

SPROUT ENTERPRISE®

2022 Impact Report

Investing in Artisan Enterprises



sprout
ENTERPRISE®



/// 2022 HIGHLIGHTS ///

Craft is the original circular economy. The craft story is in many ways what the story of craft has always been – of artisans making use of waste, left over or found materials, of design and innovation to perform the alchemy of material transformation into a product of function and beauty, of expressing and sharing cultural and community values, and of telling the stories of each generation.



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Building the business capacity and entrepreneurial skills of artisan enterprises.

Since inception, we have:

- Provided more than \$1.58 million in international grants funding sustainable development initiatives in rural communities benefiting more than 2 million people.
- Generated more than \$765,000 in international sales augmenting the growth of our artisan partners since our inception.
- Promoted more than 30 artisan enterprises generating livelihoods for more than 4,000 artisans and farmers.

This year, we provided funding to support:

- The Kaliyachak Girls School in rural Bihar, India.
- Textile design workshops with the weavers of San Bartolo Yautepec in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Sales and marketing support for 30 artisan enterprises creating livelihoods in rural communities in India, Mexico, Guatemala, Cambodia, Indonesia and Pakistan.
- The promotion of impact investment opportunities with 22 early stage artisan enterprises to impact investors and funders.

Investing in Artisan Enterprises

We deploy capital using a range of investment vehicles while seeking a return of capital for further investment, creating a reinvestment cycle that multiplies the impact of philanthropic capital.

Supporting Girls Education

In partnership with Foundation for Rural Recovery and Development (FORRAD), we support the Kaliyachak Girls School in rural Bihar, India, providing education and vocational training to more than 140 girls.

Presenting Impact Opportunities

We introduced 22 inspiring entrepreneurs to impact investors and promoted their stories through social media, podcasts and investment forums.

+\$1.58M

Grant funding for sustainable development since inception

+\$765K

International sales fueling the growth of our artisan partners



R.I.S.E. Artisan Fund was selected by Integrated Capital Investing as one of the Transformative 25 Funds of 2022 and highlighted in their investor webinars.

/// FUCHSIA SHOES ///

/// KARGHEWALE ///



© 2022 Fuchsia Shoes

Creating sustainable livelihoods for rural communities with few economic alternatives.

Created in partnership with Realize Impact, the **R.I.S.E. Artisan Fund** invests in early stage artisan enterprises addressing three key impact investment themes:

- women’s empowerment,
- sustainability, and
- climate change.

This year, we invested in **Fuchsia Shoes** and **Karghewale**.

Fuchsia Shoes manufactures handcrafted shoes based on the traditional Pakistani *khussas* enhanced for comfort and durability for the American consumer. The shoes are made in Sangla Hill, a remote town in Pakistan with a history stretching back to the time of Alexander the Great. Here, each pair of flats is handcrafted in a traditional workshop by a group of artisans who are using their skills to support their families and community. By making shoes for Fuchsia, these highly skilled artisans earn a respectable, living income to provide for their families.

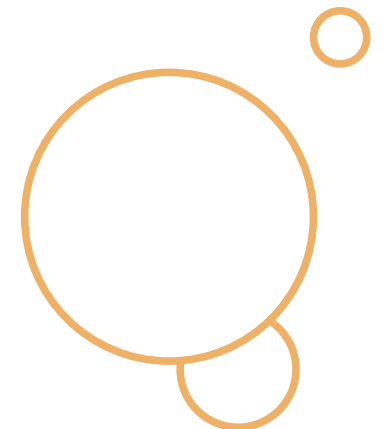
R.I.S.E. Artisan Fund ///

Micro, small and early-stage artisan enterprises typically lack the capital resources necessary to grow successfully. Catalytic capital is needed to support artisan enterprises in building more effective sales distribution, more efficient operations and more timely financial reporting. Only with appropriate capital and support will these artisan enterprises be able to grow.



© 2022 Karghewale

Karghewale represents a community of young weavers from traditional weaving communities of India who offer bespoke, handwoven textiles of exemplary quality in contemporary designs. The Hindi word, *kargha* means handloom, and thus Karghewale are weavers. Karghewale enhances the creative agency of these weavers and helps them transition from underpaid production workers, with very little creative control of their craft, to entrepreneurs creating their own designs and building a product line marketed directly to their customers. More than 150 weavers work with Karghewale to market their handwoven textiles.



The Alchemy of Enterprise

Investing in artisan enterprises improves the quality of life and creates a sustainable future for rural communities in emerging markets.

We need dignified livelihoods that provide alternatives to subsistence farming or migration for work in distant urban centers. Without sustainable economic development in rural areas, we will continue to experience dysfunction as a global society and economy.

We are inspired by dynamic entrepreneurs with a business vision and aspiration who are changing the status quo in their communities. These entrepreneurs are leading community initiatives for education, clean energy technology and business development while creating economic opportunities in rural communities with few alternatives.

These rural communities are often marginalized or indigenous communities. The communities lack basic infrastructure, like paved roads, electricity or water and sanitation systems. Basic services like health care or schools may be unavailable or unaffordable. Men must migrate to distant cities for work leaving women and children behind. Their families are dependent on remittances which may be infrequent or insufficient.

By investing in artisan enterprises, we help to create livelihoods in these remote communities. Local teams are trained and developed with the business skills to manage these enterprises which become economic drivers of the local economies.

Listen to the entrepreneurs talk about their communities and their enterprises in Series 6 of The Social Impact Pulse.



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Make an Impact.

R.I.S.E Artisan Fund invests in artisan enterprises that are redesigning business models based on:

- Sustainable and ethical business practices
- Skills development and training to increase sales and profitability for producers
- Revenue or profit sharing with producers
- Revitalization, revaluation and representation of traditional crafts and cultural heritage
- Shared ownership structures around brand, design and stories.

These enterprises deliver increased income for marginalized communities in remote areas; better economic and education opportunities for women and girls; less waste and environmental damage; cleaner air and water; and more efficient use of resources.

This positive impact comes from the holistic way these enterprises operate as part of the local economy which they've helped to develop.

Visit www.riseartisan.fund for our current portfolio of impact opportunities and join us in making an impact.



2022

Sprout Enterprise® is an initiative of **Friends of Tilonia, Inc.** building the business capacity and entrepreneurial skills of artisan enterprises in rural India, Mexico, Guatemala, Cambodia, Indonesia and Pakistan.
www.sproutenterprise.net

Created by **Realize Impact** and **Sprout Enterprise, R.I.S.E. Artisan Fund** invests in early-stage artisan enterprises that create sustainable livelihoods in rural communities with few economic alternatives.
www.riseartisan.fund

Tilonia® is a mission-driven enterprise creating opportunities for women and girls in rural India. It is a joint initiative of the **Barefoot College Tilonia** and **Friends of Tilonia, Inc.**
www.tilonia.com

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