



# 2020

## Annual report



Center for Girls is located and operates in Chiang Rai province in northern Thailand. Chiang Khong is a border town situated along the Mekong River in close proximity to the infamous Golden Triangle area where Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand meet.

**Above:** In January 2020, children walk through a village together in the Chiang Khong District. Many of these children participate in CFG's programs within their community, and are recognized as youth leaders, and a resource by their peers.

Center for Girls was founded in 1997 to create a safe space for girls and take action against widespread gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation.

More than two decades later, Center for Girls continues to fight tirelessly for the rights and safety of women and children.

**M**ission: Center for Girls' mission is to work within the Chiang Rai Province to empower women and children, reduce instances of gender-based violence (GBV), and educate the populace about human trafficking issues. CFG seeks to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and all forms of abuse against children. We are committed to creating sustainable, participatory projects that equip people in the surrounding communities with the necessary life skills to become independent

leaders who strive towards human rights for all, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status.

**F**ounded in 1997, in 1997, Center for Girls has made a profound, positive impact on the lives of hundreds of women and girls. CFG remains deeply rooted in the communities we serve, and through our participatory approach, strong partnerships, and networks we strive to continue this impact for decades to come.



Dear supporters, partners, and friends of  
Center for Girls,

We began 2020 with much hope and optimism: with big goals for our programs, the determination to continue to create sustainable, impactful change, to keep moving forward improving the lives of women and children in Northern Thailand, and to develop even deeper partnerships within our community and with our donors.

COVID-19 threatened to bring our day-to-day programmatic operations to a screeching halt. By just three months into what we hoped would be one of our organization's most impactful years yet the lives of our team, our partner organizations, and of course the people we aim to serve every single day, were simultaneously halted.

Center for Girls exists to serve the most vulnerable women and children. Our beneficiaries are our neighbors, our community members, people whom we have grown to love and we see as family. Women who are already vulnerable to gender-based violence and economic hardship, and children at risk of dropping out of school, child marriage, and exploitation. Our work is critical to individuals and to our entire community, and because of that – our work could not be halted.

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We drew strength and compassion from our donors, our partners, our community, and our beneficiaries who have long showed us how strong empowered women can be, and the undeniable will to fight that only a survivor can possess. We pushed forward in what will be remembered as one of the most difficult years we have collectively experienced, and we continued to fight for the rights of women and girls.

But we still have so much to accomplish – including defeating this global pandemic – but this has been a year of adapting, of learning, of growing, and of supporting one another in ways that strengthened bonds, and reignited our fire to achieve our mission.

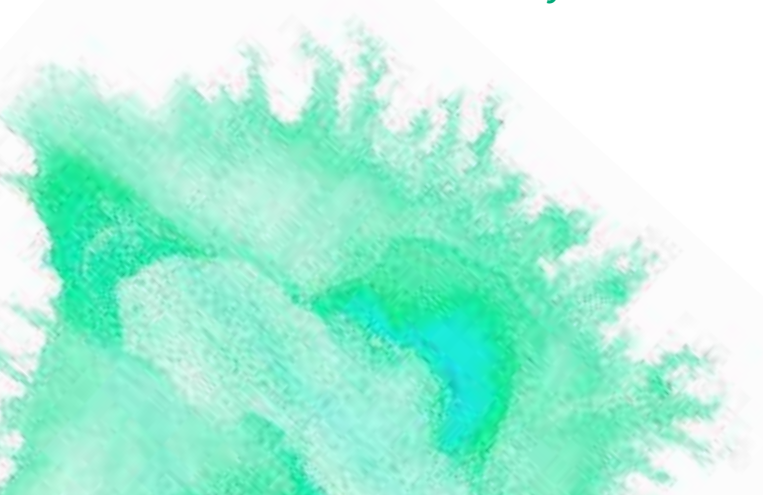
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We could not have continued without you and I want to personally extend the warmest thanks for your continued support. Thank you for supporting us financially, for working with us to build programs and adapt during times of change, for cheering us on from all around the world, and for reminding us that we must always push forward.

