In 2018, Girl Up’s team expanded to include six international representatives (covering Brazil, Latin America, East Asia, Africa, Europe, and India) and we translated our English resources and website into five new languages.

The 2018 Girl Up Leadership Summit in Washington, DC brought together 400 girls from 24 countries and 35 U.S. states to hear from youth leaders, gender equality advocates, and inspiring activists. In October, Girl Up expanded its signature Summit to the United Kingdom, our first international location. The summit was attended by 100 girls from across the UK and Europe, with an incredible lineup of speakers including author Scarlett Curtis, UN Women’s Claire Barnett, broadcaster Charlie Webster, actress Shay Mitchell and more.

**OUR IMPACT IN 2018**

2018 was a year of growth and expansion, a year of activism, and a year of higher heights for Girl Up! We are continuously inspired by the thousands of our Girl Up girl leaders and activists who are making real change in their communities and fighting for equality for girls everywhere.
BRAZIL
Girl Up Brasil (in partnership with Plan International Brasil and Plano de Menina) hosted a documentary screening. More than 40 girls attended and spoke about child marriage in Brazil while hearing from experts on the topic who explained the policy work being done to change the legal age of marriage in the country.

AFRICA
For International Day of the Girl in March, Girl Up Munali in Zambia hosted a documentary screening for 40 of their classmates. The film, My Stolen Childhood, inspired discussions for the girls to consider traditional practices within their communities that oppress girls and women.

EAST ASIA
Girl Up East Asia held an online event with the Tomoroe organization giving a speech on gender equality, including actions students can take in their communities through Girl Up. More than 400 students from five different schools across Beijing tuned in to listen to the session.

LATIN AMERICA
Girl Up Club Medellin in Colombia hosted their first Regional Summit with 130 girls from 12 different schools, meeting with our Latin America Regional Representative to discuss growing new Clubs and increasing community outreach in both Medellin and Bogota.

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NORTH AMERICA
In Canada, girls hosted the Toronto Regional Summit with speakers including Member of Parliament Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Alia Youssfi, an Egyptian-Canadian artist; Julia Mogus, founder of “Books With No Bounds,” and girl leaders Maryam and Nivaal Rehman, sharing their experience as Disney #DreamBigPrincess filmmakers.

EUROPE
In Frankfurt, Germany, our international representative hosted a discussion about safe spaces and harassment, gender equality, and role models for girls with students from the Frankfurt International School and the Metropolitan School.

INDIA
Girl Up India hosted an event with female leaders from various fields speaking to 70 girls in Delhi. The girls engaged in a conversation around menstrual health management and waste, body shaming and other issues of gender-based violence facing girls in India.

LATIN AMERICA
Girl Up Club Medellin in Colombia hosted their first Regional Summit with 130 girls from 12 different schools, meeting with our Latin America Regional Representative to discuss growing new Clubs and increasing community outreach in both Medellin and Bogota.

FOR EVERY GIRL EVERYWHERE
To commemorate International Day of the Girl, we hosted our first-ever #GirlHero Awards to celebrate powerful Girl Up girl activists and leading women in Hollywood and business for their work to defend gender equality. Honorees included Girl Up activists Munira Khalif, Kate McCollum, and Jules Spector, alongside Caterpillar Foundation President, Michele Sullivan, and leading ladies Yara Shahidi, Olivia Munn, Chrissy Metz, as well as the groundbreaking film Eighth Grade directed by Bo Burnham. The #GirlHero Awards, hosted by longtime Girl Up supporters Monique Coleman and Shaun Robinson, received more than 40 press hits, including segments on Access Hollywood, E! News, Entertainment Tonight, and more.

"Girl Up is about training our girls and empowering them to build a movement wherever they are. That means we can have a girl here in California fighting a gender bias dress code in her school, or a girl in Mexico fighting to stop child marriage in Malawi – and everything in between.”

Melissa Kilby, Girl Up Co-Executive Director

“All of us can make a promise to mobilize, organize, and leverage our platforms to create a future that is more equitable for everyone.”

Munira Khalif, former Girl Up Teen Advisor Alumna and former United States Youth Observer to the United Nations

"Our girls have organized marches and walkouts, they’ve made their high schools and college campuses safer for girls, they’ve taken hundreds of thousands of advocacy actions. So when we say girls are powerful, we mean it, and we have the privilege of seeing it each and every day.”

Anna Blue, Girl Up Co-Executive Director
In partnership with BNY Mellon and TE Foundation, we launched STEM for Social Good. This new program kicked off with a 9-city tour attended by 300 girls from across the U.S., Mexico and India. Girl Up girl leaders both at the events and participating in STEM for social good online, developed STEM-centered ideas for community solutions.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS INCLUDED:

- A group of girls from San Francisco developed an idea to create sustainable solar lights for communities in Uganda so more girls can study after school.
- A girl in Delhi came up with a concept to expose girls in underprivileged neighborhoods in her city to coding classes and hackathons with the goal of creating an ecosystem of continued learning.
- A group of girls in Chicago came up with the idea to utilize abandoned and unused housing development areas as a learning center to help create free educational STEM classes to the public and community.

“In order to be deeply committed to defying the stereotypes about women in science, we need to make their stories known.” - Mariana Anaya, STEM for Social Good Participant, #DreamBigPrincess Girl Filmmaker, and Girl Up Monterrey Club Member
#GIRLHERO GIVING CIRCLE

Join the #GIRLHERO Giving Circle at:
GIRLUP.ORG/GIVE

The #GirlHero giving circle is an empowered community of people who are championing and investing in the lives of girls around the world. The exclusive community fosters comradery in our fight for gender equality for every girl, everywhere.

With an annual gift of $5,000 or more to Girl Up, you can become part of an exclusive and exciting community of #GirlHeroes! A #GirlHero giving circle member’s reach is vast and impactful. For those who stand with us in this movement, there is no rest until we achieve equal rights for every girl. Because when girls rise, we all rise.

BENEFITS:

• A specially keepsake piece designed by Girl Up and correspondence with our team throughout the year.
• A toolkit with materials to learn and speak about all things Girl Up, including tips on hosting Girl Up events, and introduction to a powerhouse network.
• Exclusive invitations to Girl Up and UN Foundation events, including our Leadership Summit’s Partner & Investor Collective and a complementary VIP ticket to our annual #GirlHero Awards luncheon and so much more!

THANK YOU

Thank you for being a part of this powerful movement; for supporting our work and guiding our growth. Thank you for standing with Girl Up and our girl leaders and activists around the globe. Thank you for championing them, for inspiring them, and for standing with them. This impact is because of YOU.

Thank you to the founding members of our #GirlHero Giving Circle:

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Julie Carrier
Carolyn Costin
Ellen Goldsmith-Vein
Ariana Madix
Irene Natividad
Robin Quivers
Rita Rodriguez
Kylie Schuyler
Susan Sherrerd
Mark Towery
Jacki & Greg Zehner

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