



ANNUAL REPORT

— 2020 / THE PATH FORWARD



2020
ANNUAL REPORT

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MISSION



Atlas Network increases global prosperity by strengthening a network of independent partner organizations that promote individual freedom and are committed to identifying and removing barriers to human flourishing.

VISION



Our vision is of a free, prosperous, and peaceful world where the principles of individual liberty, property rights, limited government, and free markets are secured by the rule of law.



Atlas Network has been a four-star Charity Navigator member since 2008.



Atlas Network is a GuideStar Exchange Platinum-Level Participant.



Atlas Network's donation payment processor is certified to PCI Service Provider Level 1, the most stringent level of certification available.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The year 2020 was one we'll never forget. On March 26, I spoke to Atlas Network's sponsors via a conference call. My remarks began:

The world obviously is in the midst of a health crisis, but it is a freedom crisis, as well. Even responses that may be justified in the short run are likely to represent threats to liberty in the longer run, which may, in fact, not be very far off. **The freedom movement is needed now more than ever.** Atlas Network and its partners of course favor public health measures to protect us all from a contagious disease, but we're promoting policies to protect us from statism.

I have been inspired by how our Atlas Network team quickly adjusted to new realities, and by the strategic pivots of our nearly 500 independent partner organizations.

In the pages of this Annual Report, you will see the real-world impact of the civil society groups we are so privileged to connect and serve—through our training academy, grant competitions, collaborative programs, events, and media channels. While freedom lost ground in 2020 along many dimensions, there are monumental victories to celebrate. The moratorium on agricultural land sales that restricted the rights of over 6 million Ukrainians was abolished, and US\$1.9 billion was saved by Indonesian households thanks to the work of the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies to free trade and lower the price of food. In the U.S., the Mercatus Center worked with Atlas Network partners in several states to roll back certificate of need laws that inhibited access to urgently needed healthcare services. These successes should inspire us about what we can achieve in the years ahead.

Yes, 2020 was an unpredictable year, and 2021 will no doubt bring its own surprises and challenges, but there are three things you can count on: 1) governments will expand their powers when given the opportunity, 2) reining those powers back in and preserving our freedoms will be a difficult task, and 3) Atlas Network partners will be on the front lines of doing so.

With your continued support, Atlas Network and the worldwide freedom movement will enhance our offensive strategies so that the 2020s can rebound from their inauspicious start and provide the next generation with a legacy of peace and prosperity.

Brad Lips
Chief Executive Officer, Atlas Network

The
freedom
movement
is needed
now more
than ever.