**Nunnaree Luangmoi**

Founder and Director

Center for Girls Foundation







**Above: Center for Girls' founder and director, Nunnaree Luangmoi has dedicated her life to defending the rights of women and children in her community by fighting to end human trafficking and gender-based violence in northern Thailand. In the photo above, Nunnaree leads an activity during a breakout session at a Women for Change workshop.**

# Our Impact

Despite 2020's great challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Center for Girls celebrated many accomplishments, including a milestone many years in the making – earning foundation status within the Kingdom of Thailand. We strengthened partnerships and delivered impact within our community, while continuing to learn and grow as a foundation.



## Empower Women, Build Livelihoods, and Eliminate Trafficking

### UN Women

**Goal** | To promote women's empowerment, prevent human trafficking, and improve the socio-economic and livelihood experiences in communities in Chiang Khong.

**Project** | At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women made it possible for CFG to distribute masks and sanitizer, and spread awareness about safety precautions to

help protect our community against the virus. This year, CFG also designed and executed a study on how livelihoods and circumstances of women in Chiang Khong are affected by COVID-19, socio-economic status, human trafficking and gender-based violence.

**Impact** | Survey results helped CFG and UN Women better understand economic

empowerment needs and design further programs based on these needs. At the end of 2020, CFG began to organize vocational skills training workshops and income generation activities (including seed funding), which will continue into 2021. These workshops are designed for and focus on women of ethnic minorities, migrant women, and women who cannot access public services.





**Top left:** Sponsored by UN Women, members of the community receive sanitizer and masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Top right:** Children from the Chiang Khong community participate in a CFG child's rights workshop, made possible by Kindernothilfe.

# Program for the Prevention of Child Trafficking and Child Abuse

## Kindernothilfe

**Goal** | In partnership with KNH, CFG works to prevent trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Chiang Khong District. Amended Royal Thai Government anti-trafficking laws, a record high number of online sexual abuse cases in 2020 according to the Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, and the ongoing economic impacts of COVID-19 made this work even more important in 2020.

**Project** | Working closely with local leaders, business owners, Chiang Khong Immigration Office, and the community, CFG works to ensure children and youths understand their legal rights, have self-determination to choose jobs and industries free of exploitation, that children's and worker's rights are respected, and (particularly migrant and ethnic minority children) have the capacity to make safe, informed decisions regarding migration.

**Impact** | In 2020, CFG directly reached 214 people through this program including, 37 children in target villages, 50 parents and guardians, 39 individuals on the child protection committee, 15 village and community leaders, 52 members of the multidisciplinary team, and 21 local business owners.

## Emergency Cases

### New England International Donors and Individual Donors

**Goal** | To respond to, follow up on, and provide services for all cases referred to CFG through our network and community. We assist women, children, and others experiencing emergency situations or at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, or child labor.

**Project** | Cases are reported to CFG by Women for Change leaders, NGO partners, people

in the villages where we work, local government, and those who walk into our offices seeking assistance. CFG provides counselling, legal support, education, housing/shelter, assistance seeking medical care (including mental health), help filing reports, medicine, food, clothing, and supplies, and financial support.

**Impact** | In 2020, CFG responded

to 47 emergency cases: 23 were girls under age 18, 6 were boys under 18, and 18 were women over 18. We work quickly and confidentially to provide help to those who need it with compassion and empathy. Each case is unique, but the nature of the cases CFG assisted with in 2020 included cases of domestic violence, violence against children, sexual exploitation of children, and scholarships.



**Top:** Patchareerat Bunrat (or Ploysai as her friends and colleagues know her!) leads an interactive activity during a Parent's Workshop.

**Bottom:** Women participate in a problem-solving, team building activity during a Women for Change Workshop put on by Center for Girls and supported by Diakonia.



