Unleashing the power of social entrepreneurship & innovation to create a better world for children and youth
“Reach for Change were the ones who believed in us the most, who gave us a chance to get here and get started. Without them, there would be no Life with Down Syndrome at all. No change was going to happen because, despite our strong desire, we didn’t know how to do it.”

— Silvena Hristova and Krasimir Lambov, Bulgaria

“I have won numerous competitions and awards and that is all because I can easily and quickly explain the problem I’m solving. This is because Reach for Change helped me define my solution and put my ideas and my thoughts in the right boxes.”

— Baiba Blomniec, Latvia

“If it weren’t for Reach for Change I would probably be a ‘café guy’, which is what we call those who con people in internet cafés. The Incubator was like an informal university degree for me. Instead of committing crime I am now creating a better Ghana for children.”

— Mo Tahir, Ghana

“Reach for Change were the ones who believed in us the most, who gave us a chance to get here and get started. Without them, there would be no Life with Down Syndrome at all. No change was going to happen because, despite our strong desire, we didn’t know how to do it.”

— Silvena Hristova and Krasimir Lambov, Bulgaria
Since 2010, Reach for Change has been empowering social entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions that improve the lives of children.

Who we are
Reach for Change is an international non-profit founded in Sweden. Our vision is a world where all children reach their full potential. We are working towards this vision by finding local social entrepreneurs and empowering them to develop and scale innovative solutions that help children to better lives. We were co-founded by successful entrepreneurs in the non-profit and the business sector in 2010, and since then we have supported more than 1,000 social entrepreneurs in 18 countries across three continents.

What we do
We run development programs for social entrepreneurs, tailored to their specific developmental stage. The social entrepreneurs are supported to develop, then scale, their innovations through capacity-building, network connections and funding, all in partnership with multiple sectors.

About this report
You hold in your hand our 10th Social Impact Report. It is a summary of the impact we had in 2019, what we did to achieve our vision, and some of the things we learned on the way.

The impact reported covers all markets where we supported social ventures, and the financial statements cover all markets but Russia which is an independent franchise. You can also find this information on our website, reachforchange.org.

2019 has been a special year in the Reach for Change journey. Gearing up for our ten year anniversary in 2020 we have been prompted to evaluate what we have learned on this journey. We have also gotten started with the very important task of deciding what kind of impact we want to have as an organisation during the next ten years.

One of the most critical lessons we have learned is the need to pave the way for our social entrepreneurs through developing and contributing to the ecosystems around us. This year we organised our first high-level delegation trip to the Social Enterprise World Forum in Ethiopia, where we were a key partner. In organising co-collaboration events such as a Round Table attended by Ethiopia’s State Minister of Industry, key Ambassadors and key high level representatives from UNIDO and the IKEA Foundation, we are able to build a strong case for the power of social enterprise as a change agent. We are also able to advocate for the critical support our entrepreneurs need to be able to scale their innovations.

This year, we also presented the final recommendations and findings from our Innovation for Integration programme in Sweden to the Minister of Business, Industry and Innovation together with our partner — the Stenbeck Foundation. We are convinced that social entrepreneurship can be the catalyst that changes systems for the better, and transforms our economies and societies to become more green, equitable and just — especially for those most vulnerable.

On International Women’s Day this year we launched our first global programme. We selected eleven outstanding female founders from nine countries from our portfolio who were all working on closing the gender divide in tech. Our BRIDGIT programme celebrates the fact that social entrepreneurship can be a powerful tool in tackling structural barriers and inequalities. We are especially proud to have 67% female led ventures in our portfolio.

While continuing to drive impact across all our geographies through our pre-incubator, incubator and business readiness programmes, I am excited to see how our team continues to push new boundaries — with critical advocacy work and ecosystem work. I am also proud of how we have been able to push the needle on some of the key structural inequalities in our society today through unleashing the power of social entrepreneurship.
We incubated 120 social entrepreneurs who in turn supported 501,987 children and youth.

In 2019 we incubated 120 social entrepreneurs who in turn supported 501,987 children and youth.

PROBLEM addressed

Around the world, millions of children’s needs are not being met, and social entrepreneurs who are eager and able to help lack the support they need to scale their impact. Reach for Change is helping to bridge this support gap to empower high-potential social ventures to develop faster, better and with lower risk of failure.

Page 08

RESOURCES used for our activities

In 2019 we invested 4.6M USD in support programs for social entrepreneurs in 15 countries. In addition to running development programs, we cultivated the ecosystem for social entrepreneurship.

Page 36

ACTIVITIES to achieve impact

To help the social entrepreneurs develop and scale their solutions to impact more children, we offered:

- Capacity building
- Network connections
- Grant funding
- Stamp of approval

Page 10

OUTPUTS for social ventures in our incubators

We incubated in total 120 social ventures, of which:

- 99% were capacity-built
- 91% were connected to useful people or opportunities
- 46% received a grant from Reach for Change
- 81% experienced increased credibility

Page 11

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES for social ventures in our incubators

We aim for our incubator participants to build the organizational and financial capabilities to scale. In 2019, the SEs in our incubator program achieved 67% of their targeted development milestones.

Page 20

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES for our alumni

Our long-term goal is that our alumni scale their impact to a significant share of their target group, contributing to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals for children and youth. 90% of our alumni are still in business, have continued to grow.

