

2021

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: The Center for Girls Foundation's office - a safe place where women and children in the community know they can come to seek support and resources.

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.**

Center for Girls Foundation's 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.

Founded 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, donors, and allies of the Center for Girls Foundation,

Thank you for continuing to support us. We remain committed to the development of our work and our organization to protect children and women from violence, exploitation, and human trafficking effectively and with compassion – and we could not do this without you.

Although we continued to face challenges in 2021 that came with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proud that we achieved all that we set out to do. Our work is possible because of the dedicated cooperation and participation from civil society networks and governments - and most importantly - the power of female leaders and community leaders who are a key part of our network and share our vision for a better, safer world.

2021 was an exciting year as we reviewed our 5-year strategic plan (2021 -2025) and launched two new projects. We remain committed to protecting children and women from violence, ensuring their basic human rights, and working towards a world where we all live in a safe and equal society. We continued to promote the participation of children, women, and people in the community while developing community mechanisms, network organizations, and civil society networks that protect children and women.

We remain committed to protecting children and women from violence, ensuring their basic human rights, and working towards a world where we all live in a safe and equal society.



We were excited to launch two new projects in 2021. Our “Social Empowerment For Gender Equality,” funded by Diakonia aims to promote gender equality and reduce violence against women. The “Project to Empower the Community and Develop Local Mechanisms for the Protection of Children” funded by Kindernothilfe will help protect children in 3 border districts in Chiang Rai, Thailand from all forms of violence and we are very excited to expand our work in two new districts (Chiang Saen and Wiang Kaen) through this program.

We share these successes with you because it is your support and kindness that gives us the strength to continue protecting children and women in the border districts of Northern Thailand.

The Center for Girls Foundation team and I greatly appreciate your support in 2021. We thank you for financially making this work possible, for helping bring new programs to our community, for your kind words, and for ensuring women and children receive the help they need in emergency cases. We share these successes with you because it is your support and kindness that gives us the strength to continue protecting children and women in the border districts of Northern Thailand.

Nunnaree Luangmoi

Founder and Director

Center for Girls Foundation





Above: While participating in a small-group activity during a workshop hosted and facilitated by Center for Girls Foundation, women from Chiang Khong come together to discuss situations and circumstances women in their communities experience.

COVID-19 continued to impact our community - and our work - in 2021. The impact of the pandemic spreads far beyond the physical health of our community, causing economic impacts, school closures, draining programmatic resources, and can lead to an increase in gender-based violence while creating barriers to accessing essential help and services. This makes our work even more important and we are grateful for all our our partners who continue to support this important, life changing work.



Women's Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods Development

U.N. Women

Goal | To economically empower women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and gender-based violence in Chiang Khong District, strengthening their financial literacy skills and ability to earn their own income.

Project | In 2021, we designed training curriculum to empower women, prevent human trafficking, and improve the socio-economic and livelihoods

opportunities in Chiang Khong. The Center for Girls Foundation provided women with valuable training on financial literacy as well as the production of high-quality, sustainably made soaps, product packaging and photography, and online marketing.

Impact | 56 women from four villages attended these valuable trainings. Participants

learned how to develop a financial savings plan for their own households. They also developed the ability to create cold-pressed soaps utilizing home-grown agricultural products, learned how to creatively package their soaps, and to market these products online to generate revenue.



Left: During a workshop sponsored by UN Women, a woman learns to make soaps she can sell, providing new economic opportunity and income possibilities.

Right: Children from the Chiang Khong community participate in a children's rights workshop, made possible by Kindernothilfe.

Empowering the Community and Developing Local Protection of Children

Kindernothilfe

Goal | In partnership with KNH, the Center for Girls Foundation works to ensure that children in three border districts (Chiang Khong, Chiang Saen, and Wiang Kaen) are safe from all forms of violence. We help local communities build systems that prevent, promote, and protect the rights and welfare of children through a participatory approach, keeping children's needs and the larger community at the center of our work.

Project | This year, we adapted to the ongoing pandemic by taking many of our trainings and workshops online. We created a forum for children to share their experiences and a process in which children learn through tools and methods that are

age and context appropriate, including small group discussions and using media and technology for activities and online communication. The Center for Girls Foundation also works with important community representatives from 7 sub-districts, including Wiang, Sathan, Sri Don Chai, Bun Rueang, Huai So, and Krueng in Chiang Khong district as well as Mae Ngoen in Chiang Saen District to develop knowledge and understanding about child's rights, types of violence against children, and their own role in ending violence against children.