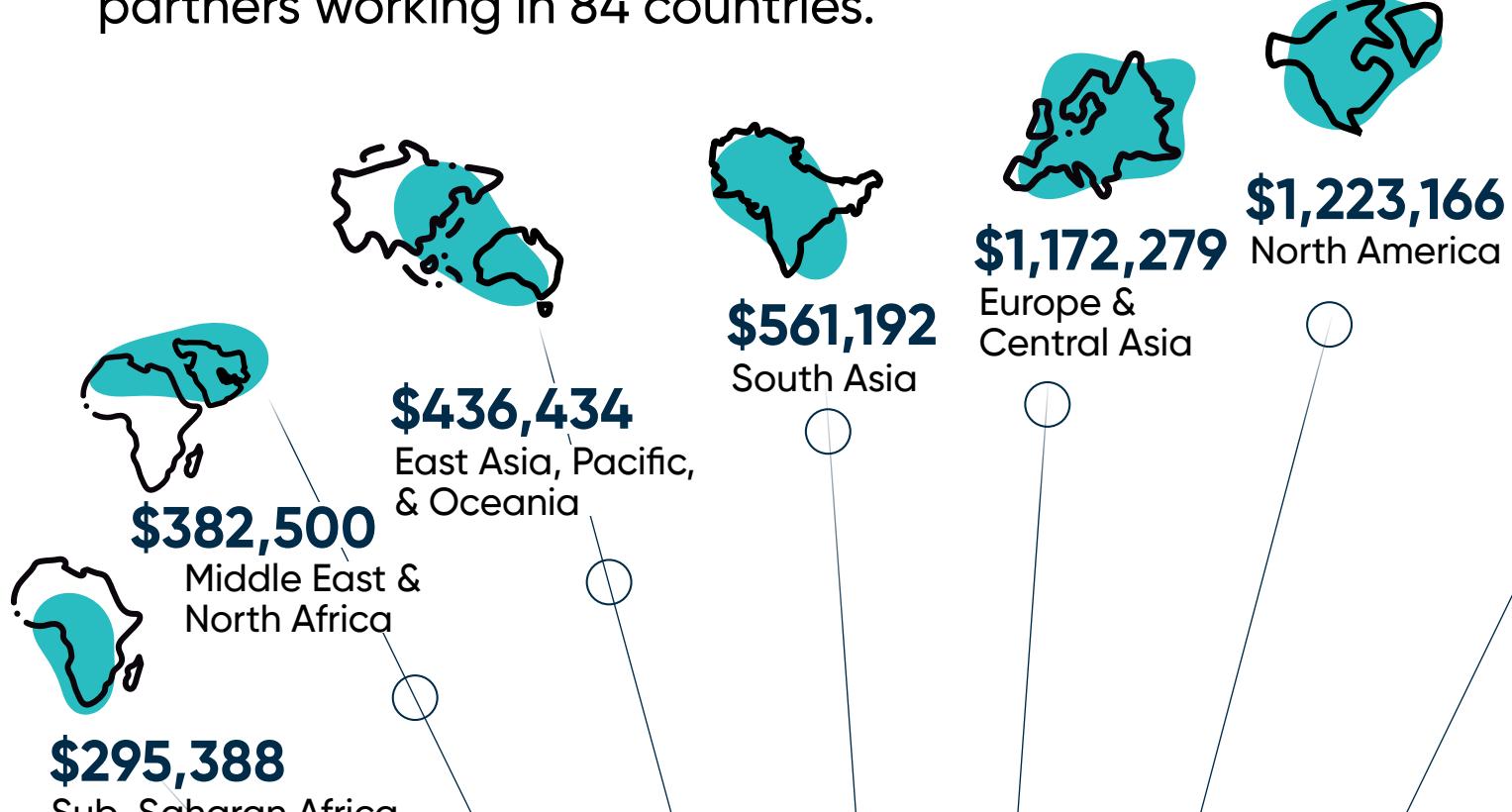
GRANT INVESTMENTS

by Region

\$5,967,536 

Total investment in all regions

In 2020, we provided 453 grants supporting partners working in 84 countries.



In 2020, Atlas Network grant investments were used to:

MOBILIZE

Advocacy projects that educate and encourage change agents who are working in pursuit of greater liberty and more limited government.

EDUCATE

Policy advocacy projects that educate public opinion toward greater understanding of and favorability toward policies that increase human liberty and flourishing. They are carried out through videos, op-eds, liberty schools, public lectures, research campaigns, and other vehicles for civic education.

BUILD

Education projects that strengthen the freedom movement by training, educating, and hosting events.

INFLUENCE

Projects that advocate for specific policy reforms within the existing Overton Window.

STRENGTHEN

Grants designed to grow organizations with new donors, social media growth, research, and operational capacity.

INVESTMENT AND IMPACT

Atlas Network's investments were leveraged to achieve:

 43

new think tank partners in 25 countries

 97

policy wins in 22 countries

 3,930
individuals trained

 20,138

reported media mentions of projects

 media hits in 52 countries

 162,095
people attending events

 1,125
events

 3,387,953

Video views on Atlas Network-supported partner videos



Classical liberal books translated, published, and distributed in 7 languages

 One book on Singapore's national bestseller list and 5,450 classical liberal books distributed

Making it easier to trade for **1.797 BILLION** people



Making it easier to start and run a business for 1.470B people



Restoring and protecting civil rights for 449M people



Improved access to essential services like electricity and water for 228M people



Lower corruption and increased transparency for 212M people



Further formalized property rights for 112M people



A lower tax burden for 105M people



Increasing and protecting access to healthcare and services for 66M people



Making it easier to work for 67M people

These figures were calculated by totaling the populations of a given territory where a policy win took place.