Page 23

67% of Reach for Change targeted development milestones

Page 20

In 2019 we invested 4.6M USD in support programs for social entrepreneurs in 13 countries.

Page 36

In addition to running development programs, we cultivated the ecosystem for social entrepreneurship.

Page 10

*Including 9 rapid scale program participants

**Output results are exclusive to incubator participants and do not include the 9 rapid scale program participants

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Problem

No country in the world is adequately protecting children’s health, their environment and their futures. It has been estimated that around 250 million children under five years of age in low- and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their developmental potential and every child worldwide faces existential threats from climate change and commercial pressures.1

If we are to change this alarming trend, fulfill the SDGs for our children and youth and create a sustainable future, we need to act now and we need to act together.

1 www.thelancet-press.com/embargo/childhealth.pdf

Solution

Our core belief is that human innovation and entrepreneurship are powerful and necessary tools for addressing many of the pressing issues faced by children. However, social entrepreneurs today lack the support they need to realize their solutions and scale their impact. A study conducted by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth observes that “The undoubtedly largest [unmet] need among social entrepreneurs is access to funding and markets. Thereafter follows a need for advisory and business development to start and to grow, followed by a need for support on impact measurement and reporting.”2 We see these needs not only in Sweden, but across the world.

Reach for Change helps bridge the support gap for social ventures who are contributing to the fulfillment of the Sustainable development Goals for children and youth. We identify those with the highest potential, then support them to develop effective, sustainable and scalable solutions by providing them a mixture of capacity building, network connections and funding support. We also work to build more supportive operating environments for social entrepreneurs by helping to strengthen the ecosystems around them. All our work is powered by our broad, cross-sector network of partners.

Reach for Change runs three primary direct support programs, Investment Readiness (concept to proof of concept stage delivered within our search & selection process), Incubators (proof of concept to early growth) and Rapid Scale (early growth to growth).

Core principles on how we design our programs:

**Local expertise.** We find local entrepreneurs who are closest to the problems in the community, and support them with local teams.

**Impact scale.** Our programs focus on different growth stages, but all are geared to the end goal of scaled impact.

**Co-creation,** partnering for change. We work with local and international partners who are brave enough to innovate together and to invest in new ideas and people.

Who are we looking for?

Passionate and committed leaders and teams with strong ethics

Working towards one of the nearly 40 SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) targets for children and youth

Clear understanding on how the solution leads to the targeted impact goals

Potential for financial sustainability and strong impact scaling

How do we find them?

Campaigns and applications

Scouting and headhunting in our networks

Screening by Reach for Change and subject matter experts

Face-to-face interviews

Site visits and references

Investment readiness support

Pitch to a jury

Search and selection

For selection to the 2019 incubator, we screened **848** social enterprises and selected **4%** for the Incubator

To reach our goals, investing in the right social ventures is as important as providing them the right support. More than 800 social ventures from around the world applied to our 2019 incubator. Only the very best 38 were selected, joining the 82 selected in previous years.

Investment readiness is the extent to which a social enterprise is ready for Reach for Change investment, by way of access to our incubator program. We assess investment readiness through the Investment Readiness Diagnostic, an assessment tool with 12 investment criteria for the applicant to fulfill e.g. "The problem addressed is clearly defined, and the scope and severity of the problem are backed up with data from a reliable source".

Meeting all 12 criteria means that the entrepreneur is 100% ready for Reach for Change investment. Among the entrepreneurs selected to the 2019 incubator, the average investment readiness was **91%**.

*The 2019 investment readiness assessment was used in the selection of 23 candidates from 5 countries. In total, we selected 38 candidates from 8 countries for our incubator in 2019.
Selected social entrepreneurs are offered unrestricted financial support for developing and delivering their solutions and for strengthening the capacity and capabilities of their team.

We offer advisory support, technical training, mentoring, coaching and peer-to-peer exchange across five key development areas: effective solution, financial sustainability, leadership and team, impact scaling and systems change.

We connect our social entrepreneurs to our local and international network of experts and funders, with the aim of creating new learning opportunities, partnerships and sources of revenue.

Beyond our other support, a place in our incubator acts as a stamp of approval for many of our social entrepreneurs, due to our highly competitive selection process and our reputation in the market.

In 2017, Reach for Change and the IKEA Foundation announced a new partnership in Ethiopia. The intention was to put social entrepreneurship on the map and to support outstanding entrepreneurs build social enterprises that would improve the health, education and protection of children in Africa’s second most populous country.

The Rapid Scale program is a unique initiative in Ethiopia. Whilst incremental growth is common, scaling requires a totally different mindset and approach. Through a mixture of intensive coaching, mentoring and advisory support, the Rapid Scale program targets more established entrepreneurs.

Ellilta Products, led by Emnet Mersha and Nebiyu Hail, is one of the Ethiopian enterprises in our Rapid Scale program. They provide former sex workers with rehabilitation and job opportunities. Ellilta trains women to create artisan jewelry, clothing and other fashion products which are sold in global and local markets, enabling them to earn a good living and support themselves and their families.

