BRAC USA 2020 Annual Report



Letter from the President & CEO

Dear friends,

If we have learned only one thing in the past year, I hope it is that we are stronger together.

In Korail, Bangladesh's biggest slum, Ruma is one of 70 community health workers trained by BRAC to prevent the spread of COVID-19. She recently received the COVID-19 vaccine. All 50,000 of the community health workers BRAC employs in Bangladesh are vaccinated — so that they can continue providing care while staying safe.

"I will inform others to get vaccinated, too," Ruma told us. "I feel a lot safer carrying out my work after receiving it. I am still taking precautions, but I can see light at the end of the tunnel now."

Ruma's story reminds us that we are all connected. Our safety and well-being as individuals are closely tied to the well-being of our neighbors and that of communities all over the world.

Tested like never before by this global pandemic, we have drawn strength from our frontline community health workers, as well as our strong family of supporters, partners, program participants, and staff worldwide. We summoned courage from BRAC's history and the lessons we have learned over almost 50 years of fighting poverty and inequality.

We chose to stand with hope.

Our founder, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, created BRAC just months after the birth of Bangladesh in the wake of a brutal civil war and a devastating cyclone. He was driven by the conviction that no inequality is inevitable and that inequality, poverty, and injustice are completely changeable.

Continuing his legacy, BRAC remains defined by an unshakeable belief in the power of people. We know that we do not change people's lives: they do. We act as a catalyst, providing people with access to knowledge, tools, and opportunities to realize their potential.

In a year that has shaken us deeply, the collective commitment of everyone in the BRAC family to never give up fighting for a better world proves that the spirit of our founder, and of BRAC, will outlast any crisis.

Together, we were able to deliver solidarity and hope where it was most needed and offer safety nets to millions of people in freefall.

As the financial and humanitarian crises triggered by COVID-19 continue to evolve, we are seeing dramatic signs of the systemic inequalities that disproportionately affect people living in poverty. It is more important than ever before to give ownership of solutions to people, with the belief that, with the right tools, people can be their own agents of change — be it for surviving the pandemic or the economic and hunger crises it has triggered.

While the pandemic disrupted many of our programs and services, despite lockdowns and setbacks, we resumed our work as soon as possible with renewed urgency to reach millions more people living in situations of poverty, inequality, and injustice, especially women and children. We know that even more diverse and complex problems are evolving in the wake of the

pandemic. We want to deliver programs that reduce the spread of the disease while also helping to build back stronger health systems, safety nets, and local economies. We have rededicated ourselves to addressing the education crisis as well as growing challenges of climate change, gender inequality, and gender-based violence at all levels through BRAC's signature interventions, including early childhood development, youth empowerment, community-based health care, Ultra-Poor Graduation, and locally-led climate change adaptation.

Despite the tragedies we have faced, in this report, I am very proud to share evidence of the truly

remarkable achievements that our incredible staff, partners, and community of supporters made

possible this year. I couldn't be prouder of the ways the BRAC family has applied technology, grit,

know-how, and relentless ingenuity to always find a way to overcome barriers — and, like Ruma, find the light. For nearly 50 years, we ourselves have been powered by the generosity of our dedicated partners and supporters. Thank you for standing with BRAC to advance the cause of people in poverty

With gratitude,

around the world.

Donella Kapier

Donella Rapier

"Our work should always reflect our faith in the human spirit and our respect for its inherent power."

BRAC Founder

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed,

BRAC is an international development organization that equips people with the opportunities, skills, and support they need to rise above poverty. The idea behind BRAC is to change systems of inequity. We act as a catalyst, creating opportunities for people to realize their potential.

Lasting positive change demands innovative, large-scale interventions. We pilot, perfect, and scale up interventions - and work in partnership with governments, communities, and others — to reach the most people with the most effective solutions. Born in Bangladesh in 1972, BRAC now reaches more than 100 million people in 11 countries through proven programs in education, youth empowerment, health care, agriculture, financial inclusion, humanitarian response, and more.

Based in New York City, BRAC USA is an independent

About BRAC USA

501(c)3 nonprofit that strengthens BRAC's impact by raising awareness about its work, mobilizing resources to support its programs, and working closely with its international counterparts to design and implement evidence-based poverty innovations worldwide. Learn More



Education

Every child deserves joyful, inclusive, and quality learning opportunities — but the poorest and most vulnerable children often cannot access them. BRAC's early learning and education programs span cradle to career and reach children and youth affected by poverty and humanitarian crises who otherwise could not access quality learning opportunities, empowering the next generation of learners to reach their full potential.

In 2020, COVID-19 brought new challenges for education globally, with hundreds of millions of learners' schooling disrupted. BRAC addressed these challenges by developing digital and remote learning opportunities through the radio, television, text messaging, phone, and more, enabling children in low connectivity contexts such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Tanzania, and Uganda to remain engaged in learning. Our flagship early childhood development model, Play Labs, also continued to engage caregivers and children alike with psychosocial support, playful home-based learning activities, and messages about COVID-19 over the phone.

Learn More

countries where children and youth have access to education

children and family members

reached through distance learning helplines and radio programs

children graduated from BRAC schools



Nasra brings playful learning home

Since 2016, BRAC Play Labs have offered quality, affordable play-based early learning for children ages three to five in underserved communities. Play Labs engage caregivers in their children's education and teach families how to extend playful learning beyond the classroom.

In Tanzania, six-year-old Nasra attended a Play Lab for two years prior to the onset of COVID-19. But amid the pandemic, Nasra and her mother, Hilda, brought playful learning home instead. Through BRAC's tele-learning hotlines, Nasra and her mother could access on-demand support from teachers and counselors as they navigated learning through play at home. They also received play materials to use at home and learned how to use them through safe, door-to-door home visits.



Nasra and her mother color together in a Play Lab in Tanzania. Photo by Lee Cohen.

Youth Empowerment

Young people across Africa and Asia hold tremendous potential, but they face disproportionate risks and barriers that can create challenging transitions into adulthood. Adolescent girls and young women are particularly vulnerable to poverty and exploitation and face limited job prospects. BRAC's youth programs offer social empowerment, economic empowerment, and access to education and training through safe spaces that are mentor-led and community-based to equip young people to reach their full potential.