COVID-19 PARTNER RESPONSE FUND

over
\$550,000
awarded to
32 – 21
projects countries



The U.K. now has **63 new trade deals worth £867 billion** with other nations, thanks in large part to the sustained advocacy of the Institute of Economic Affairs to liberalize trade in the wake of Brexit. In early 2020, Atlas Network awarded a grant to fund the IEA's proposal to create a COVID-19 Compendium—a comprehensive digital publication and broadcast plan that would help influence trade policies and highlight some of the negative outcomes of government lockdowns and other mandates imposed to combat the pandemic. One year later, the IEA has successfully used this grant to create over 40 videos and webinars, which resulted in a million YouTube views, doubled IEA's online video subscriptions, reached audiences in over 50 countries, and culminated in 146 articles, op-eds, or significant mentions on national media outlets, including *The Independent* and *The Times*.



Institute of
Economic Affairs



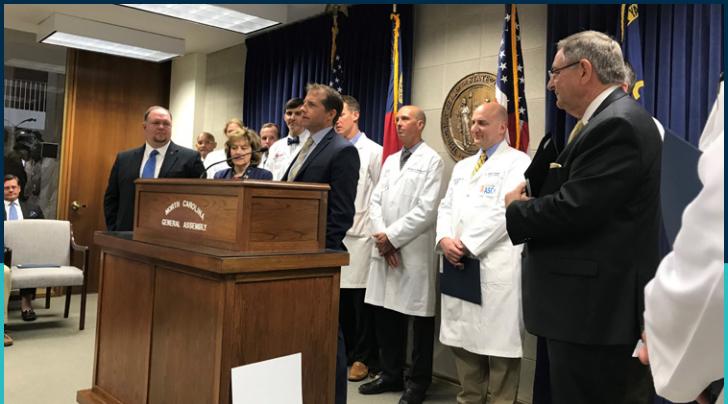
With support from Atlas Network's Partner Response Fund, the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in India brought attention to the harmful burdens imposed by state policies on farmers. The CCS team met with farm leaders and other stakeholders to document how restrictions on trade harm both farmers and consumers. In addition to creating a well-circulated policy study, CCS' campaign **facilitated passage of an amendment to India's Essential Commodities Act**, which had previously allowed government to set price and stock limits on agricultural goods and had criminalized warehouses, thus destroying the ability of farmers to preserve their products. CCS' research has inspired two other significant legislative acts that will secure greater liberty for farmers. They have led the way in liberalizing India's vast agricultural sector and bringing opportunity and dignity to hundreds of millions of people.



IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

UNLEASHING THE MARKET

Across the United States, 37 states have certificate of need (CON) laws, which burden healthcare providers with an expensive and time-consuming process to expand or establish new facilities and services. These laws protect incumbent providers from competition by requiring new providers to prove a need for their service in the community. The pandemic has laid bare how misguided policy, burdensome red tape, and a lack of competition all limit access to quality, timely, and less-expensive healthcare for all, and a number of our partners are working to fix that.



MERCATUS CENTER George Mason University

Arlington, Virginia

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University's state-by-state analysis shows how CON laws increase healthcare costs, reduce the supply of healthcare services, and decrease healthcare quality. Mercatus' alternative demonstrated how practical reforms improve outcomes for all. Over the last three years, Mercatus research has led to more than 200 policy-related citations, testimonies, and briefings with state policymakers. Guided by Mercatus research, legislatures in **11 states have taken up reform efforts**, with a major reform package passed in Florida. *The Mercatus Center won our 2020 North America Liberty Award for their Equity Initiative for American Healthcare.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a number of policy-induced flaws in America's healthcare system. Correcting them is improving healthcare delivery and lowering the costs to consumers.



PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

Sacramento, California

In 2020, the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) published a research study on the effects of CON laws in each of the 50 states. PLF also played an integral role in **suspending CON laws in Florida and New York** that barred private ambulance companies from expanding their services without permission from the government.



Phillip Truesdell, owner of Legacy Medical Transport in Aberdeen, Ohio, was represented free of charge by PLF to fight for the right to earn a living free of irrational government interference—specifically onerous certificate of need requirements.



PALMETTO PROMISE

Columbia, South Carolina

When asked for its recommendations on healthcare by South Carolina's governor, the Palmetto Promise Institute (PPI) offered concrete recommendations for reform—specifically on CON laws—with its *Healthcare Freedom Agenda*. One day after PPI released its report, Governor McMaster issued an executive order **removing all healthcare-related CON laws indefinitely**.



