PROJECT

H

1

2018

letter from our Director

Dear friends of Project Soar,

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

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

So much of the credit for what we do belongs to the Project Soar Girls, themselves, and the amazing Empowerment Facilitators who act as their collaborators. As our mission is Training Teenage Girls to be the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, we worked to fulfill our promise in July when we trained a network of teen girl leaders from all over Morocco in two separate camps - these girls were set up to lead their Girl Leader Clubs at their different locations. Growing our Moroccan footprint, in the Fall of 2018, we also equipped a new cohort of 24 Moroccan Women Empowerment Facilitators with PSB. With their help, we are now working in 30 locations around Morocco, empowering hundreds of teen girls. To participate in Project Soar, girls 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,

Maryan Montague Founder & Director



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

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



### WHAT

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

## WHEN

Established in 2013

### WHERE

Headquartered in Douar Ladaam village, Marrakech, Morocco

### WHO

Moroccan teen girl beneficiaries

# HOW

Signature empowerment curriculum helping girls understand their:

# VALUE VOICE BODY RIGHTS PATH

The Project Soar pledge:

All girls must stay in school.

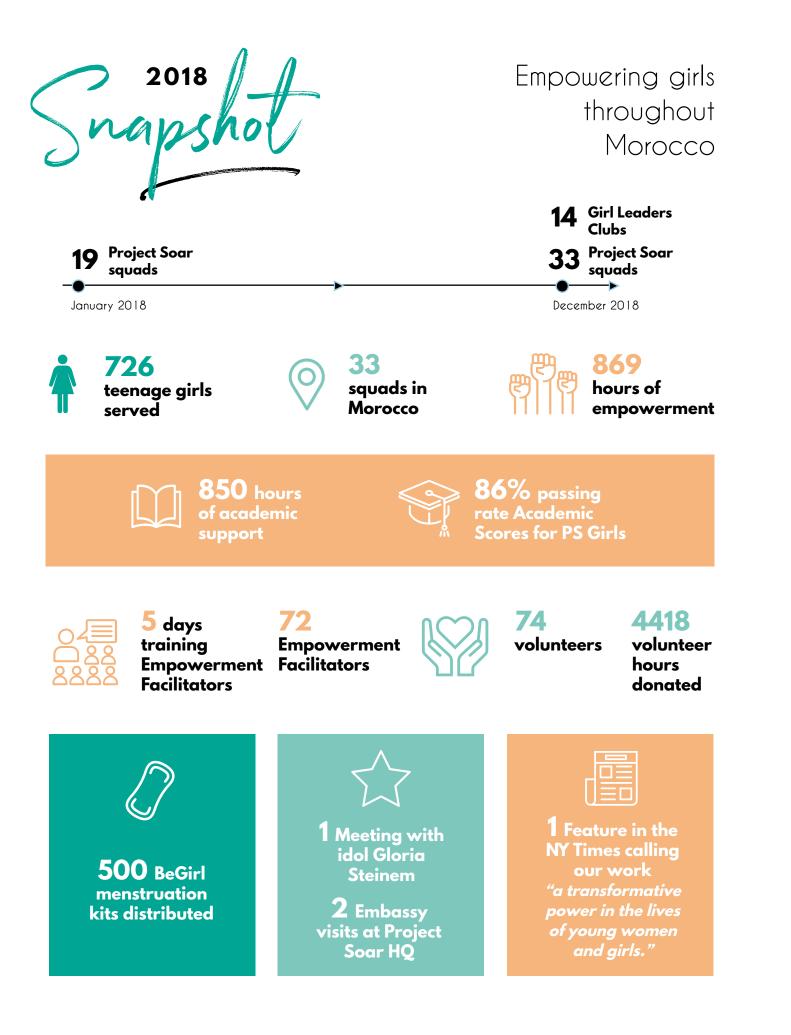
# to empower teenage

OUF

ission

# to become leaders





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

ina, PS Girl, Sidi Slimane



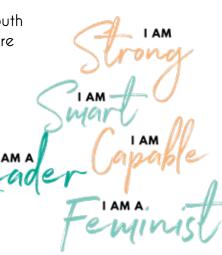
### Empowerment Workshops

All over Morocco, Project Soar Girls participate in weekly 90 minute Empowerment Workshops in Girl Squads. Workshops start with the Project Soar core affirmations - 1 am Strong, 1 am Smart, 1 am Capable, 1 am a Leader, 1 am a Feminist! Girl Power! Workshops are based on the Project Soar Empowerment Pillars and focus on a single topic, such as, 1 have potential or 1 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.