In 2020, BRAC prioritized diversifying our programming

for youth and creating pathways to scale. We tested a redesigned curriculum for our flagship girls empowerment program, Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA), and launched technical assistance partnerships with local organizations and international NGOs in Botswana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. BRAC also translated life skills storybooks from its ELA program in Sierra Leone into audio recordings that were aired on the Ministry of Education's daily radio shows. In Nepal, we trained young women as electronic technicians to provide them with a vocation to earn income.

Learn More

countries reached with youth programs, including through technical assistance

youth participated in ELA clubs by phone amid COVID-19

increased involvement in incomegenerating activities for girls in youth empowerment clubs in Uganda



"Now I know how to handle things on my own."

Amanda, participant in one

of BRAC's ELA clubs in Liberia



18-year-old Amanda feels that she has gained independence and

DONORS



HOME

Financial Inclusion

People living in poverty are disproportionately excluded from financial systems, which limits their ability to weather shocks, actively participate in the economy, invest in businesses, and build stable livelihoods. BRAC's financial services equip people living in poverty with the tools to invest in themselves, their families, and their communities.

Last year, the economic impacts of COVID-19 hit the most vulnerable families hardest. Amid widespread lockdowns and public health measures, many people living in poverty, who often relied on wages from subsistence farming, day labor, or small businesses, faced sharp drops in income and food security. Drawing on lessons from serving microfinance clients amid the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, we worked hand in hand with clients to offer revised repayment schedules and waive interest for borrowers to help them bounce back from the crisis. We also leveraged digital financial services to ensure clients could remotely access the money and financial services they needed without risking the spread of disease.

Learn More

borrowers

of microfinance clients are women

in microfinance loans

distributed in 2020





"Before, it was difficult for me and

my family to eat three meals per day, but since I started working with BRAC, there's enough to eat and more to save for the next day."

BRAC microfinance client

in Sierra Leone



Amid COVID-19, decades of progress in the fight

against poverty have been eroded. Nearly 700 million

people around the world experienced extreme poverty

prior to the pandemic, living on less than \$1.90 per

Ultra-Poor Graduation

day, and the World Bank estimates that over 150 million more people have since joined them. These people lack resources and opportunities, but they are full of potential. BRAC's flagship Graduation approach instills hope and provides the knowledge and tools to help people chart a pathway out of poverty. In June 2020, BRAC's <u>Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative</u> was selected to receive a significant investment totaling over \$60 million to be deployed over the next six

years as part of TED's Audacious Project, creating an

opportunity to lift an additional 4.6 million households

out of extreme poverty by 2026. Working alongside governments, BRAC will provide technical advisory services to adapt and scale the Graduation approach around the world, helping to reach families affected by extreme poverty and drive systemic change. Learn More

households graduated out of extreme poverty in Bangladesh

increase in earnings among participants in Bangladesh years after the program ends

years economic benefits are

sustained after the program





Aletha is committed to providing a better life for her daughter.

children to school.

Hope in action: Aletha's story After her husband passed away, Aletha was left to support her children on her own. The little money she made selling charcoal provided barely enough for food, leaving nothing to pay for her children to attend school. But Aletha never gave up. Through BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation program, she studied finance and business management, received coaching and mentorship, and gained the skills and confidence to start her own business. Now, a proud owner of a shop in her village, Aletha is earning enough to send her

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GET INVOLVED

HOME

Agriculture

BRAC partners with vulnerable families to create sustainable ways to adapt to climate change, earn a secure living, link to markets, grow more nutritious and affordable food, and boost their incomes. Especially in rural communities that rely on small-scale agriculture for survival, BRAC trains farmers to increase productivity and profits, reduce their vulnerability to disasters and climate shocks, and improve food security in their communities.

In 2020, BRAC's agriculture project in Liberia began its third year. Despite great disruption posed by the pandemic, the project successfully trained more than 3,800 new farmers — mostly women — and improved mothers' knowledge of good nutrition to help young children thrive. In South Sudan, BRAC reached 8,400 displaced people affected by floods with emergency food supplies as well as seeds, farming tools, and training to recover their livelihoods. In Sierra Leone, we ran two major projects in 2020 that supported nearly 77,000 farmers.

Learn More

farmers supported across 6 countries

people accessed agricultural services

in Bangladesh

of program participants are women



to escape poverty Before the civil war began in Liberia, Justina learned

Families sharing strength

to raise pigs from her mother. As an adult, she and her husband continued pig farming, but after her husband died, Justina found it challenging to make ends meet as a single parent of three. Just as her mother did, Justina instilled a love for raising

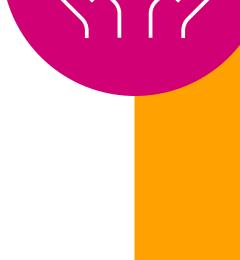
animals in her oldest daughter, Justina Jr. When she

learned that BRAC was training farmers in her community, she encouraged her daughter to participate. Through BRAC's program, Justina Jr. received training, a stipend, four pigs, and feed and medication. Making the most of these resources and her learning, Justina Jr. helped her mother expand their business

their earnings to raise ducks and rabbits, providing their family with an additional stream of income and an opportunity to prosper.

substantially. They now own 40 pigs, and are investing





In communities where needs for health care are great, but

Health Care

care. We train community health workers to serve their localities with basic care and provide information on disease prevention and family planning. Community health workers also screen mothers and children for common illnesses - including malaria, tuberculosis, diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections, and malnutrition — and deliver either basic treatment or referrals to health facilities for care. In 2020, BRAC adapted its health programming to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining access to essential health services for vulnerable communities. We partnered with communities to identify locally tailored

solutions and deliver lifesaving information and tools

access to services and providers is inadequate, BRAC's

network of more than 50,000 community health workers

reaches millions of people with lifesaving, door-to-door

to prevent infection, halt the spread of the virus, and equip people to protect themselves. We adapted existing primary health services to save lives while keeping staff and communities safe. We also we prioritized efforts to support and train frontline community health workers, strengthen health systems, and bolster long-term resilience. Learn More

health services delivered to people in Bangladesh

health care programming

countries with active

people received community

health services in Uganda





Leila is one of BRAC's more than 4,000 community health workers striving to prevent

COVID-19 and improve the well-being of mothers and young children in Uganda.

physical distance."

