Landesa developed a new strategic plan, which began on July 1, 2020, using real time strategic planning (RTSP). The plan focuses on setting a direction and building the capacity to surface and address major strategic questions as they emerge to make decision-making more agile. The focus of Landesa’s plan generally remains the same: country-level law and policy work, women’s land rights, global advocacy, and corporate engagement, with an additional focus on environment and climate change. Landesa has begun an exercise to shift to a more global organization structure, with distribution of responsibilities and decision-making spanning across a global leadership team.

Landesa has been affected by COVID-19 in 2020 operationally and financially in several ways. Landesa’s country offices quickly and safely transitioned to remote work and desk-based activities. We shifted our strategy from field work, community engagement and consultation, and government meetings to virtual engagement through technology and online platforms. That said, our ability to organize field research was greatly restricted, necessarily delaying some of our projects.

Financially, the absence of field research delayed some projects resulting in a decrease in earned revenue from secured grants. We had three funding sources (public sector and major giving) rescind partial or full funding that immediately affected us in the short-term. Numerous other new opportunities that we had intended to apply for were also delayed or cancelled, as donors shifted funding to support existing grantees or to meet urgent local community needs. Landesa enacted measures to remain stable such as cutting fundraising event costs due to event cancelations, including travel costs for fundraising and communications opportunities, and delaying staff hires. Landesa’s current funders have graciously offered flexibility in many ways such as allowing program outcome adjustments and report deadline extensions.

Landesa proactively fundraised and strategized to adapt to this new fundraising virtual reality. Landesa received a $700,000 loan through the Paycheck Protection Program and anticipate the majority of the loan to be forgiven. Another application was submitted for a $750,000 Second Round PPP loan in January 2021. We received emergency funds from Skoll Foundation, and we applied to other COVID-19 response opportunities. While we have a robust plan to engage virtually with donors, we still expect to see an impact on fundraising in this coming year.

Diversity is at the core of Landesa’s identity, as evidenced in our mission to improve the lives of those living in poverty in rural areas, in our program design and implementation, and in our employment policies and practices. Following the successful implementation of our Gender Integration Strategy, Landesa has been developing a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policy to be completed in 2021. The DEI policy aims to bring an intersectional approach to Landesa’s work and to increase our impact for social justice.

Landesa’s commitment to transparency is demonstrated by our attainment of high ratings by both Charity Navigator and GuideStar. In 2020, Landesa attained a 3/4 rating by Charity Navigator, which measures the financials, accountability, and transparency of non-profit organizations. We remain certified Platinum by GuideStar, signifying a commitment to transparency of progress and results of our programs.
Financial Information

Landesa operates on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. Click the links below for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) reports.

- [Digital Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Audited Fiscal Year 2020 Financials](#)
- [2018 Form 990](#)