PPI's team meets with Governor McMaster to discuss CON laws in South Carolina. Left to Right: Dr. Oran Smith (Senior Fellow at PPI), Gov. Henry McMaster, Dr. Marcelo Hochman.

INFLUENCER

GRANTEE PERSUADES LEGISLATURE
TO OPEN MARKETS TO WOMEN

THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH (CPPR)

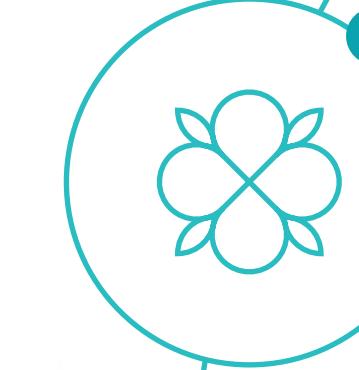
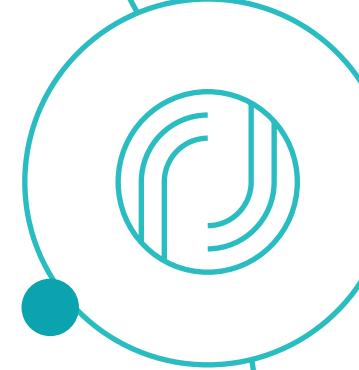
Kochi, India

CPPR created a dramatic shift in the communist-led state of Kerala toward improved working conditions, simplified requirements for entrepreneurs, and increased opportunities for employment—especially for women.

For more than half a century, the Kerala Shops & Establishments Act has controlled everything labor-related—from which days and how many hours a shop can operate to when women can work, which limited women's income potential and contributed to their higher rate of unemployment.

To increase employment opportunities and correct the discrimination women face, CPPR conducted research and educated the public on the costs of these restrictions. CPPR persuaded the government to implement significant changes, including **allowing shops to remain open 24/7, establishing an online business registration platform, and permitting women to work past 7 p.m.**

Centre for Public Policy Studies was a finalist for the 2020 Templeton Freedom Award.



GRANTEE LAYS LASTING FOUNDATION
FOR IDEAS OF LIBERTY

CENTER FOR LIBERAL STUDIES (KEFiM)

Athens, Greece

Working with a local newspaper, KEFiM created a premium subscription service that bundles a weekly book with the regular newspaper.

With an understanding that access to good ideas unlocks improvements, KEFiM is working to bring classical liberal ideas to a wide public audience. They are building an entire library of liberty by offering newspaper subscribers serious books along with their news. **Thus far, more than 100,000 Greek households have received copies of 52 different books advancing the liberty philosophy.** Some were written by Atlas Network partner scholars and then translated into Greek.



After years of laying the intellectual and practical foundations to shift public opinion toward policies favorable to liberty, KEFiM is successfully advancing an ambitious and comprehensive reform agenda for liberty and prosperity in Greece.

MOBILIZER

GRANTEE MOBILIZES TO ABOLISH
PRIVILEGED PUBLIC SERVANT PENSIONS

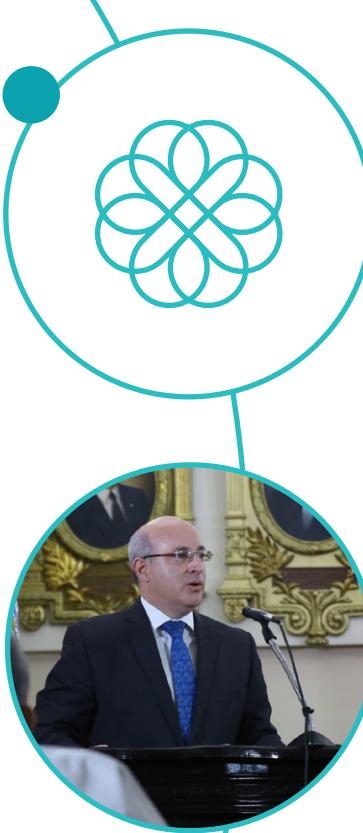
IDEAS LABS

San José, Costa Rica

In two years, IDEAS Labs accomplished what the World Bank had been recommending for decades, simply by educating Costa Rican citizens about the injustices of privilege.