Walk a mile in my shoes

Leila, a community health worker in Uganda, went doorto-door during the COVID-19 lockdown selling essential household items in hard-to-reach areas. She carried with her solar lights, diapers, porridge, sanitary towels, and mama kits to prevent infections linked to childbirth in mothers and newborns, which include gloves, baby blankets, soap, cotton, gauze, scissors, and bandages. Leila is one of 4,000 BRAC community health workers across 72 districts in Uganda that continued to provide critical door-to-door care during COVID-19.

Leila says, "Before I went to the field during the coronavirus pandemic, BRAC provided training on financial literacy and basic community health practices. We are always reminded to work under strict practice of COVID-19 safety guidelines, such as wearing face masks and maintaining



Humanitarian Response

Most of 2020 was marked with compounding crises, as the same restrictions that kept us safe from COVID-19 also pushed millions into poverty and extreme hunger. Cyclone Amphan, the strongest cyclonic storm ever recorded in the Bay of Bengal, hit the southern coastal regions of Bangladesh, while the longest flood season in three decades inundated the northern regions, putting one-third of the country underwater and causing millions of people to lose their homes, livelihoods, and land. In Bangladesh, BRAC continued to support nearly one

million Rohingya refugees who fled conflict in Myanmar. In 2020, our programs prioritized promoting COVID-19 awareness and prevention and gender equity. Amid COVID-19, a growing epidemic of gender-based violence and rising rates of child marriage affected Rohingya women and girls as they were increasingly required to stay home due to lockdowns and social distancing. A component of BRAC's response included training a group of role models to engage men and boys in their communities to prevent gender-based violence and discrimination. Learn More

families supported with emergency

response after flooding

families received holistic support in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan

people reached with COVID-19 awareness messages in Cox's Bazar





Made possible by The LEGO Foundation, these two new

Sesame Street: Noor and Aziz

Noor and Aziz are six-year-old Rohingya Muppet twins who

partners at Sesame Workshop, BRAC is bringing new playful

learning content featuring Noor and Aziz to Rohingya refugee

children in Bangladesh through our Humanitarian Play Labs.

live in a refugee camp in Bangladesh. Together with our

Muppets will be featured in our Play to Learn program in collaboration with Sesame Workshop, International Rescue Committee, and New York University Global TIES for Children.



the pandemic, we immediately launched a comprehensive, multi-sector response, reaching communities with public health interventions, humanitarian assistance to meet

COVID-19 Update

In March 2020, our 100,000 frontline staff and volunteers rapidly mobilized to safely deliver lifesaving messages and prevent infections through mass public communications and door-to-door outreach. We also adapted our existing programs to include mask-wearing, social distancing, and digital and remote interventions. To address sharp drops in income and food security caused by the pandemic, we

launched emergency food and cash transfer programs to

urgent needs, and socioeconomic development programs.

BRAC is built on the principle of standing with the most

vulnerable, particularly in times of crisis. At the onset of

extend safety nets to people affected. The impacts of COVID-19 are still hitting hard around the world, and the most vulnerable families are falling deeper into poverty. In the coming year, we are committed to partnering with communities to build back better and ensure no one is left behind. Learn More

