learning opportunities for its staff to acquire skills needed to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. As part of this initiative, senior leadership completed management training and all staff team members were certified in safeguarding.

## **Systems and procedures**

Taking into consideration diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) principles and the needs of employees and leadership, the Operations Department set up systems to acquire top candidates and instituted policies and procedures for internal recruitment, promotion, relocation and remote or hybrid schedules.

## **All-team retreat in Tanzania**

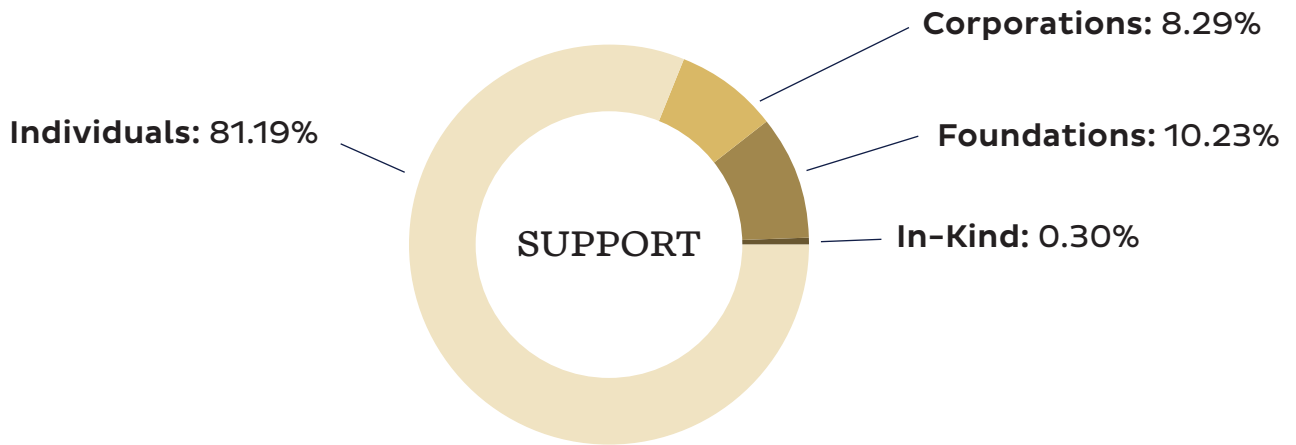
Through support from a generous donor, in October 2022, staff from around the world gathered in Arusha to foster staff relationships, align on our shared vision and strategise on future plans for the organisation. It was the first time team members were able to meet in person after two years of virtual work during COVID-19.