oar Uganda



### **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?

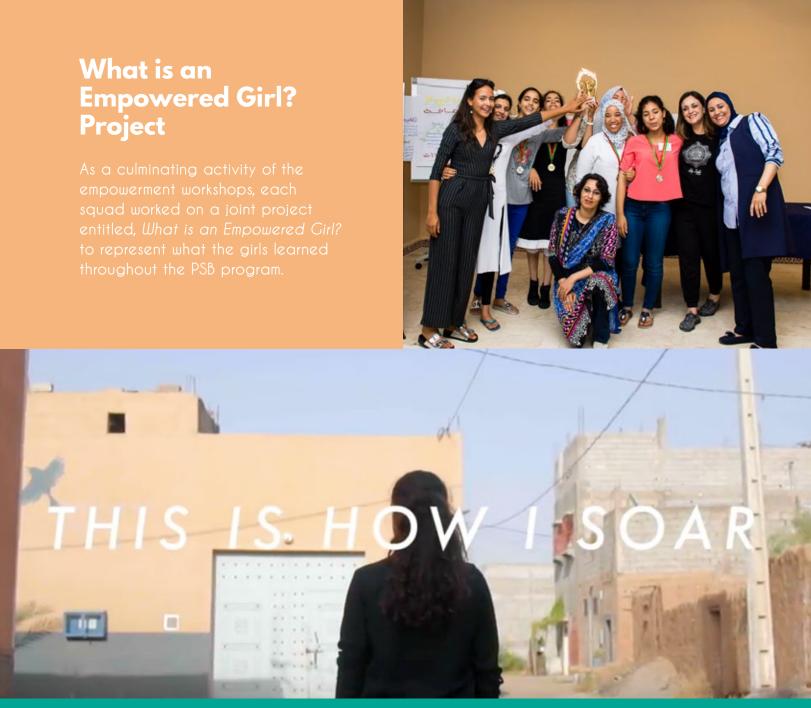
I want to be an activist and one day lead an NGO that helps orphans.





### Girl Leader training in Essaouira

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



"Roar like a Soar (find "



## This is How I Soar

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

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



Allintant

PSB Facilitator, El Henchane



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

### **DONORS AND SUPPORTERS**

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

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

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

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

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

**In-Kind Donations** 

sing

### \$10.000+

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

### \$5.000 +

Huda & Mayada Abdulmughni Path North The Bodhi Tree Foundation

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

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

### \$1.000 - 5.000

Raven and Lily

### \$500 - 999

THE









# Staff (left to right)

Maryam Montague Co-founder and Director

Chris Redecke Co-founder and Logistics Coordinator

Michelle Hirschfeld Chief Operating Officer

Kaydee Dahlin Director of Finance







**HQ Staff** (left to right)

Jessica Rushing Program Manager Wafaa Afkir Field Manager Heyab-Mariam Ogbasion Program Development and Evaluation Manaaer Jaouad Gaiia PSB Liaison Noor Boughrad Program Coordinator

Fatimaezzahra Amechnoug Financial Coordinator Fatima Ait Ouknik Field Coordinator Carrie Thomson Finance & HR Manager Saida Oumaatalla HQ liaison



# **Site Facilitators**

- Proiect Soar in a Box

### September training group

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

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

## **Site Locations**

Ait Bougmaz EL Kebab El Khang Fes

Oulad Mbarek Ourtzaah Ribat Ikheer Sldi Jaber

## Board **Members**

### **Moroccan Board Members**

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

### **US Board Members**

Maryam Montague Patrick Benjaminsson Jennifer Borch Per Sjödell

### Frin Lewis Sarita Jha Jennifer Harr Anna Wang

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

Souk ELkhemis Dades Taroudant Touama

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

Call to Ac

A girl's <u>empowerment</u> 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 <u>oreams</u>. At Project Soar, we know and believe that every Girl is <u>Capable</u>. Our signature empowerment program enables girls to realize their Value, Voice, Body, Rights, and Path and <u>Soar</u> 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, **Ven** contribute to making the world a better place by empowering teenage girls to become

leaders of today



## **Contact Us**

Douar Laadam Caidat al Ouidane Marrakech 40060

+212 665 297800giveback@projectsoar.org

### **Follow Us**

- f Project Soar
- @ProjectSoar
- 🕑 @ProjectSoar