people reached with lifesaving information about COVID-19

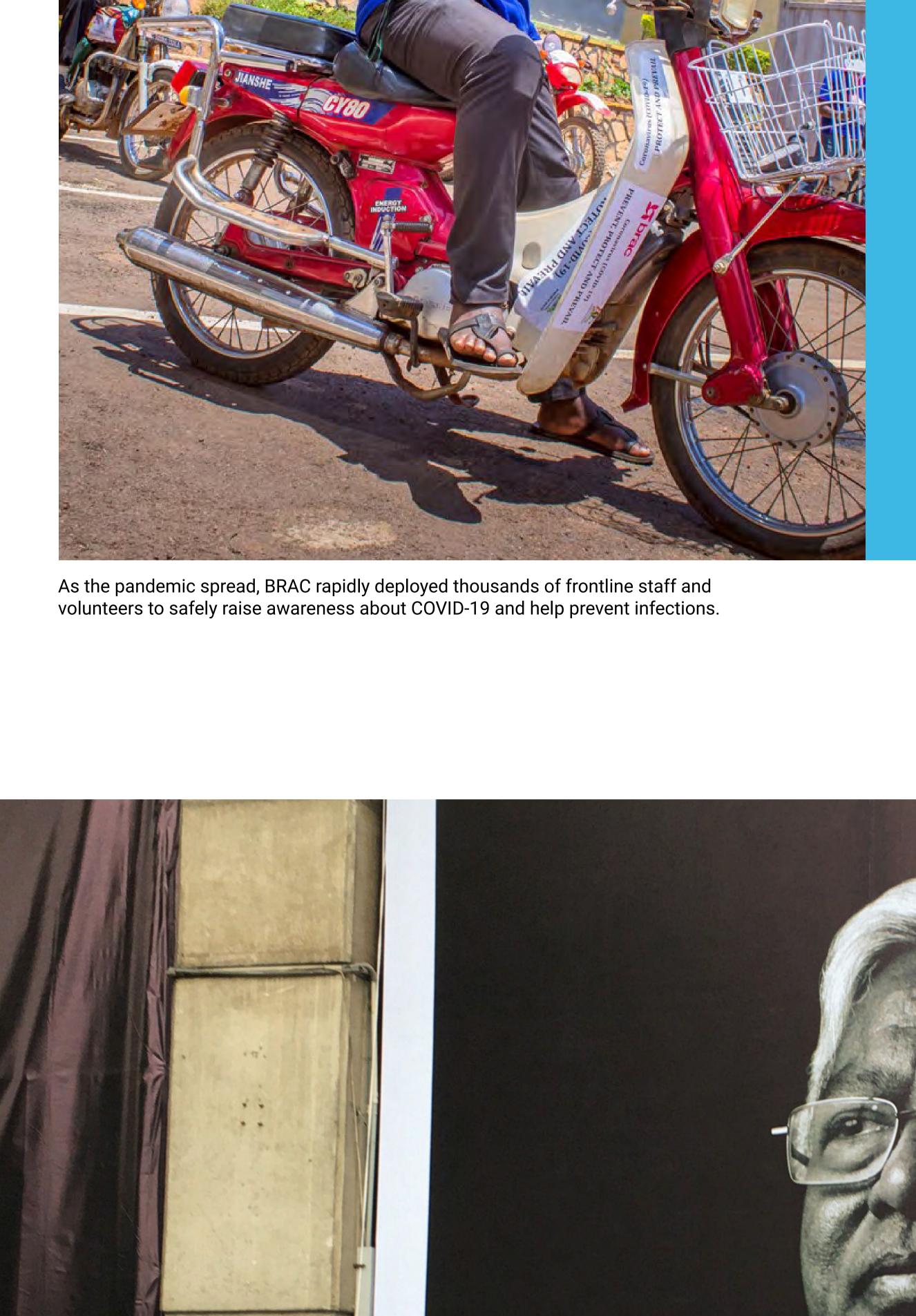
COVID-19 testing kiosks

set up in Bangladesh

in emergency cash transfers sent

to 700,000 households affected by COVID-19





and costs over generations." Dr. Muhammad Musa, Executive Director, BRAC International

"The indirect impact of COVID-19

in the Global South will be even

greater than the direct impact. The

direct impact, as tragic as it is, affects

those infected and their families.

The indirect impact has economic

and social consequences for vastly

more people — with jobs lost,

families hungry, domestic violence

up, more children leaving school,



Lincoln and Abed were trusted thought partners, pioneers, and devotees to the idea that a small group of dedicated people could light a spark to empower marginalized people to transform their lives. They believed there was a way to apply principles of science, business, learning, and

innovation to eradicate poverty altogether. Lincoln's involvement with Abed — and with what would later become BRAC — began in November 1970, when a devastating cyclone struck present-day Bangladesh, killing hundreds of thousands of people and becoming the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded. At that time,

Lincoln was a research scientist at the Cholera Research Laboratory in Dhaka. He joined a group

of American expatriate doctors at the Laboratory, together with a group of Bengali friends and

neighbors, including Abed, to launch a modest relief effort. Those efforts eventually inspired

Abed's founding of BRAC in 1972.

Lincoln remained deeply involved after BRAC was "born," providing rigorous technical guidance and championing its pilots of new community-based health approaches. At every major juncture of BRAC's growth, he has played an important role.

organization provides so many jobs and helps so many people in need. I consider money to be a tool and like to believe I have a kind heart. These two became perfect partners; as an adult they have enabled me to do what I grew up seeing in my father's generosity towards people in need around him. I would like to see no more economic suffering in my motherland, Bangladesh."

"I fell in love with BRAC when I realized how a single

Rafiq Shah,

BRAC USA supporter

\$1,000,000+

Anonymous (2)

Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation

Living Goods

MacKenzie Scott

Rippleworks Foundation

The LEGO Foundation

\$500,000+

Anonymous (2)

\$100,000+

Acacia Conservation Fund

Anonymous **Asian Development Bank Center for Disaster** Philanthropy Conrad N. Hilton Foundation **Echidna Giving Erol Foundation** GlobalGiving in partnership with VF Corporation Google.org **Guerrant Foundation** Johnson & Johnson **Medtronic Foundation PepsiCo Foundation Sandy River Charitable Foundation** The Horace W. Goldsmith **Foundation** Weberg Family Foundation

CDC Foundation

\$50,000+

David Coolidge and Sumaiya Balbale

Every Good Thing, LLC

Facebook company

Humanity United

TOMS

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Jackson Lewis P.C.