Meet one of our rapid scale entrepreneurs
The digital revolution has transformed the way we interact with one another, opened the doors for innovation we only ever dreamed of and is tackling issues and making the world a better place in ways we’ve never seen before. But there is a big problem in the digital sector. All around the world, whether in Stockholm or Accra, digital tech is a field almost entirely dominated by men. The absence of female talent means that the digital world that is being built is missing women’s perspectives, talent and ingenuity. And a digital world built exclusively by men will inevitably become a digital world built for men. It will be a world that falls short of its potential.

When women are left out of the equation, we all lose.

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When women are left out of the equation, we all lose.

In the global tech workspace, women are greatly underrepresented compared to their male counterparts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global share of tech sector jobs by gender¹</th>
<th>Percentage of women in tech workforce by country²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloud Computing</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data &amp; AI</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global share</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of tech sector jobs by gender¹</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of tech sector jobs by gender¹</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf
² www.honeypot.io/women-in-tech-2018

I’m truly thankful for having the opportunity to be an advisor in BRIDGIT. Throughout it’s been an exchange of knowledge and experiences that both inspired and motivated me to lengths I didn’t know where possible.

— Alexandra Karnig, Kivra

Mashresha empowers girls with coding skills

Mashresha Beniam is the founder OmniTech Consultancy, a training center that provides interactive, practical and real time training in programming and coding. The centre promotes skills in software and mobile app development among youth — especially girls — to bring about quality products to the world and fill the digital gap, while empowering youth to solve real world problems.

I learned a lot during the BRIDGIT program, especially in the one week in Stockholm. The most important thing for me was the “have-needs” challenge, where we identified what we have and need from others in a systematic way. I always used to struggle when trying to make new partnerships. But through this process, I was able to identify what I can offer and what I need from others in a better way.

— Mashresha Beniam
In Ethiopia we run a Business readiness program that helps early stage social enterprises navigate the process of launching a business in Ethiopia. The program provides these social entrepreneurs with legal, operational and financial set-up support, all tailored to Ethiopia’s unique social enterprise landscape.

In Senegal we run the Senegal Start-Up Accelerator, an intensive twenty-six week program for early stage social entrepreneurs specializing in the agriculture and fishing sectors, made possible by the Kosmos Innovation Center. The program helps turn innovative ideas into high potential social ventures, by guiding social entrepreneurs through the early and fragile stages of business growth. Participants are provided with expert individual and group trainings, organized visits to established businesses and professional mentoring.

In 2019, these unique offerings included:

- The Senegal Start-Up Accelerator
- The Stockholm Hub
- The Kosmos Innovation Center
- The Swedish Innovation Agency

Always running a number of additional niche offerings. These start as one-offs but always lead to new insights and innovations that can then be brought into our primary programs.

In 2019, these unique offerings included:

- The Senegal Start-Up Accelerator
- The Stockholm Hub
- The Kosmos Innovation Center
- The Swedish Innovation Agency

In 2019, Ethiopia was host to the Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF), a leading global exchange and collaboration forum around social entrepreneurship. As a member of the technical steering committee, Reach for Change played a key role supporting the development of the program content. To foster cross-cultural learnings we invited a diverse international delegation of actors from corporates, philanthropic foundations to government institutions to attend SEWF, and organized a round table event with speakers including Ethiopia’s Minister of Trade and Industry, the director of UNIDO’s regional office in Ethiopia, the Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia and the COO of IKEA Foundation.

As part of our ecosystem work in Ghana in 2019, Reach for Change undertook a project (funded by GIZ and executed by the British Council) to develop an open source entrepreneurship curriculum and then to train trainers at seven entrepreneurship hubs across the country in its delivery. The curriculum was then used to train over 3000 youth at risk of migration and the curriculum will be made available to the rest of the ecosystem to use freely.

In Sweden we are involved in the development of social enterprise policy and the wider sector in a number of ways.

As a board member of the newly formed National Advisory Council Board for Impact Investing, we are contributing to the development of this part of the sector.

Through our Partnering for Change event we brought together 200 decision-makers and practitioners from across Sweden to share learnings on impact measurement, scaling and partnership.

We presented findings and outcomes from the Innovation for Integration program to a cross-sectoral audience including representatives from corporates such as Kinnevik and Telia2, foundations such as Stenbeck Stiftelse, INGOs such as Save the Children and government institutions such as Vinnova (Sweden’s innovation agency under the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation).

In partnership with Vinnova, we are also taking the next step in the work to unleash the power of social innovation in Sweden by developing new tools to support early stage social entrepreneurs to achieve key development milestones. We have taken a cross-sector approach here too, developing the tools in cooperation with corporate partners and with peers and experts from the social entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Beyond our direct programs, in all the markets where we operate we also undertake work to help cultivate the social entrepreneurship ecosystems in which the social entrepreneurs we support are operating. Due to the importance of this work we have taken an increasingly active role over the past few years. Here are some of the highlights from 2019.

CULTIVATING THE ECOSYSTEM
OUR OUTPUTS IN 2019

120 social ventures received support in our Incubator and Rapid Scale programs in 2019. Support is tailored to each venture’s needs, spread across our five targeted development areas. The overall usefulness of connections was identified as an area for improvement so we are pleased to see efforts here reflected in the results (90% compared to 71% the previous year).

46% of our social entrepreneurs were selected to receive a grant, amounts ranging from $900 to $69,000 USD (totaling $979,000 USD).