More than one million Costa Ricans live in poverty, so how do the country's political leaders justify "luxury pensions" of up to US\$24,000 per month? The privileged recipients of these unfair payments—dubbed *Ticos Con Coronas* ("Costa Ricans with Crowns") by think tank IDEAS Labs—have found themselves in the spotlight thanks to IDEAS Labs' national awareness campaign to eliminate such privileges. Nearly 50,000 Costa Ricans signed a petition to end such luxury pensions, which account for over 2 percent of the country's gross-domestic product. IDEAS Labs successfully leveraged the petition and media attention to demand accountability.

In response to public pressure, the legislature unanimously slashed 4,000 payments, and President Alvarado publicly renounced his luxury pension at the conclusion of his term. IDEAS Labs won our 2020 Latin America Liberty Award for its *#TicosConCoronas* campaign.



BUILDER

GRANTEE BUILDS REGIONAL
NETWORK OF LIBERTY ADVOCATES

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISES—GREAT LAKES

Bujumbura, Burundi

Intensive training sessions help local writers raise public awareness about positive impact of free enterprise and the rule of law in Africa's Great Lakes region.

CDE launched its ProLibertyWriters Project in 2018 to focus media attention on issues that will help governments in the Great Lakes region boost their scores on the World Bank's *Doing Business* index. The CDE team trained local writers to raise public awareness about the many benefits of free enterprise and the rule of law.

Writers with the project published more than 840 articles in 2019 and **reached at least 87,000 people in Burundi, Rwanda, and DRC**. Since the project launched, many liberal reforms have been set in motion. When DRC's government decided to cut public internet access, an article by a ProLibertyWriter made the case for continued access. After CDE and other stakeholders engaged policymakers about the issue, the internet was restored. CDE writers promoted reducing restrictions on entering business and stressed the financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs, which resulted in several policy changes. CDE—Great Lakes won our 2020 Africa Liberty Award for its ProLibertyWriters Project.

TRAINING

ATLAS NETWORK ACADEMY

Our capacity-building programs were revamped in 2020 as we transitioned to certification-based training for our partners within our new learning management system.

Certification and master certification tracks have been developed for think tanks, including the foundations of management, particular skills (such as media, finance, and research), and strategic planning and executive leadership. They are designed to help partner staff grow in their roles and to increase the impact of their organizations. The courses in these certificate tracks facilitate learning by doing and are structured to impart crucial skills to professionals at every level of think tank work. Certificate completion is a form of professional credentialing and signifies a mastery of knowledge and skills in an area, and new certifications will be added as we grow our offerings to target knowledge and skill needs within the industry.

566

Individuals trained in the
Foundational Track

459

Individuals trained in the
Skills-based Track

239

Individuals trained in the
Leadership Track

Senior Leaders Engaged in
Trainings in 2020



Partner
Engagement
45.7%

% of our partners who
engaged in our training
programs in 2020

Total Unique
Individuals Trained

884

Number of
Trainees by Region



283

North America



190

Sub-Saharan Africa



130

Latin America,
Mexico, & the
Caribbean



145

Europe



122

Asia &
Oceania



14

Middle East
& North Africa



John Mozena

The Center for Economic
Accountability (United States)

"I was skeptical going in that the Executive Accelerator would be a good use of an entire week away from the office, but it ended up being worth the investment in time and resources from the first moment to the last. It delivered both immediate benefits in terms of improvements to our existing strategic plan, as well as longer-term impact in making me a more thoughtful and (hopefully) effective leader."



Emily Chamlee-Wright

Institute for Humane Studies
(United States)

"Connecting with peer colleagues in an atmosphere of positive challenge and collaboration is an opportunity to refuel and recommit to the important work we do. I'm grateful to Atlas Network for creating the space organizational leaders need to learn from one another."