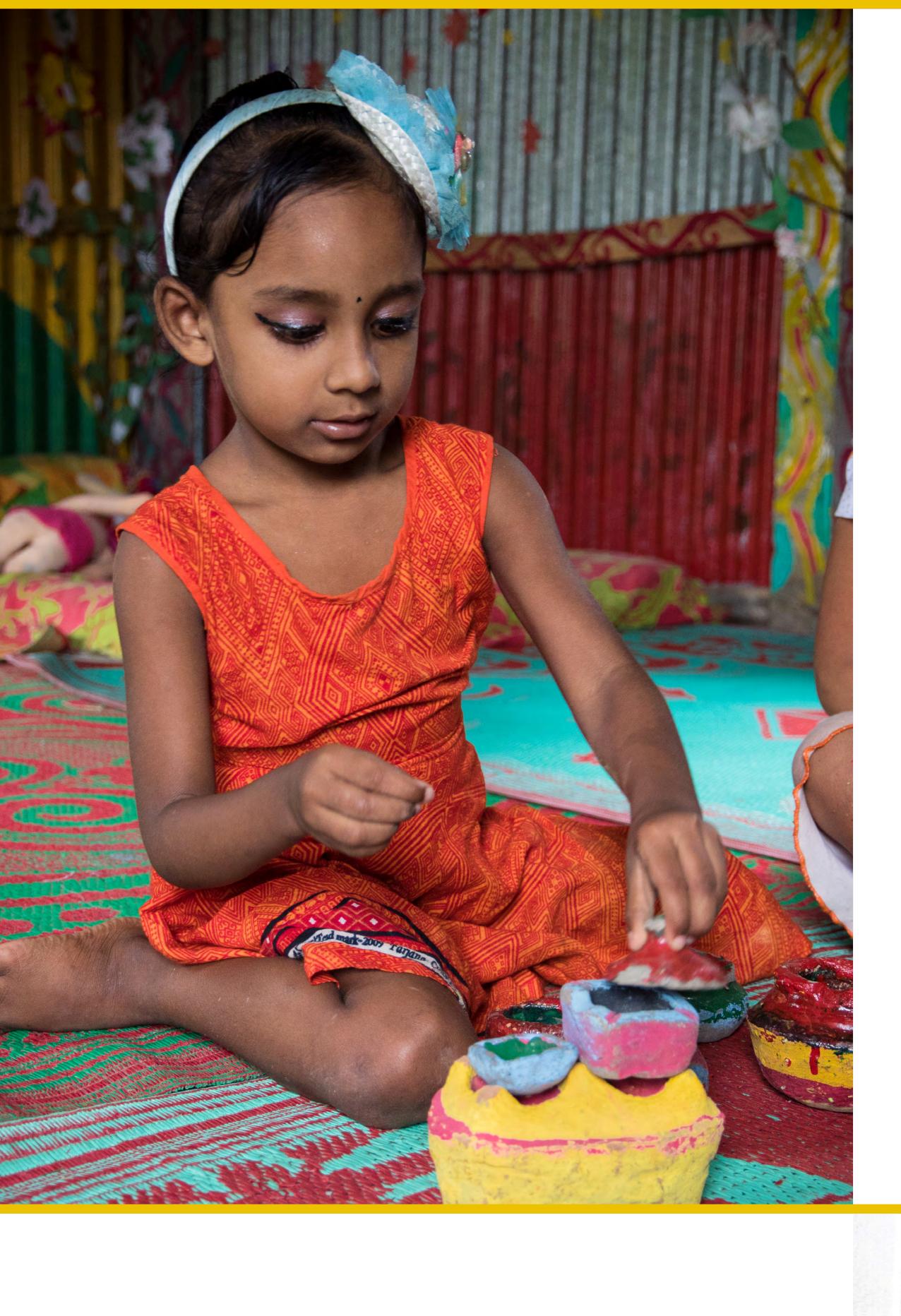
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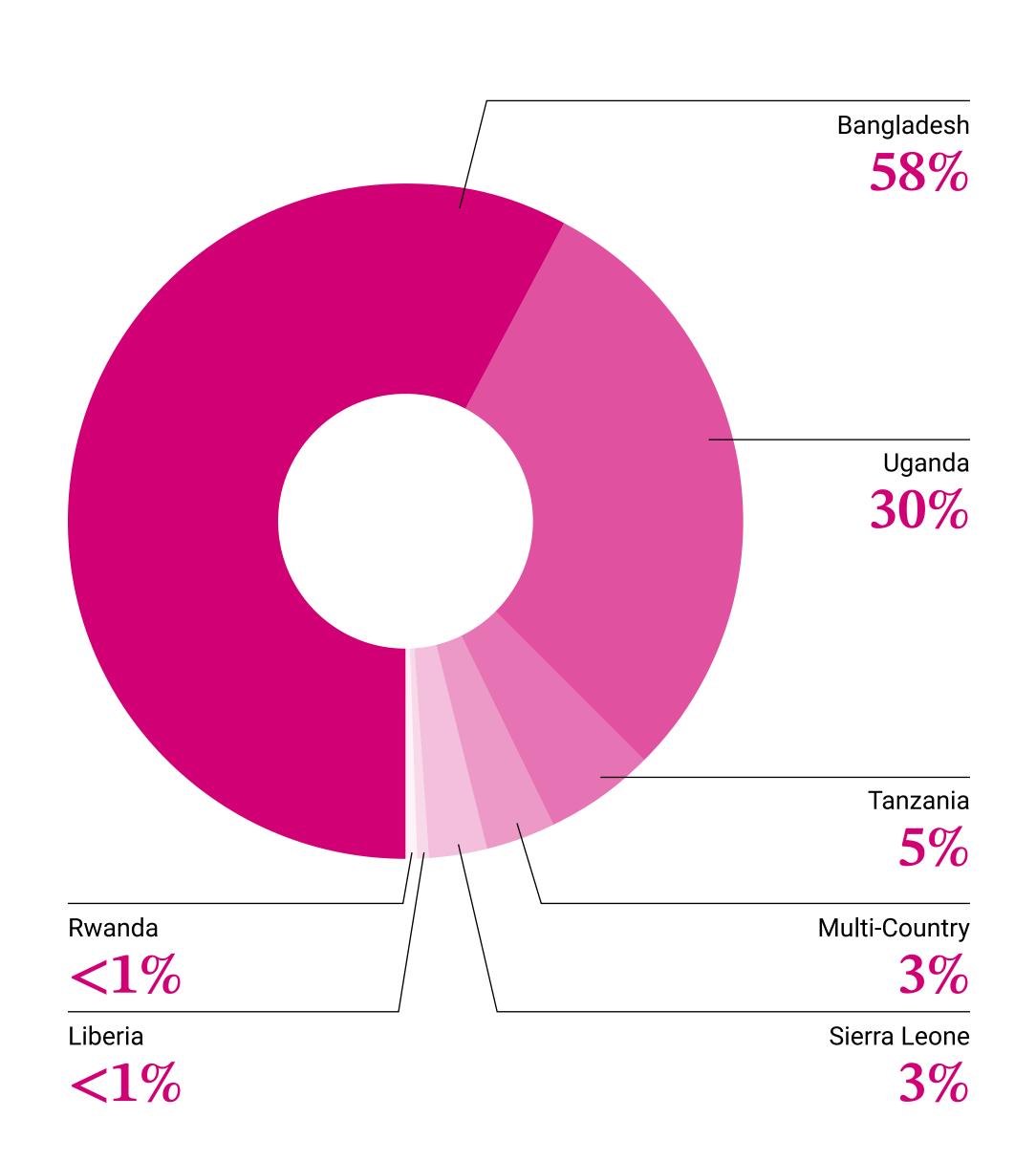