Funding was commonly used for program development, program delivery, and hiring more staff.

76% report that the grant was largely or extremely important for sustaining their operations.

99% of the social entrepreneurs report that they received some kind of capacity-building support:

- 89% — measuring their social impact
- 84% — developing their financial sustainability
- 86% — strengthening their leadership and team
- 90% — scaling their impact
- 86% — progressing towards systems change

91% report that Reach for Change connected them with at least one person and/or opportunity (on average five).

90% found the connections overall useful:

- 79% gained knowledge
- 44% formed new partnerships/collaborations
- 39% acquired new tools
- 15% gained new funding

81% report that they were promoted through a Reach for Change communication channel

91% felt that incubator participation helped increase their credibility

*84 out of 120 social entrepreneurs were surveyed, excluding (a) 9 social entrepreneurs who followed a different program and (b) 27 social entrepreneurs who had participated in the Incubator less than 8 months
**HOW OUR ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOPED: SHORT TERM RESULTS**

**Targeted outcomes**

Our medium-term goal is that our social ventures develop effective solutions for children and youth and become ready to scale. More specifically our goals are that, by the end of their third year in the incubator, our social ventures:

- Have proven an effective solution for children and youth
- Are ready to financially sustain their operations at scale
- Have strong leadership and a team ready for scale
- Have initiated impact scaling
- Have begun carrying out systems change activities (if applicable)

**How we measure**

Each year, we monitor our social ventures’ development towards the targeted outcomes through a before and after assessment i.e. at the start and end of each incubator year. The indicator we use is **Number of milestones achieved**, where a milestone is an activity to complete or a result to achieve on the path towards the targeted outcome. In the graph below, milestones are symbolized by the pink boxes.

Milestone achievement is assessed in dialogue between our in-country Program Manager and the social entrepreneur. For several of the milestones our global Impact Team validates the assessment by reviewing empirical evidence (read more on page 34 in the section How we measure impact).

The results below are results for our short-term outcomes. Our ambition for the upcoming year is to set proper indicators for our medium-term outcomes, mentioned under targeted outcomes above, so that we can effectively monitor and evaluate them as well.

**Results**

91% of our social ventures developed** within at least one of the five areas during 2019, and 38% developed within four or five areas. They were able to check off on average 10 new milestones and achieved on average 67% of the targeted milestones across all areas.

We observe that the area where social entrepreneurs achieve the most new milestones (on average 3 new milestones) is area A Effective solution and the fewest (on average 0.8 new milestones) in area E Systems Change.

**On the previous page we report on how our social ventures developed during 2019. In an attempt to capture how much of this development would not have happened without our support — our impact — we surveyed our social entrepreneurs anonymously at the end of 2019**.

96% of our social entrepreneurs believe that they would have developed less without support from Reach for Change, and 41% believe that they would have developed significantly or far less, or stopped operating/never started operating.

Our contribution to our social ventures’ development was reported as the largest within the areas Financial sustainability and Leadership and team. Our contribution was reported as the smallest within the area Systems change.

*The survey was sent to those who had participated at least 8 months in the core incubator (84 of 111 social ventures), of which 82% (n=69) responded.
Our targeted long-term outcome is that our alumni (the social ventures that have graduated from the incubator) scale their impact to a significant share of their target group and contribute to fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals for children and youth. Based on the results of our most recent alumni survey, we see that 9 out of 10 continue to operate.*

The 3-year survival rate of supported social entrepreneurs after graduating from our Incubator program is 88%. This is comparable to the average 3-year survival rate of incubators and innovation centers in the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN, 89%**).
During 2019, our social ventures supported 501,987 children and youth contributing to the fulfilment of mainly four SDGs.

**Age.** 98% of the beneficiaries reached were children (under 18 years old) and 2% were youth (18–24 years old).

**Support channel.** Approximately 10% of the children and youth were reached face to face and 90% through a digital tool, through parents or professionals, or through a product.

Our social ventures aim to impact children and youth in many different ways. The below split is based on the impact that our social ventures aimed to achieve in the short term, i.e. during activities carried out in 2019, ranging from lives improved to lives changed to lives protected.

A life improved in the short term can mean a life changed or protected in the medium term or long term. For example, the Bulgarian social venture Love Guide provides sex education to youth with one of the purposes being raised awareness about the importance of using protection during sex. In the short term this improves lives but in the medium and long term, for a share of the youth, this is likely to mean that unwanted teenage pregnancies are avoided (lives changed) or that serious STDs such as HIV are averted (lives protected).

In the split below, the impact targeted and potentially achieved beyond 2019 is not accounted for, so the largest slice of the graph is lives improved.

Another 12,413 children and youth were supported within SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 16 by 12 SEs.
It has been estimated that around 25 million Ethiopians suffer from some form of mental disorder. However, only 10 percent of those 25 million receive any kind of treatment and only as few as 1 percent receive specialist care. If this problem goes unaddressed, Ethiopia runs the risk of increasing suicide rates, higher unemployment rates and an increased number of street children because parents are unable to care for their children.