OUR 2020 EVENTS

Our conferences convened

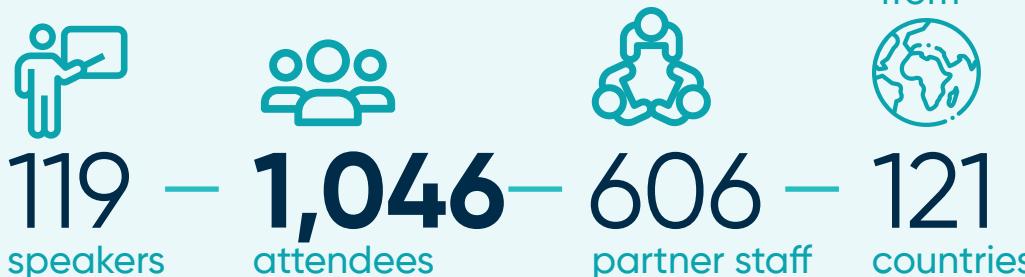
2,303

partners, donors,
and affiliates in 2020



THE 2020 REGIONAL LIBERTY FORUMS

As a result of the risks and restrictions pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, Atlas Network hosted our Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa Regional Liberty Forums fully virtually.



Facing a critical need for connection for the freedom movement in 2020, our conferences convened 2,303 partners, donors, and affiliates to share ideas, celebrate achievements, and gain visibility into how we are pivoting as a movement during the pandemic.



"During COVID-19 I have been participating in many online events, and Europe Liberty Forum was so far the best one in terms of organization and content."

— Marek Tatala
(Civil Development Forum, Poland)

THE LIBERTY FORUM & FREEDOM DINNER

Our flagship conference, Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner, had record-breaking attendance.



"Honestly, the COVID-19 pandemic brought some disillusionment, especially regarding local donors and plans that were put on hold. The Africa Liberty Forum brought courage and hope that even this is the right time for great libertarian efforts in my community."

— Abisola Olaiya
(Chale Institute, Nigeria)



"In a year where nothing was as expected, the Atlas Network team performed wonderfully. I really felt close to everybody, I could interact with a lot of people, and learn a lot."

— Mercedes Colombe
(Universidad del CEMA, Argentina)

AWARDING EXCELLENCE

CENTER FOR INDONESIAN POLICY STUDIES (CIPS)

The Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS) won the \$100,000 Templeton Freedom Award for its work to remove trade barriers on Indonesia's food sector, liberating billions of dollars in international commerce and transforming the country's protectionist outlook on trade. CIPS provided thought leadership and moral guidance as it worked to reverse decades of harmful food "self-sufficiency" policies that imposed severe import restrictions, tariffs, price controls, monopolies for state-owned enterprises, and barriers to entry—all in the name of independence.

CIPS' research demonstrated that 26 million Indonesians lack the income to buy adequate food, and an additional 68 million Indonesians are considered extremely vulnerable to food price increases. In the end, CIPS' campaign contributed to the reduction of import restrictions on beef, corn, rice, and other food products, resulting in an estimated savings of US\$1.9 billion for Indonesian households between 2016 and 2019. Most recently, the Indonesian parliament passed into law the single largest set of policy reforms since Indonesian democracy began two decades ago.



Affordable Food
for the Poor project



CIPS' campaign resulted in an estimated savings of US\$1.9 billion for Indonesian households between 2016 and 2019.

The Templeton Freedom Award prize program distributed

\$270,000

in cash prizes to:

1 Templeton Freedom Award winner

5 Templeton Freedom Award finalists

4 Regional Liberty Award winners

8 Regional Liberty Award finalists

Atlas Network awarded another

\$50,000

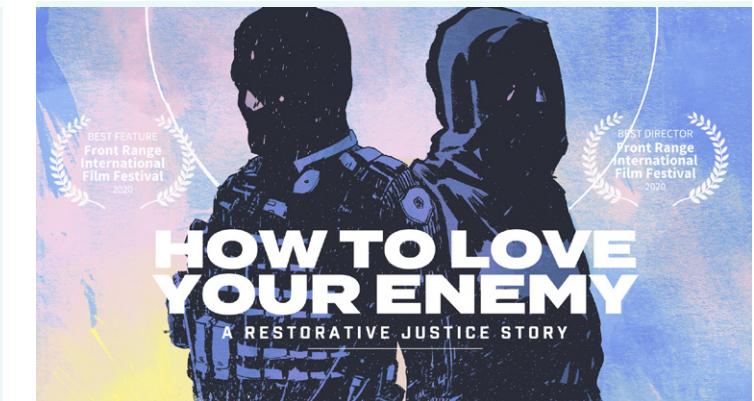
in prizes to

Lights, Camera, Liberty Film Festival Award
\$10,000

John Blundell Elevator Pitch Competition Prize
\$2,000

Two Think Tank Shark Tank Pitch Winners
\$35,000

Smith Student Outreach Award
\$3,000



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, LIBERTY FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNER:
FREE THE PEOPLE**