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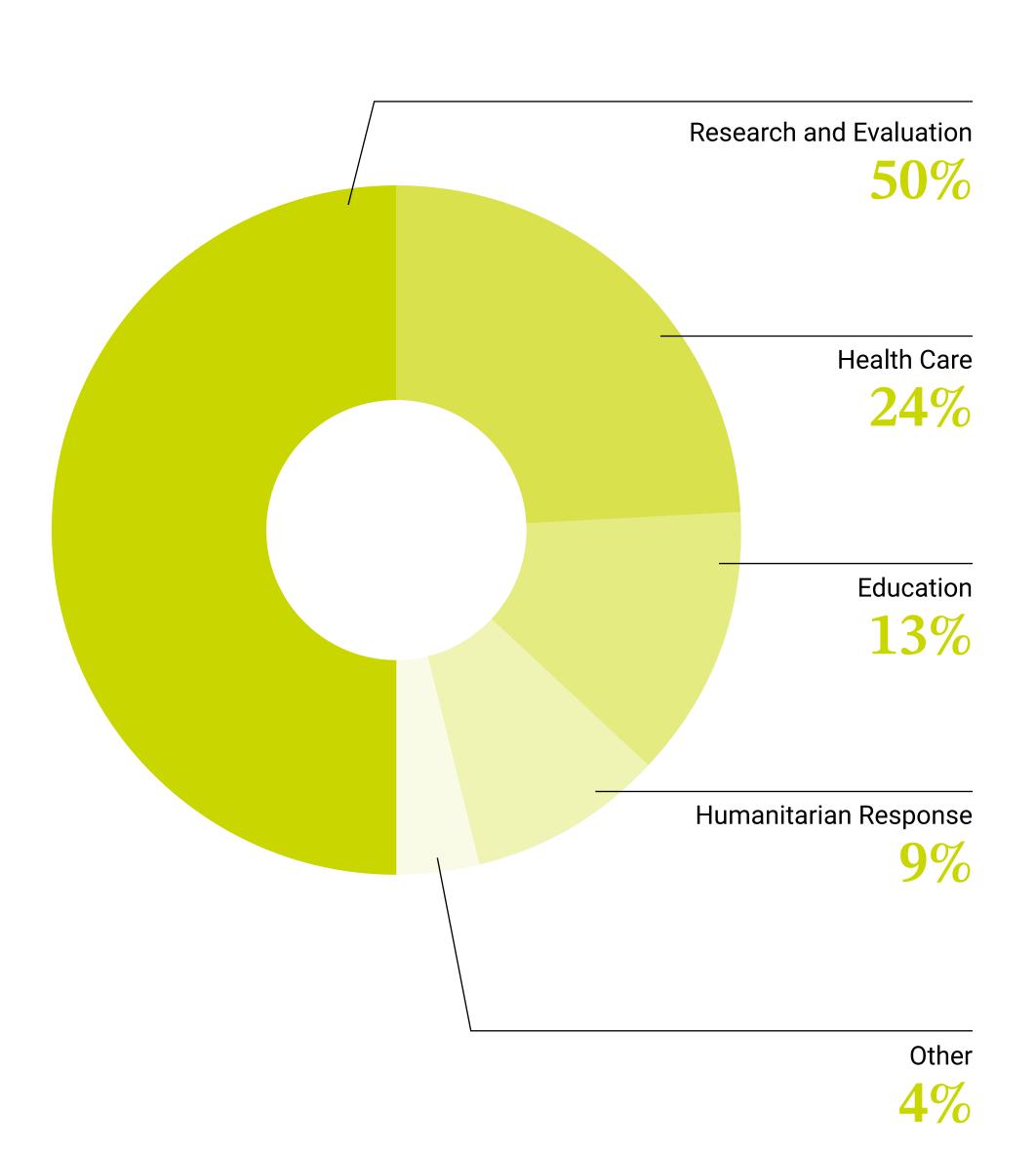
Debra Wetherby