In 2019, Erk Mead supported 516 children and youth. One of them was Meseret:

Meseret is a health professional that we came across due to her issues with her boyfriend. One night, when he came to visit her, he started accusing her of cheating on him. She tried to explain what really happened, but he did not want to accept her explanation and started to attack her with a metal bar. The neighbors heard her screaming and fortunately came to her rescue. After the attack, Meseret started to process the pain she had gone through. She completed everything in four months and she heard about our radio show and she came to our support group follow up program. She is now employed again and doing well with both the physical wounds and psychological trauma, she now is fluent in subject matters and subject matters.

In Latvia, it is estimated that less than 8% of secondary school graduates choose exams in chemistry and physics. This problem can lead to consequences such as threats to productional and economic growth and decrease Latvia’s competitiveness in the world economy, especially if the problem of secondary school students goes on to affect the share of youth who chooses science in higher education.

Since joining the incubator in 2018, Laboratorium has supported more than 600 children and youth. One of them is Janis:

Janis is a 12 year old boy. He started to participate in our regular classes from 7 years old. Nikita’s mother said that from 3 years of age, Janis was interested in science and tried to do experiments at home. However, his parents quite soon started struggling with giving him deeper knowledge and the possibility to do experiments in a safe way. After Janis started coming to our classes, he found answers to many of the questions his parents could not answer.

He started to read a lot of scientific literature, to make different constructions and find mistakes, to safely do experiments by himself and also involve his friends and family in his interest. Now Janis’s mother says: “He asks me to go to the construction and electronic shop every weekend to buy different things in order to make his own radio or metal detector or whatever he can think of. Despite the fact that he still doesn’t have physics and chemistry at school, he is already fluent in subject matters such as mechanics, electricity, kinematics and electromagnetism. I really believe that the regular classes in physics and chemistry at Laboratorium helped him a lot in achieving this.”
One of them is Adam:

Adam is 13 years old and loves to play handball. When he is not training, he usually hangs out with his friends and plays computer games. At school, there have been those who have said that Adam isn’t “man enough” because he has long hair. He also feels that it is easier for him to step out of the box and be tough and cool and think that guys can’t have long hair. I also feel that it is easier for me to step out of the box and be myself. I think that it helped because we were talking about it so openly together and you explained how we could do things, for example how to say stop. Now, when a guy at school punched another guy at recess, my friends and I could go together and tell him to stop and ask him why he was doing that."

During our sessions we focused, through exercises, conversations and movies, on made up rules and expectations on men, why they exist and how they affect us. “After Locker Room Talk met with us I now have a greater understanding of why guys try to meet these expectations. That you think that you have to be like everyone else and be tough and cool and think that guys can’t have long hair. I also feel that it is easier for me to step out of the box and be myself. I think that it helped because we were talking about it so openly together and you explained how we could do things, for example how to say stop. Now, when a guy at school punched another guy at recess, my friends and I could go together and tell him to stop and ask him why he was doing that.”

Since joining the incubator in 2018, Locker Room Talk has supported over 2000 children and youth. One of them is Adam:

Even though Sweden is ranked one of the most equal countries in the EU (score of 83.6 out of 100 on the Gender Equality index 2019), the progress towards gender equality has been slower than other countries in the union. Violence in close relationships remains one of the most prominent types of abuse crimes, and more than one in ten women have experienced sexual offence.

In response to this, Shanga Aziz and Rogerio da Silva founded Locker Room Talk. Locker Room Talk offers training and tools in equality, fair attitudes and masculinity. Through innovative interactive methods they aim to create a new form of masculinity that breaks the norm and unhealthy expectations on what it means to be a man. It is their strong belief that this will lead to improved mental health among men, a reduced rate of violence in close relationships and sexual offenses as well as an increased acceptance for the LGBTI community.

When Silvena Hristova and Krasimir Lambov, founders of Life with Down Syndrome, had a daughter with Down syndrome, they were advised by their doctor like many other parents in Bulgaria, to place the child in foster care and move on with their lives without her.

Silvena and Krasimir were shocked, not only by the fact that they were given this advice, but also about the doctor’s lack of knowledge on the expected healthy development of a child with Down syndrome. With an estimated 100 children born with Down syndrome in Bulgaria each year, Silvena and Krasimir decided to act to change society’s view of these children so that other parents would not have to make decisions for their families that are rooted in the prejudice and misinformation of others.

Two months ago, Petya, a Bulgarian woman living in Greece, gave birth to Mihail, who was born with Down syndrome and a heart defect. Petya is 22 years old and came across the videos on our Youtube channel. During our sessions we focused, through exercises, conversations and movies, on made up rules and expectations on men, why they exist and how they affect us. “After Locker Room Talk met with us I now have a greater understanding of why guys try to meet these expectations. That you think that you have to be like everyone else and be tough and cool and think that guys can’t have long hair. I also feel that it is easier for me to step out of the box and be myself. I think that it helped because we were talking about it so openly together and you explained how we could do things, for example how to say stop. Now, when a guy at school punched another guy at recess, my friends and I could go together and tell him to stop and ask him why he was doing that.”

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When Silvena Hristova and Krasimir Lambov, founders of Life with Down Syndrome, had a daughter with Down syndrome, they were advised by their doctor like many other parents in Bulgaria, to place the child in foster care and move on with their lives without her.

Silvena and Krasimir were shocked, not only by the fact that they were given this advice, but also about the doctor’s lack of knowledge on the expected healthy development of a child with Down syndrome. With an estimated 100 children born with Down syndrome in Bulgaria each year, Silvena and Krasimir decided to act to change society’s view of these children so that other parents would not have to make decisions for their families that are rooted in the prejudice and misinformation of others.