Being swept up in the criminal justice system often traps people in cycles of recidivism. In the United States the recidivism rate nationally is over 60 percent and unnecessary barriers to successful reentry are put in the paths of returning citizens. *How to Love Your Enemy: A Restorative Justice Story*—a film by Free the People—brings to light a new approach to policing that brings together victims, offenders, police officers, and members of the community to work through solutions. The film offers real-life examples of restorative justice in Longmont, Colorado, and illustrates a model of more just outcomes for the nation.

\$320,000

in prizes recognizing projects in 15 countries

IN THE MEDIA



ATLAS NETWORK

OUR TEAM

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Scott Barbee, Vice Chair & Treasurer
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Robert Boyd

Montgomery Brown
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IMPACT PHILANTHROPY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

NICOLÁS IBÁÑEZ SCOTT

Thanks to a new \$3 million gift in 2020 from Drake Foundation, made possible by Nicolás Ibáñez, Atlas Network's Center for Latin America is empowering the local initiatives of its 90+ regional partners.

"We at the Drake Foundation have admired the eco-system for supporting free-market ideas that exists in the United States," says Ibáñez. "While Chile has had some fine institutions conducting policy research in this vein, I believed something was missing. I helped found Fundación para el Progreso to better represent our ideas in Chile's public discussion, and now I am excited for Drake Foundation to partner with Atlas Network so the freedom movement across the broader region can be more robust and energetic. We need to appeal to the hearts of a younger generation that has been gravitating to dead-end ideologies like socialism."

Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips commented, "This is an exciting time for Atlas Network and our Center for Latin America. Our world is at a precarious crossroads, and I am reminded of what F.A. Hayek wrote when the world was recovering from World War II, 'we must make the building of a free society once more an intellectual adventure, a deed of courage.' We are inspired by the clear-eyed determination of allies like Nicolás Ibáñez and will make good on the faith placed in us to revive the fortunes of classical liberalism."

In November 2019, Chile was swept by violent protests. The region's best empirical example of how economic freedom creates economic growth is being dismantled under populist attacks about economic inequality. Business leaders like Nicolás Ibáñez Scott might have been tempted to walk away.

"We are inspired by the clear-eyed determination of allies like Nicolás Ibáñez and will make good on the faith placed in us to revive the fortunes of classical liberalism."

— ATLAS NETWORK CEO
BRAD LIPS

Instead, he has doubled down on the need to revive the liberal project in Latin America.

Nicolás' father established the first supermarket chain in Chile in the 1950s. Nicolás oversaw the expansion of the business into a publicly traded company, Distribucion y Servicio D&S SA, in which Walmart purchased a controlling stake in 2009. Nicolás and his family focus on real estate investment and asset management, as well as on their active philanthropic activities.



"We at the Drake Foundation have admired the eco-system for supporting free-market ideas that exists in the United States. ... I am excited for Drake Foundation to partner with Atlas Network so the freedom movement across the broader region can be more robust and energetic. We need to appeal to the hearts of a younger generation that has been gravitating to dead-end ideologies like socialism."

— NICOLÁS IBÁÑEZ SCOTT



Nicolás Ibáñez Scott is a Chilean entrepreneur and philanthropist.