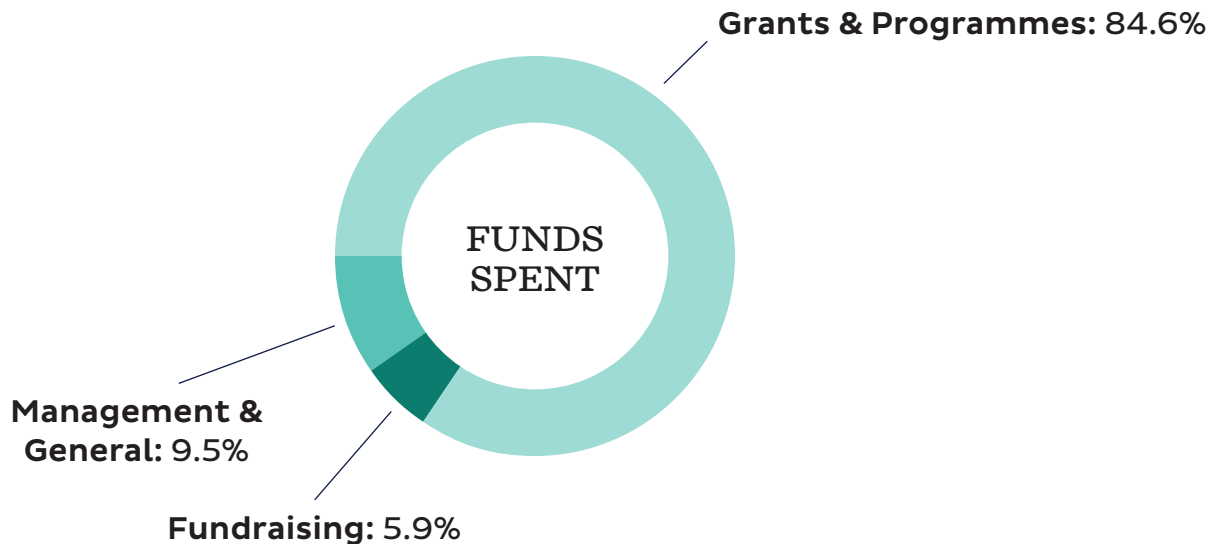


# Breaking down our revenues and expenses

## Where our support came from



## How we spent our funds



# Summarised statement of activity



<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Contributions and grants	\$55,317,404	\$28,985,744
Investment income	(366,842)	\$(293,236)
Contributed services and materials	\$189,238	\$312,706
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$55,139,800</b>	<b>\$29,005,214</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Programmes services	\$22,662,013	\$17,927,773
Management and general	\$2,536,535	\$1,873,773
Fundraising	\$1,587,389	\$1,355,700
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$26,785,937</b>	<b>\$21,157,246</b>
Change in net assets	\$28,353,863	\$7,847,967
Net assets at beginning of year	\$28,707,330	\$20,859,363
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$57,061,193</b>	<b>\$28,707,330</b>

## U.S. Board of Directors

Malala Yousafzai (Chair)  
 Modupe Adefeso-Olateju  
 Susan McCaw  
 Françoise Moudouthe\*  
 Alaa Murabit\*  
 Vanessa Nakate  
 Lynn Taliento  
 Pearl Uzokwe  
 Ziauddin Yousafzai

## U.K. Board of Trustees

Akhter Mateen (Chair)  
 Malala Yousafzai  
 Susan McCaw  
 Fayeeza Naqvi

## Nigeria Board of Directors

Modupe Adefeso-Olateju  
 Lynn Taliento  
 Pearl Uzokwe  
 Ziauddin Yousafzai

\* Term ended March 2023



## OUR DONORS

# With gratitude and thanks

These generous individuals, foundations and companies helped power our work over the year.

### Leadership Council

Susan Buffett  
Tim Cook  
Joe Gebbia  
Landry Family Foundation  
Susan McCaw

### Laureate

Apple

### Humanitarian

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Citi  
Echidna Giving  
MacKenzie Scott  
Troper Wojcicki Foundation

### Envoy

Hawk Foundation

### Ambassador

Cochlear Foundation  
Comic Relief USA  
D.W. Legacy  
Elevate Prize  
Stefan Findel  
Frame Fatales of Games  
Done Quick

Imaginable Futures  
Open Society Foundations  
Pluralsight ONE  
Salesforce  
Wilstar Social Impact  
Women and Girls  
Leadership Fund

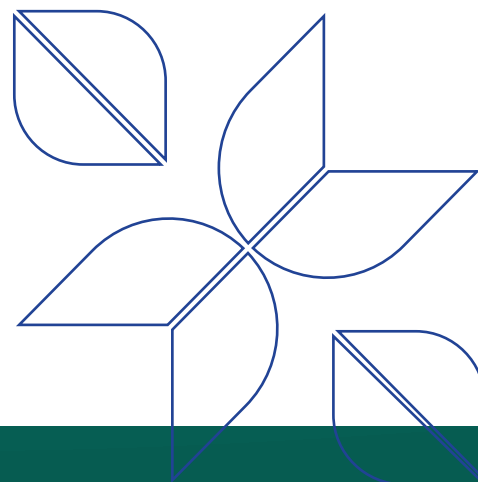
### Advocate

3M  
Abrdn plc  
Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation  
BetterHelp  
Mike and Christine Spurlino  
Northstar Charitable Foundation  
The Pokemon Company  
International  
TikTok

### Supporter

Peter Battaglia  
Matthew Bruckel  
Costello Medical Consulting Ltd.  
George Eberstadt  
Estate of Dr. Humphrey Charles  
Butters  
Estate of Dr. Linda Schmidt  
FujiFilm Holdings America Corps.  
The Hellman Family

Lance Ivy  
Koonce Family Foundation  
Lemonade  
Peter Maxwell  
Meshki  
Meta  
Lillian Mindich  
Diana Nam  
Passion Planner  
Pivotal Ventures  
Bertrand Serlet  
Slalom Consulting  
Snowbird Foundation  
Craig and Dorothy Stapleton  
Tektronix Foundation  
The Tushar Patel Charitable Trust  
Underdog Games  
World Children's Prize, Sweden  
Kenneth and Patricia Warner