# Women for Change

## Diakonia

**Goal** | Empower women by increasing knowledge and awareness of gender equality and women's rights. We aim to enhance confidence in women's collective power to make positive changes in their lives and communities, and equip them with leadership skills.

**Project** | CFG is reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in all seven of Chiang Khong's subdistricts and empowering

women to become leaders in their communities. We have established a strong, successful network that is as a resource for others at risk of, or who have experienced GBV.

**Impact** | 2020 marked the final year of the initial five-year project. Due to its success, Diakonia has committed to another three-years of support. In 2020, CFG trained women leaders in 102 villages, shifting

attitudes and perspectives to eliminate GBV, reduce stigma, and encourage reporting. The active WFC network includes 208 strong, empowered women with access to information and increased capacity to stand up for victims and report cases. When the project began in 2016, very few women held leadership positions within their villages but, by the end of 2020, 18 women had been elected as a direct result of this program.

**Right:** Center for Girls facilitates interactive, small-group activities during a Women for Change workshop focused on women's rights and empowerment, gender based violence, and the issues they are each facing within their own communities and daily lives.



# Economic Empowerment

## Global Fund for Children

**Goal** | To increase the economic empowerment of Lahu girls and their families in Chiang Khong by providing assistance and economic opportunity through traditional bag crafting.

**Project** | CFG provided a five-day training workshop to enhance the Lahu bag crafting skills and career planning of 20 girls and their families and provided seed

money to purchase necessary materials to allow girls to begin building their businesses. CFG continues to provide guidance and support to ensure the success of these businesses.

**Impact** | 20 girls and their families have been provided with career planning assistance, training, and materials for their bag crafting businesses.

**Emergency Fund** | As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many children and their families suffered a loss of income and were in need of emergency assistance. Global Fund for Children provided CFG with additional, flexible funding to supply 15 families with necessities such as food, baby formula, and hygiene supplies.

# 2020 in Review

jan

CFG joined the Chiang Khong NGO Society to organize activities to **enhance capacity** and encourage children and youth to brainstorm about situations they encounter in the community, and **find creative solutions** that could be **implemented within the next three years**.

feb

With thanks to Diakonia, **Women for Change leaders from Sathan Sub-district were invited to share updates on the successful project** at the Sathan Municipality Elderly School at Chiang Khan Temple. Many key leaders, including Chairperson of the Chiang Khong Crown Prince Hospital, Chiang Rai Governor, and Emeritus Professor Dr. Kasem Watanachai were in attendance.

mar

CFG responded to an **emergency case of a 13-year old girl forced to marry an older man**. Support from the local community and generous international donors ensured a better future by **funding a scholarship and supporting her family** so she can stay in school instead of being forced to marry.

apr

The **COVID-19 pandemic hits Thailand**. With funding from UN Women, CFG begins to distribute masks and sanitizer, and spreads awareness about safety precautions to protect our community against the virus.

may

CFG prepares for next month's "**Girls Are Not Brides**" campaign – a Global Fund for Children project supported by community elders to **empower young girls, protect their rights, raise awareness about, and prevent forced marriages**.



jun

On June 5, 2020, the Center for Girls Foundation, the Women for Change network, local businesses, community leaders and members **campaigned in Chiang Khong District to the fight against human trafficking**, marking Thailand's National Anti-Human Trafficking Day.

jul

Made possible by KNH, **36 children from 7 villages in Rim Khong Sub-district** joined CFG to strengthen their capacity, learn basic principles of child rights, and discuss child protection problems in their communities including: **bullying, child labor, domestic violence, sexual violence against children, and child marriage.**

aug

Also sponsored by KNH, a workshop was held to **train Parent Leaders** in Ban Don Ti, a village in Rim Khong Sub-district, to **enhance their skills and better provide assistance to children and women** who have been sexually exploited and abused.