Two months ago, Petya, a Bulgarian woman living in Greece, gave birth to Mihail, who was born with Down syndrome and a heart defect. Petya is 22 years old and came across the videos on our Youtube channel. During our sessions we focused, through exercises, conversations and movies, on made up rules and expectations on men, why they exist and how they affect us. “After Locker Room Talk met with us I now have a greater understanding of why guys try to meet these expectations. That you think that you have to be like everyone else and be tough and cool and think that guys can’t have long hair. I also feel that it is easier for me to step out of the box and be myself. I think that it helped because we were talking about it so openly together and you explained how we could do things, for example how to say stop. Now, when a guy at school punched another guy at recess, my friends and I could go together and tell him to stop and ask him why he was doing that.”
For us this means we look at three things:

1. Our targeted short and long term outcome results. Is the extent to which we are seeing improvements in our alumni over time?
2. The extent to which we are seeing improvements in the upstream improvements we make to strengthen their operations?
3. The extent to which we are seeing improvements in ventures to bring in to our programs?

When considering success, there are many things we reflected in the downstream performance of our alumni over time?

Did we succeed?

Did we succeed?

When considering success, there are many things we could look at, but ultimately what we care most about is the extent to which we are seeing improvements in our targeted short and long term outcome results.

For us this means we look at three things:

1. Are we getting better at finding high potential ventures to bring in to our programs?
2. Are we getting better at supporting ventures to strengthen their operations?
3. Are the upstream improvements we make reflected in the downstream performance of our alumni over time?

Are our alumni performing better over time?

All ventures we invest in must have what we believe to be the potential to scale their impact to a significant portion of the target group. However, achieving this takes time (5-10 years assuming things go well), and the ventures we support are right at the beginning of their journeys. Because of this, we realistically expect somewhere between 10-20% of our investments to achieve impact at scale.

That’s not to say that we expect the other 80-90% to fail. In fact we still expect the overwhelming majority to keep growing beyond the incubator, but there’s a difference between incremental growth and scale, and scale is not easy to pull off.

Key results from our 2019 Alumni Survey included:

1. 88% are still in business 3 years after graduating (81% still in business after 5 years)
2. 93% have increased the number of children & youth supported, 81% have increased revenues, 80% have increased geographical footprint, 60% have increased number of staff.
3. 15% state they have reached a significant or major share of the target group.

We are very happy with the first two results. 88% survival after 3 years is on a par with ventures incubated by other organizations and the growth metrics paint a picture of the majority of the ventures’ impact still growing. The growth metric results also represent a significant improvement on the results from our previous survey in 2016 (71%, 69%, 66% and 60% respectively) which is very encouraging.

The third result falls right in the middle of our realistic expectation range of 10-20% which is also good, but “realistic expectations” don’t really do it for us, so we are motivated to drive this number higher as we move forward.

Are we improving our support to our current portfolio ventures?

By combining our development tracker data with the data we receive from the annual Change Leader survey we are now able to build quite a rounded picture of the extent to which our support is improving. Three data points worth reflecting on here are:

- Overall Milestone Achievement: On average the ventures passed 10 new development milestones during the year, representing around 67% of the “targeted” milestones. We consider this a sign of strong general development across the portfolio.
- Effective Solution (ES) & Financial Sustainability (FS) Milestone Achievement: It was good to see that new milestone achievement in these two prioritized support areas averaged the highest across the portfolio (3.1 milestones (ES) and 2.9 milestones (FS)). However we also know that financial sustainability remains the number one challenge across the portfolio, so there is plenty more to do here.
- Attribution of development to Reach for Change. 96% of our social entrepreneurs say they would have developed less without our support. This result suggests we can still add significant value by further tailoring our support to the needs of each individual venture.

When looking at the year-end results in conjunction with the overall satisfaction score (up to 87% from 84% in 2018) and the net promoter score (up to 88% from 84% in 2018), we’re confident that our support took a positive step forward in 2019, though of course only time will tell whether the program changes we implemented will lead to the longer term impact we are pursuing.

Are our search & selections continuing to improve?

In 2017 we set a target that ultimately all social entrepreneurs being brought into our Incubator should receive a 100% score on our Investment Readiness Diagnostic prior to selection. At the end of 2017 the average score was 79%. In 2018 it was 89% and in 2019 it was 91%

We are pleased with the improvement here, but even if the result were 100% we would still continue to invest significant effort in trying to drive improvements here. In terms of levers of change, the initial investment decision is probably the most critical part of the puzzle. Great decisions here yield disproportionate benefits at every further step of the journey. Similarly, suboptimal decisions here yield suboptimal results down the line.

Final Thoughts

In last year’s impact report we said that the value of impact measurement really comes down to the extent to which it produces results that are useful for learning and development.

At the micro level, our 2019 results have helped shine spotlights on what is working well and on where there are needs and opportunities for development. At the macro level, they have helped raise a number of new questions, each of which we look forward to exploring in 2020.
We would like to give our thanks to our ecosystem partners, investors, corporations, institutions, foundations, organizations, advisors, experts, academics and social entrepreneurs for joining forces to strengthen the social entrepreneurship sector and improve the lives of children and youth around the globe.