# What our donors are saying

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

**“My daughter learned Malala’s story and she wants to help other girls go to school and have a chance to be free.”**

— Amparo, Spain



**“I am a teacher in Canada and I believe in education being one of the great equalisers in society. Girls all over the world deserve to have the same opportunities to learn and be educated.”**

— Amber, Canada

**“Education for all should be upheld as a universal right, and we are very fortunate where others are not so lucky.”**

— Kate, Australia



**“I want to start contributing to making the world a better place for every woman, through these small ways.”**

— Sri, Singapore



**“I am 13 years old and really inspired by Malala’s work and activism, and I want to make a change and support girls’ education around the world because of my love for school, and I want to share it with others!”**

— Claire, U.S.

**“Education of girls is the single most important thing for changing the world.”**

— Emma, Denmark





REFLECTIONS FROM  
OUR ACTING CEO

# Just the beginning

**In January 2023, I took over as Malala Fund's Acting CEO just as our organisation started its 10th year of operation. As we enter a new decade, Malala Fund can proudly say that our relationships are stronger than ever. We are leaders in the fight for girls' education – and not just because of our steadfast ambition, but because of our actions and our partners.**

Malala Fund has an incredible team across four country offices who commit their energy and focus to this work every day. They engage with girls, activists, partners, donors and peers to ensure we are delivering our programmes the best we can. We continue to invest in our Education Champions, who have helped millions of girls learn through their innovative work. In Lebanon they are installing solar panels to keep lights on in schools, in Pakistan they are working with the government to encourage girls to study STEAM and in Tanzania they are establishing PTAs to get parents involved in their daughters' education. And our Girl Fellows are becoming fixtures at global events, sharing the stage with the very leaders who have the power to improve their lives.

These accomplishments are possible because of your generous support. We are grateful for your investment in our work to achieve Malala's vision for a world where every girl can learn and lead.

I look at what we have achieved and I am excited for what more we can do. But the hard truth is that a lot of our work has become not just creating progress for girls, but protecting the gains we have already made. And in some cases – the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, flooding in Pakistan and Nigeria and conflict in Ethiopia – we have seen setbacks that may take decades to restore.

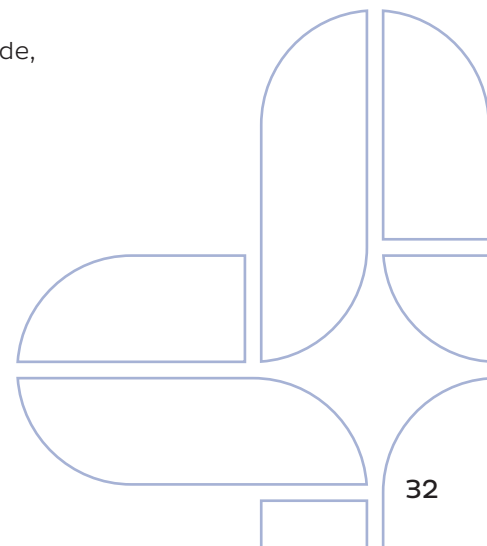


Malala Fund's mission – to deliver free, safe, quality education for every girl – is not an easy pursuit. But it is made easier if we have a solid foundation, and this comes from expanding the reach of the Education Champions we support, increasing the investment in our advocacy efforts, amplifying the voices of our Girl Fellows and developing the skills of our amazing team.

**All we need is your unwavering dedication so we can build on our strengths – and ensure our work can withstand whatever the future brings.**

With my deepest gratitude,

**Lena Alfi**



## SOURCES

**1. FY17–18:** 9,084 students (5,735 girls + 3,349 boys) attended formal/non-formal education programmes; 452 students (391 girls + 61 boys) attended skills development workshops; 783,337 students (399,563 girls + 383,774 boys) impacted by policy changes.

**2. FY18–19:** 883,421 students reached in FY18–19; 7,486 students (6,170 girls + 1,316 boys) attended formal/non-formal education programmes; 1,608 students (1,397 girls + 211 boys) attended skills development workshops; 209,486 students (199,153 girls + 10,333 boys) impacted by policy changes; 750 students (350 girls + 400 boys) impacted by scaled-up education models; 27,392 girls in Malala Fund programme countries trained using Malala Fund's Girl Advocate Guide; 636,699 views (616,324 girls + 20,375 boys) of Malala Fund's Girl Advocate Guide online through malala.org, Facebook and other country-specific digital platforms.