sep

CFG met with officials from Phan and Chiang Rai to **upgrade our status** from 'organization' to 'foundation' – allowing us to better fundraise and expand our programs. We are grateful to the committee members who joined us and are proud to now be “**Center for Girls Foundation.**”

oct

To **bolster child protection mechanisms and empower people to stand up against child abuse and exploitation**, CFG hosted a workshop for Parent Leaders in Rim Khong Sub-district.

nov

Sponsored by Global Fund for Children, local parents come together for a **short film screening** and to **listen to female leaders speak about their first-hand experience with child marriage and negative impacts.**

dec

The Center for Girls Foundation team begins working on **year-end reporting** across our programs, **demonstrating impact and achievements, documenting challenges** throughout the year, and reflecting on learnings from 2020.



“Women are important. They are both the present and the future. Supporting women to have a role and participate in society helps make society strong and rid us of violence. Building equality for women requires us to change many attitudes and norms. We need to see women as human, and know that all humans have equal rights.”

Nunnaree Luangmoi  
Founder, Center for Girls Foundation



**Above:** Women present the ideas they discussed in a small group activity during a Women for Change workshop attended by women from villages through Chiang Khong to learn more about their rights, the law, and to gain confidence to speak up for themselves and others against injustices and gender-based violence that occurs in their communities.

# Stories

"I am 28 years old, am married and have two children. My husband is an assistant village headman and I am a cook at a local school. My sons are studying at the village school and we are Lahu.

I knew about the Center for Girls Foundation because I joined their Women for Change program and was trained to become part of the Women's Network. I gained a lot of knowledge about violence against women and how to help women in my village. I was very excited and interested in participating in this project. By participating, I changed myself, wanting to gain knowledge in many areas because I know women of my village have been violated and do not receive equality in society - I wanted to help them.

I also volunteered to be part of the Parent Network and I asked my husband to join too. After participating in these activities, I am so glad to see my husband's attitude positively change. We stopped using violence against each other and my husband's behavior has changed a lot - I feel like he understands me more. We help each other, work together, and take care of our children together.

I am proud to join the Center for Girls Foundation, which has raised the knowledge and skills of the women in my community, helping enable us to better protect ourselves and family members.

I have also built a women's group to craft Lahu bags and make handmade soap to create jobs and income for women in my village while still doing my duty to protect the children of my village as part of The Parent Network. Thank you so much, Center for Girls Foundation."