“It’s very rewarding to be able to meet such motivated people with great ideas. You are also faced with questions and issues that you perhaps normally don’t encounter, meaning you really understand both the importance of your advice and the value of being able to tailor it.”

“Through the partnership with Reach for Change we get to work closely with social entrepreneurs who are dedicated to changing the outlook for vulnerable children. It is an opportunity for us not only to support them in their entrepreneurial journey and help accelerate their impact, but also to be inspired and to learn from them.”

“We now only have 10 years left to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In order for it to be possible to achieve this we will need all sectors in society to maximize their contribution. Social entrepreneurship plays a crucial part in reaching the goals, as they are joined by a unique vision of tackling societal issues through their businesses. Through their often unique knowledge of the target group or the local environment where they are present, they are able to reach people that other actors often are unable to reach. Both the private and the public sector have a lot to learn from these inspirational social entrepreneurs.”
MEASURING IMPACT ON SOCIAL VENTURES

Outputs
Incubator support received by our social ventures. In 2019 we measured outputs by surveying our social entrepreneurs at the end of the year about what incubator support they received from us. For example, we asked about which areas they received capacity-building support within, and how many useful connections were made for them. 80% responded and participation was anonymous — you can read about the results on pages 18–19. In addition to this, in 2019 we also piloted monitoring output results for each individual social entrepreneur, to enable us to perform a more granular analysis to see which outputs most effectively drive the achievement of our targeted outcomes. Results from this are still to be reviewed.

Short-term outcomes
Strengthening our social ventures’ organizational capabilities. By organizational capabilities we mean the structures, strategies, processes, culture and know-how that our social ventures need in order to develop effective solutions and become ready to scale. We monitor organizational capabilities within five areas: A Effective solution, B Financial sustainability, C Leadership and team, D Impact scaling and E Systemic impact. To understand our social ventures’ development in 2019, we compared their organizational capabilities in January and December (read more on page 20). We measure a social venture’s organizational capabilities by counting the number of milestones reached. A milestone is either a completed activity (e.g. Theory of Change mapped) or a result accomplished (e.g. Positive outcome results achieved). Milestones are predefined by Reach for Change and are the same for all social ventures participating in the incubator. The targeted milestones vary with the incubator year. During the first incubator year, for example, the target is for our social ventures to reach milestones A1–A7, B1–B9, C1–C7, D1 and E1–E3. Milestone achievement is assessed through dialogue between our in-country program managers and our social entrepreneurs. For several of the milestones, our global impact team validates the assessment by reviewing empirical evidence.

To gain an improved understanding of our impact, we surveyed our social entrepreneurs at the end of 2019 on how much less they believe they would have achieved without the support of the social venture. We encourage our social ventures to try to capture not only outcomes (what changed and protected) but also impact (how much of the change would not have happened without the support of the social venture).

Outcomes submitted impact stories as part of their triannual reporting. Our global impact team audited all impact stories and shared feedback for the social entrepreneur and their team to qualitatively explore outcomes.

Limitations
There are of course certain limitations with how we have chosen to measure our impact. First and foremost, enterprise development is not always linear, so when we talk about development in terms of milestone accomplishment, and milestone targets, it has limitations and might not show the full picture. Secondly, not all milestones are of equal importance, some are more important than others. Counting the number of milestones achieved gives a good overall sense of progress, but achieving more milestones is not necessarily an indicator of more progress. Finally, we believe that our current set up would be strengthened by including other data points across the development tracker areas beyond our current growth metrics, e.g. cost per impact, customer acquisition etc. We are currently looking into these as part of a project to develop a more comprehensive toolkit to accompany our Development Tracker.

Long-term outcomes
Survival and scaling of our alumni. By strengthening the organizational capabilities of our social ventures while they are in the incubator, we prepare them to scale their impact to a significant share of their target group after they have graduated.

The share of our alumni that succeeds in scaling their impact to a significant share of their target group is the ultimate indication of the extent to which our method works and it is critical to monitor. In this report we share our 2019 results — read more on page 23.

Outputs
Number of children and youth supported. A child is defined as under 18 and youth is defined as 18 to 24 years old. “Supported” means that the child or youth has received support towards the outcome(s) targeted by the social venture, e.g. improved literacy. In 2019, the number of children and youth supported was submitted by our social ventures as part of their triannual reporting. They also submitted documentation that verified the number reported, which was audited by our global impact team. On pages 24–25, we have clustered the total number of children and youth supported by our social ventures in 2019 based on age, support channel, targeted short-term outcome and Sustainable Development Goal.

MEASURING IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Outcomes
How the lives of children and youth were improved, changed and protected. In addition to monitoring the number of children and youth supported, we want to find out how the support resulted in change — the outcomes. Our social ventures all work to create a better world for children and youth, but the outcomes they target differ. We encourage our social ventures to try to capture not only outcomes (what changed and protected) but also impact (how much of the change would not have happened without the support of the social venture).