**Note:** Malala Fund suspended Education Champions' grant deliverables between March 1, 2020–June 31, 2020 and in some cases longer or during additional periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

**3. FY19–20:** 661,759 students reached in FY19–20; 12,680 students (11,206 girls + 1,474 boys) attended formal/non-formal education programmes; 3,357 students (2,832 girls + 525 boys) attended skills development workshops; 622,078 students (432,078 girls + 190,000 boys) impacted by policy changes; 23,644 students (12,386 girls + 11,258 boys) impacted by scaled-up education model.

**4. FY20–21:** 11,940,249 students reached in FY20–21; approximately 10,499,379 students reached through Malala Fund's COVID-19 response initiative + 1,440,870 students reached through the Education Champion Network programme.

- *COVID-19 breakdown:* 25,856 students (15,442 girls + 10,414 boys) enrolled in school; 899 girls attended skills training; 16,661 students (12,890 girls + 3,771 boys) received COVID-19 support (materials, lessons, alternative classes); approximately 1,009,100 students reached through radio lessons during COVID-19 school closures; approximately 8,000,000 students reached through television lessons during COVID-19 school closures; 1,446,863 students were reached through education apps and lessons shared through Facebook and WhatsApp during COVID-19 school closures.
- *Education Champion Network breakdown:* 32,040 students (25,291 girls + 6,749 boys) enrolled in school/non-formal education programmes; 6,547 students (6,175 girls + 372 boys) attended skills training; 25,307 students (13,040 girls + 12,267 boys) taught by teachers trained by partners; 1,033,733 students (711,057 girls + 322,676 boys) benefited from policy change; 343,243 students reached through digital tech access and other remote learning support.

**5. FY21–22:** 3,677,280 students reached in FY21–22; approximately 273,073 students reached through Malala Fund's COVID-19 response initiative + 3,404,207 students reached through the Education Champion Network

programme.

- *COVID-19 breakdown:* 273,073 total students – 54,233 students (33,013 girls + 21,210 boys) enrolled in school; 16,003 students (10,445 girls and 5,558 boys) attended skills training; 55,111 students (28,285 girls and 26,826 boys) received COVID-19 support (materials, lessons, alternative classes); 26,883 students (18,359 girls and 8,524 boys) were reached through trained teachers; 2,003 students (1,100 girls and 903 boys) were reached through policy change and 118,850 students (73,713 girls and 45,137 boys) digital tech access.
  - *Education Champion Network breakdown:* 3,404,207 total students – 75,380 students (63,776 girls + 11,604 boys) enrolled in school/non formal education programmes; 74,279 girls were reenrolled; 5,398 students (4,962 girls + 436 boys) attended skills training; 38,913 students (31,738 girls + 7,175 boys) reached through trained and recruited teachers; 2,591,413 students (1,368,400 girls + 1,223,013 boys) benefited from policy change and 618,824 students (587,903 girls + 30,921 boys) reached through digital tech access and other remote learning support.
- 6. FY22–23:** 3,054,001 students reached in FY22–23; Total students reached directly = 52,052 (39,638 girls and 12,414 boys); 29,440 (18,742 girls and 10,698 boys) students enrolled; 7,553 (6,982 girls and 571 boys) students enrolled in non formal education; 673 girls re-enrolled; 4,121 (3,875 girls and 246 boys) trained in advocacy; 6,272 (5,896 girls and 376 boys) trained in life skills; 3,993 (3,470 girls and 523 boys) received material support for their education
- 3,001,949 students reached indirectly (1,086,759 girls and 1,915,190 boys); 84,167 (47,861 girls and 36,306 boys) taught by trained or recruited teachers; 2,875,558 (1,012,876 girls and 1,862,682 boys) potentially benefited from policy or practice change; 7,996 (5,052 girls and 2,944 boys) benefitted from scale up; 34,228 (20,970 girls and 13,258 boys) benefitted from Digital tech access



WAYS TO GIVE

# Support Malala Fund's fight for girls' education



With nearly 120 million girls out of school today, we need your help to reach the most vulnerable girls who are denied an education.

[MALALA.ORG/DONATE](https://MALALA.ORG/DONATE)