**-WOMEN FOR  
CHANGE LEADER  
AND MEMBER OF  
PARENT NETWORK**

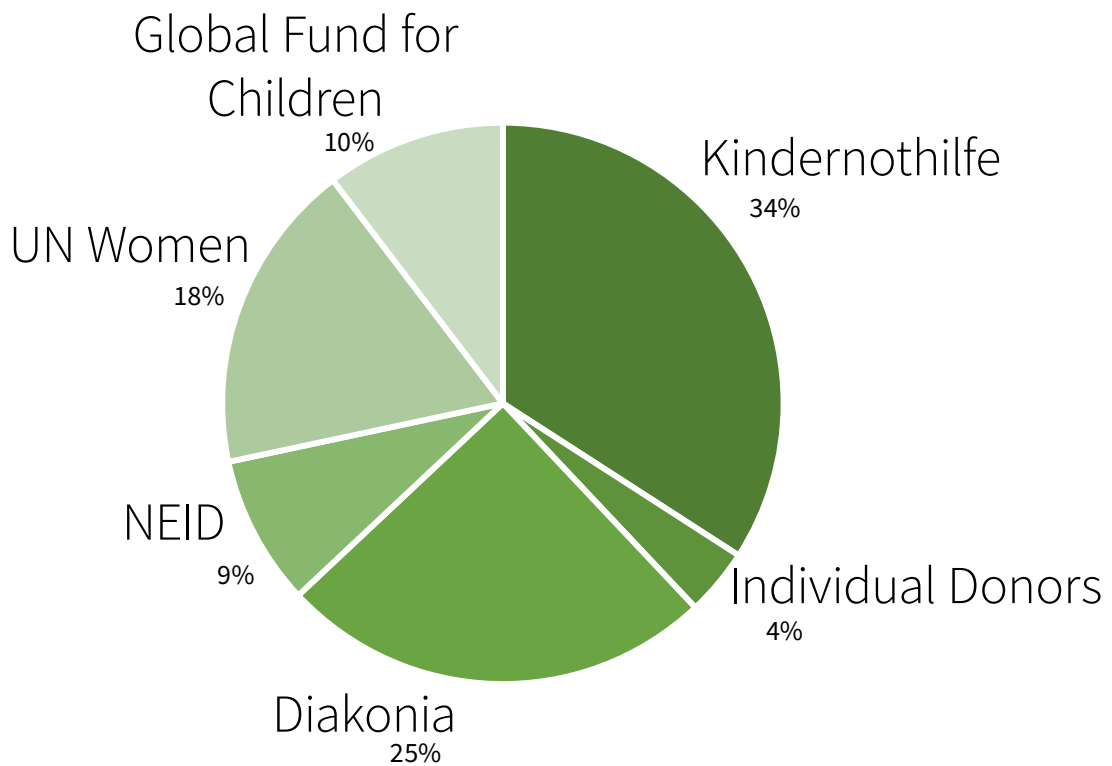
"I am 15 years old and in Grade 9. I live in the small village of the Khamu and have three older brothers and one older sister. I live with my mom who is self-employed, while my father works as a gardener and lives in the plantation field.

Center for Girls Foundation supports my education and children and families in my village. Center for Girls Foundation invited me and my friends to participate in child rights training activities and to become part of CFG's Children's Network in my village. I have gotten a lot of knowledge that I am not getting in the classroom. Center for Girls Foundation also took us to do activities with children in other villages which made me so happy and I also discovered a lot of new experiences.

By participating in the activities, I realized I can do a lot of good things that I never expected and I have abilities that I never knew. I am grateful that being part of CFG's programs gave me a chance to work with new people that work who taught me a lot. We even did a community radio talk about ending child marriage! We also did a campaign in my community and I am so proud of this. With this knowledge, I work with adults in the community by helping to run campaigns to raise awareness of violence against children."

**-YOUNG LEADER  
AND MEMBER OF  
CFG'S CHILDREN'S  
NETWORK**





**This year, CFG's total amount raised for programs was**

(THB)  
3,725,345.<sup>16</sup>  
(USD)  
113,771.<sup>23</sup>





# Words from Our Community

*"My friend and I became aware of a case in our village when an adult came to tell me about children who had been deceived into working abroad. The children wanted to come back home but did not know how. My friend and I consulted Center for Girls and the children were rescued and returned to Thailand. I am so delighted and grateful to Center for Girls Foundation for leading activities in my village and allowing me to be in the Children's Network. I can educate other children and watch out for problems that could happen with children in the village."*

**- Youth Leader**

*"Women need to have the ability to judge what is right for us, to stand against all odds for our principles and our wellbeing. Women need the ability to make money on our own. And, we need to sincerely believe that those who fall can get to our feet again... with grace."*

**- Chitrapon Vanaspong**



Thank you to all of our dedicated  
partners for your continued support!  
Our work would not be possible  
without you.

# Take Action



## donate

Make a donation TODAY to help families in desperate need.



## Volunteer

Consider volunteering at Center for Girls – motivated, enthusiastic individuals willing to learn and help are always welcome!



## educate

Educate yourself and others on issues like human trafficking and gender-based violence that millions of people around the world face on a daily basis.

<http://center4girls.org>

Please share to your networks and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more up to date info



@cfgthailand



@centerforgirls



/centerforgirls.maeor