For social ventures participating in their first incubator year, our focus is on helping the social entrepreneur and their team to qualitatively explore outcomes.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS TO OUR METRICS

Strengthening our social ventures’ organizational capabilities. By organizational capabilities we mean the structures, strategies, processes, culture and know-how that our social ventures need in order to develop effective solutions and become ready to scale. We monitor organizational capabilities within five areas: A Effective solution, B Financial sustainability, C Leadership and team, D Impact scaling and E Systemic impact. To understand our social ventures’ development in 2019, we compared their organizational capabilities in January and December (read more on page 20). We measure a social venture’s organizational capabilities by counting the number of milestones reached. A milestone is either a completed activity (e.g. Theory of Change mapped) or a result accomplished (e.g. Positive outcome results achieved). Milestones are predefined by Reach for Change and are the same for all social ventures participating in the incubator. The targeted milestones vary with the incubator year. During the first incubator year, for example, the target is for our social ventures to reach milestones A1–A7, B1–B9, C1–C7, D1 and E1–E3. Milestone achievement is assessed through dialogue between our in-country program managers and our social entrepreneurs. For several of the milestones, our global impact team validates the assessment by reviewing empirical evidence.

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Outcomes submitted impact stories as part of their triannual reporting. Our global impact team audited all impact stories and shared feedback for the social entrepreneur and their program manager to reflect on together.

For social ventures participating in their second and third incubator year, our focus is on helping the social entrepreneur and their team to quantitatively measure outcomes. The outcome “Improved literacy,” for example, could be measured through the indicator “number of words that a child can read correctly during one minute.” In 2019, our social ventures reported quantitative outcome results annually. Results were audited by our global impact team.

Strengths
We see several strengths with our way of measuring impact. Firstly, requiring the social ventures in our program to measure impact on beneficiaries in both quantitative and qualitative ways gives us a wide range of different kinds of data. Secondly, measuring development of the social ventures as they move through the program, rather than just at the beginning and end of the program gives us a more reliable way of following their progress and allows us to be able to follow our impact on their development more closely.
**WHAT DID IT COST?**

**FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

In 2019, we invested 4.6M USD, 78% of which was spent on the charitable cause.

- **78%** of 3,617 (4,744) is cost for the charitable cause.
- **12%** of 3,617 (474) is administration cost.
- **10%** of 3,617 (361) is fundraising costs.

**Cost for the charitable cause split on type of support**

- **67%** of 2,423 (1,600) is financial incubator support (grants).
- **33%** of 2,423 (783) is non-financial incubator support.

**Revenues split by source of income**

- **62%** of 3,847 (2,368) is foundations.
- **25%** of 3,847 (962) is corporations.
- **13%** of 3,847 (497) is institutions.

**Investment per region**

- **Northern Europe**
  - **55%** of 1,896 (1,042)
- **Central Europe and Kazakhstan**
  - **37%** of 1,896 (698)
- **Africa**
  - **8%** of 1,896 (152)

**NON-FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

To deliver our incubator support, we combined our and our partners’ human and intellectual capital.

**STAFF**

In 2019, Reach for Change’s staff consisted of 55 full-time equivalents, 11 interns and 1 volunteer spread across 13 markets. The implementation of the program was carried out by 13 on the ground Program Managers with local knowledge, expertise and networks, supported by regional and central function staff. Together they all contributed to evaluating and improving the programs further.

- **55** full-time employees
- **11** interns
- **1** volunteer

**PARTNERS**

Reach for Change’s programs were delivered in close collaboration with partners from the corporate and public sectors who, alongside funding, brought invaluable resources to our social ventures. This included elements like business expertise, networking contacts, and media exposure. These partners are an integrated part of delivering our programs. In addition, we were supported by 8 pro bono partners.

- **36** partner organizations:
  - **18** corporates
  - **10** institutions
  - **8** foundations

**METHOD**

The methodology of the incubator program centers around the Development Tracker, a tool consisting of development milestones that like a map or curriculum sets out what is to be achieved during the program. In addition to our direct support to help our incubator participants achieve these milestones, we offer support through our online Resource Centre, which in 2019 contained 117 resources in the form of lectures, tools, quizzes, articles and homeworks.

- **18** lectures
- **9** assignments
- **4** quizzes
- **46** articles

**ONLINE RESOURCE CENTRE WITH 117 RESOURCES**

To guide social entrepreneurs towards sustainably scaling effective solutions.

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*All numbers are in USD (thousands)
**Currency conversion rate from SEK to USD on 12/31 2019: 0.10717
This section consolidates Reach for Change’s financial performance for 2019 for all foundations. The figures include the Reach for Change Swedish Foundation (including the branch in Ghana and Norway), and the separate foundations in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Bulgaria. Reach for Change operates as one organization with one global strategy across all our markets. Reach for Change’s Global Board of Directors is the highest governing body of Reach for Change. Figures for Reach for Change Russia are not included since they are an independent franchise.*

*For more information on how we are governed and our internal controls, visit: www.reachforchange.org/en/who-we-are/our-governance
**Since 2019, the financials are reported in SEK

### Income statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMOUNTS IN MSEK**</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td>Interest expense and other financial expense</td>
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<td>Result after financial income &amp; expenses</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<td>-0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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### Balance sheet

#### AMOUNTS IN MSEK

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<tr>
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<td>29.7</td>
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<td>27.4</td>
<td>27.9</td>
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<td>Other current liabilities</td>
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<td>10.6</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses and deferred income</td>
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<td>24.5</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity &amp; Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>17.4</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>38.0</td>
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