2020 FINANCIALS

(AUDITED) —

 **REVENUE**
\$15,545,000

Total Revenue

Revenue 2020

Contributions	\$15,453,000
Other income	\$92,000
Total Revenue	\$15,545,000

\$15,453,000
Contributions
Other income
\$92,000

Assets and Liabilities

Cash and Investments	\$8,352,000
Pledges and Receivables	\$5,984,000
Other Assets	\$1,114,000
Total Assets	\$15,450,000

Liabilities	\$1,600,000
Net Assets	\$13,850,000
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	\$15,450,000

 **EXPENSES**
\$12,963,000

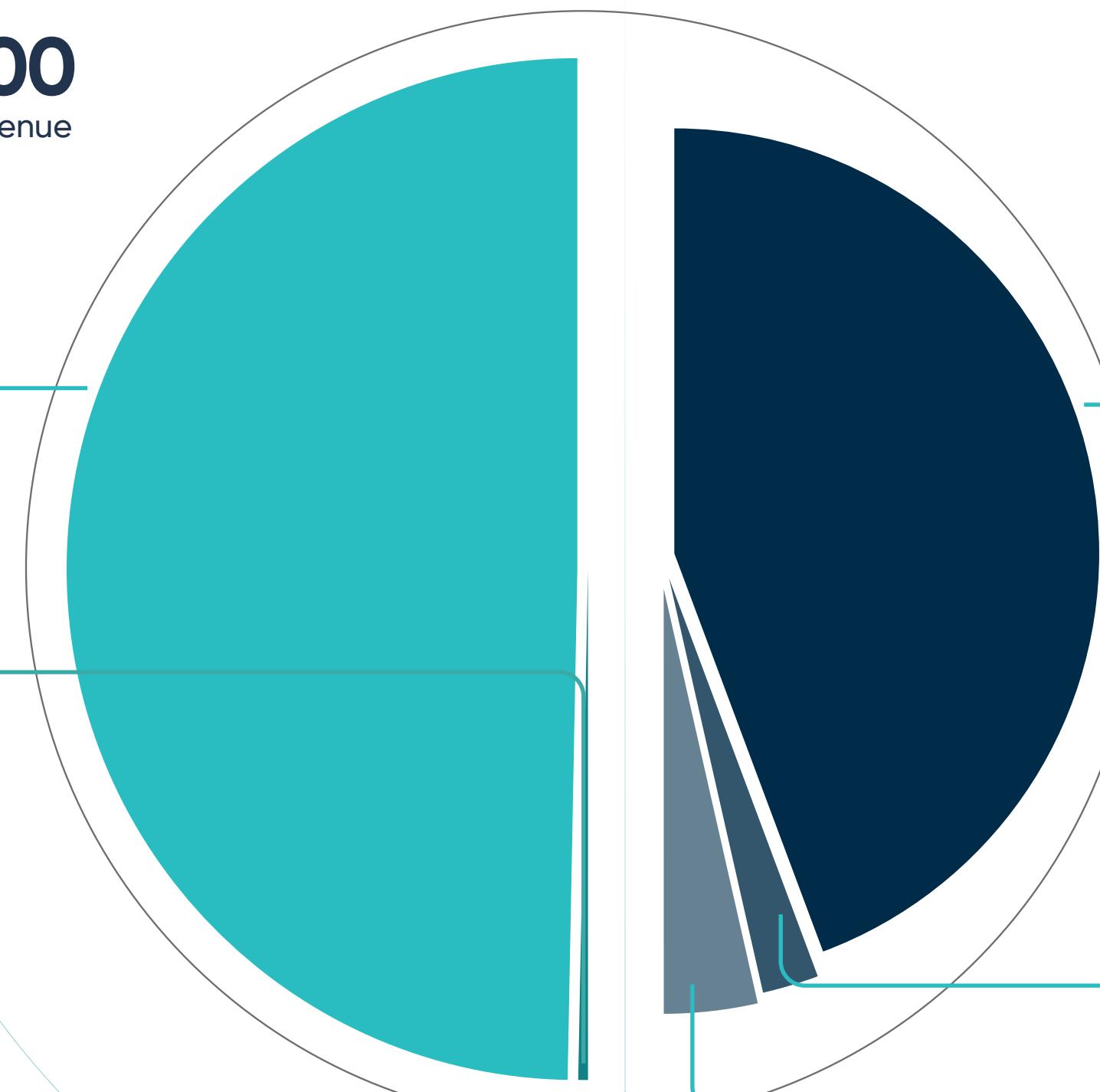
Total Expenses

Expenses 2020

Programs	\$11,146,000
Management	\$681,000
Development	\$1,136,000
Total Expenses	\$12,963,000

Programs
\$11,146,000

Management
\$681,000
Development
\$1,136,000





20
20

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