Grants by Country FY 2020



Grants by Program FY 2020



Statement of Activities

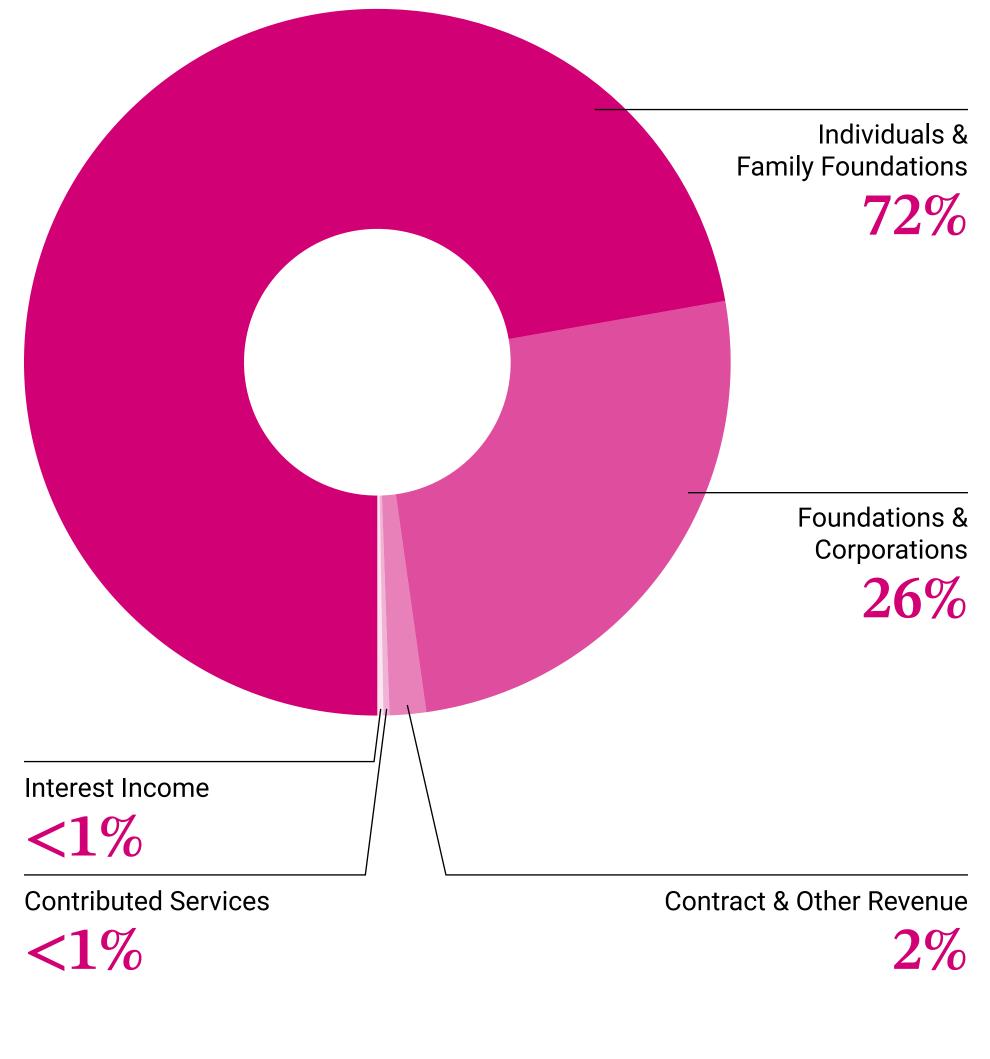
For the fiscal year ended September 30

	2020	2019
Revenue & Other Support		
Foundations & Corporations	18,943,184	6,265,797
Individuals & Family Foundations	53,212,776	9,499,026
Contract & Other Revenue	1,224,145	1,559,904
Contributed Services	137,429	65,951
Interest Income	75,596	140,872
Total Revenue & Other Support	73,593,130	17,531,550
Expenses		
Program Services: Grants & Contracts	14,918,299	9,109,973
Program Services: Program Management	4,626,554	4,058,075
Fundraising	1,599,682	1,016,619
Management & General	863,751	763,643
Total Expenses	22,008,286	14,948,310
Surplus (Deficit)	51,584,844	2,583,240

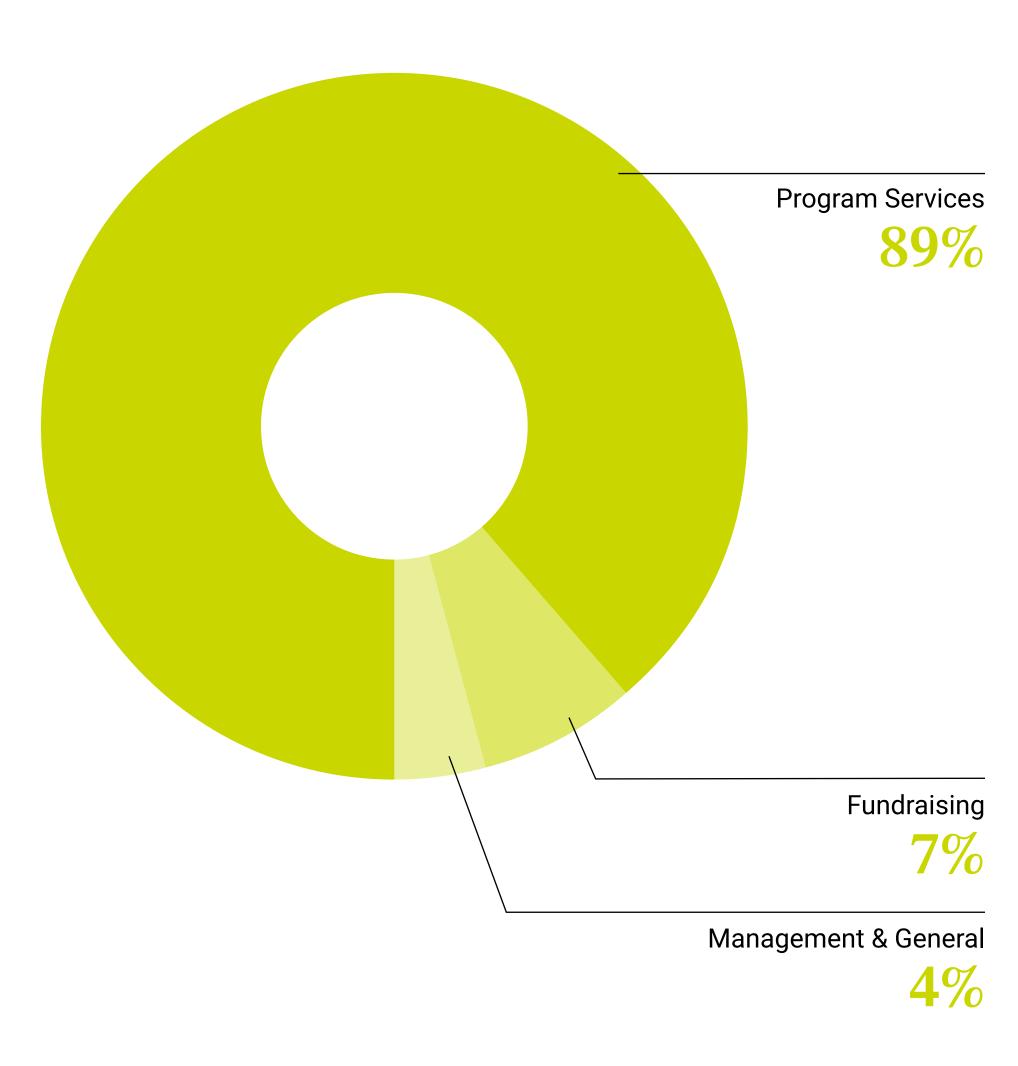
In FY20, BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative was selected as a 2020 Audacious Project Partner with grant commitments (some conditional) totaling \$64.5 million, of which \$53 million was recorded during FY20, giving rise to the large surplus in that year. This funding will be on-granted to BRAC International in FY21 for deployment over the next five years.

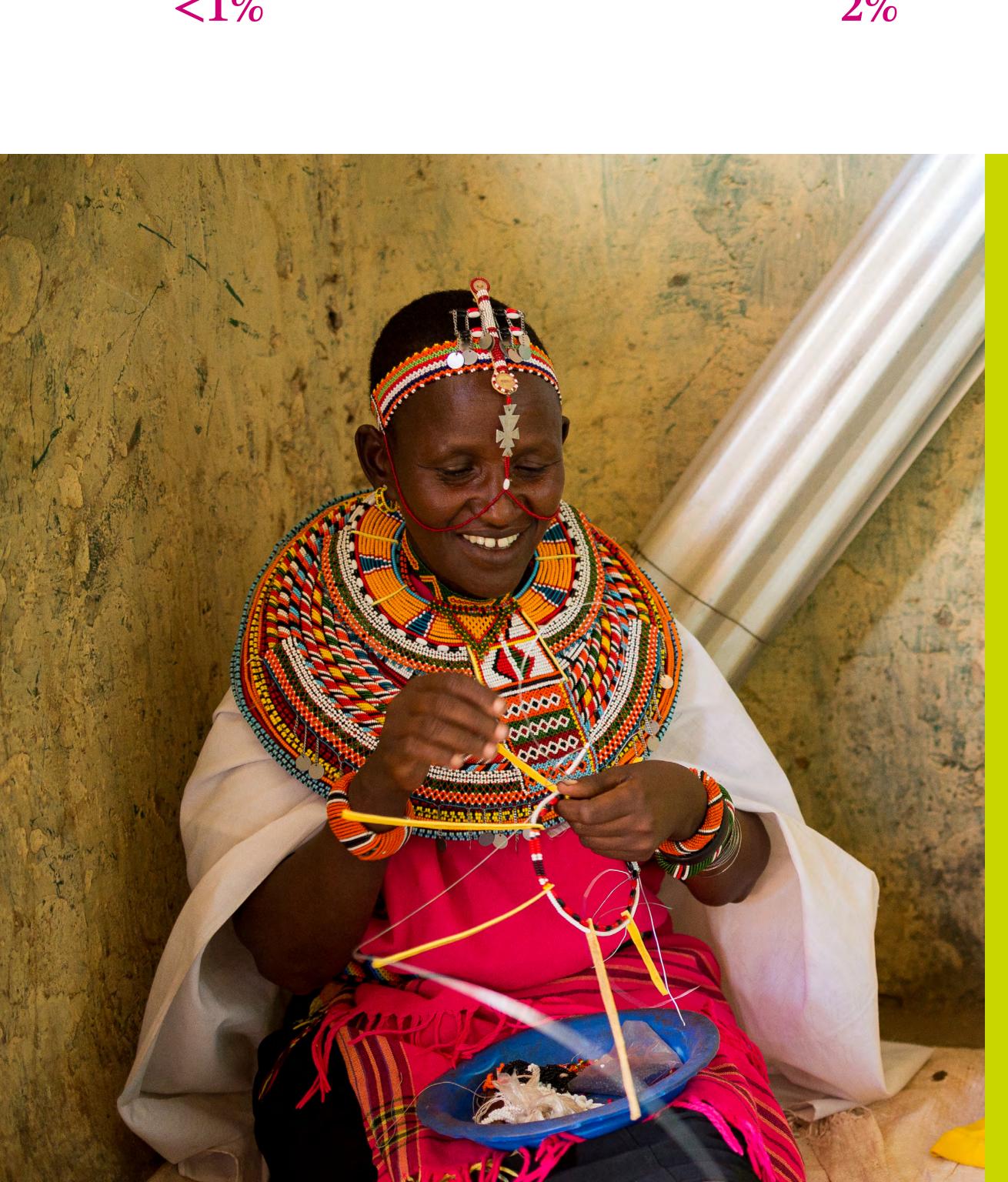


Revenues by Source FY 2020



Breakdown of Expenses FY 2020





As of September 30

Statement of Financial Position

With Donor Restrictions

Total Liabilities & Net Assets

Total Net Assets

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	57,513,716	18,513,184
Restricted Cash	1,256,324	1,253,062
Unconditional Promises to Give	16,382,047	4,377,712
Accounts Receivable	525,327	412,098
Prepaid Expenses & Other Current Assets	132,125	82,590
Property & Equipment, Net	164,506	108,769
Security Deposits	73,472	73,14
Total Assets	76,047,517	24,820,556
iabilities.		
	76,047,517 1,357,594 51,021	1,218,21
Liabilities Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	1,357,594	1,218,21 ⁹ 55,03 ⁹
Liabilities Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Income	1,357,594	1,218,219 55,03 1,854,71
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Income Refundable Advance	1,357,594 51,021 –	1,218,21 55,03 1,854,71 10,522,62
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Income Refundable Advance Grants Payable	1,357,594 51,021 - 11,882,910	1,218,21 55,03 1,854,71 10,522,62 119,11
Liabilities Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Income Refundable Advance Grants Payable Deferred Rent	1,357,594 51,021 - 11,882,910 120,301	1,218,219 55,03 1,854,718 10,522,624 119,11
Liabilities Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Income Refundable Advance Grants Payable Deferred Rent	1,357,594 51,021 - 11,882,910 120,301	1,218,219 55,03 1,854,718 10,522,624 119,119 13,769,709
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Income Refundable Advance Grants Payable Deferred Rent Total Liabilities	1,357,594 51,021 - 11,882,910 120,301	1,218,219 55,03 1,854,718 10,522,624 119,11

52,980,530

62,635,691

76,047,517

1,685,773

11,050,847

24,820,556

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Make a one-time gift

Your support helps ensure that millions of people – Rohingya refugees, mothers, children, smallholder farmers, and more – can take control of their lives.

Donate

Be a champion of potential

You have the power to fund hope. Our monthly giving program, Champions of Potential, is helping fuel people's hope and self-confidence to reach their full potential.

Fund Hope

Fundraise to end poverty

Activate your community and help build a more equitable world where everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential. Whether you're running a race, celebrating a birthday, or hosting an event, fundraising for BRAC is an incredible way to inspire your community.

Fundraise

Make BRAC USA your charity on Amazon Smile

You can make a difference when you shop on Amazon. For each purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% to help end poverty around the world. It only takes a few simple clicks to set up.

Choose BRAC

Make a legacy gift

Create your free, legal will to support the people and causes you care about most. As you make your plan, you will also have the option to include a gift to BRAC USA, and dedicate a portion of your legacy to empower vulnerable families around the world to rise above poverty.

Create Your Will



bracusa.org info@bracusa.org +1 212-808-5615









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