Impact | In 2021, KNH's partnership made it possible for the Center for Girls Foundation to conduct programs in 11 target

areas, reaching 200 community representatives through two trainings, where they received information on child rights and child protection and bolstered their ability to detect and report abuses. Despite COVID-19 restrictions that made it difficult to organize and gather, 17 Local Administrative Organizations partnered with us in 2021 to establish the child protection committee which will continue to defend the rights of children in the community for years to come. Further, we recruited 45 youth leaders in 2021 and established safety networks in 3 border districts, bolstering the ability to detect and properly intervene in cases where children are in danger.



Top: Center for Girls Foundation organizes and marches with women leaders, members of the community, and local partners to campaign and publicly advocate for human rights, abuse prevention, and the empowerment of women and children in Thailand.

Responding to Emergency Cases

Individual Donations

Goal | We fundraise to ensure we can respond quickly in times of crisis and are able to provide the help that members of our community need, exactly when the need it most. We are a resource and provide essential assistance to children, women, and families who are subjected to, or at risk of, any form of violence or sexual exploitation.

Project | Center For Girls Foundation is notified when cases of violence against women and children or human trafficking occur in our area. Our

network consists of community leaders, local government officials, individuals in the private sector like restaurant owners and tuk tuk drivers, and members of the community who know they can rely on us. We provide assistance like basic essentials for children and families, safe housing, supporting education, transportation for medical or mental health care, preparation for litigation and navigating the legal process, and coordinate referrals to other organizations as well.

Impact | In 2021, the Center for Girls Foundation assisted 47 children, women, and families subjected to violence, including 29 children under the age of 18 (7 boys, 22 girls) and 18 adults aged 18 and over (1 male, 17 females). These cases consisted of physical and verbal abuse against both women and children, child pregnancy, and exploitation on the internet where victims were deceived into transferring money online under false pretenses.

Social Empowerment for Gender Equality

Diakonia

Goal | Through Diakonia's support of our Social Empowerment For Gender Equality Project, the Center for Girls Foundation provides women with the tools they need to become strong leaders by increasing their knowledge, awareness, and skills. Together, we advocate for public policy change, promote gender equality, and work to reduce violence against women and children in Chiang Khong District.

Project | In 2021, the Center for Girls Foundation worked closely with the network of women leaders in our community that we have been building since

2016. 35 representatives from 209 women leaders drafted strategies to improve the health, economic, social and cultural, and environmental issues they face, as well as working to promote gender equality and reduce violence against women and children. These strategies will be used as a roadmap to drive the work over the next two years of this project.

Impact | We are seeing an important shift in the attitudes around female leadership in our community as a direct result of this work with 96.2% of women we worked with reporting that they believe women can

work as community leaders (a 20%+ increase in just one year). 208 women leaders from 102 villages who participated in the Women for Change project from 2016-2020 have continued their partnership with the Center for Girls Foundation, many of whom are running for elected office in their village or district. In the 2021 elections, 36 women were elected to positions as village head-person, village head-person assistant, council member, chief of the Local Administration Organization (compared to 2020, when only three women were elected into these positions).

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





2021 in Review

jan

Thai rapper, singer, and dancer **Lalisa Manobal**, a member of the South Korean group **Blackpink**, helped raise funds for the Center for Girls Foundation's work.

feb

"**Sopa Soap**" becomes available in stores in Chiang Khong! In 2020, we hosted **soap making workshops**, teaching women how to make and sell their own soaps, providing a **new source of income for women**, including those who lost jobs due to COVID-19 closures and restrictions.

mar


Teachers and students from **Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration** visit the Center for Girls Foundation to share their knowledge and learn about our work.

apr

Center for Girls Foundation held meetings with **local business owners on their child protection policies** and with Local Administration Organisation to plan **anti-trafficking workshops** as a part of the Kindernothilfe project.

may

Center for Girls Foundation's Founder, Nunnaree Luangmoi speaks on a virtual panel hosted by U.N. Women on "**Enhancing Economic Potential for Women: Cooperation in Coping with the Impact of COVID-19 and Exchange of Best Practices.**"



jun

We **developed a manual on child protection** for community volunteers, supported by Kindernothilfe and also **designed a tool for the monitoring and evaluation** of this important program.

jul

Center For Girls Foundation worked with Diakonia to launch a new program: **Social Empowerment For Gender Equality** in July, which will continue through 2023!

aug

This month, Center for Girls Foundation **celebrated our 24th anniversary** and hosted a **workshop for child leaders on career promotion**.

sep

Sponsored by Diakonia, the Center for Girls Foundation convenes our **network of local leaders** to empower women, drive gender equality, and improve our health, economic, social, cultural, and environmental priorities.

oct

In this busy month we hosted workshops on: **financial savings** for local women; with women leaders to review **lessons learned** from Women for Change; to discuss the **Social Empowerment for Gender Equality** project; and on **child's rights, protection, law, and policy**.

nov

On November 25, the International Day to End Violence against Women, we **kicked off 16 Days of Activism to stand against gender-based violence**.

dec

In early December we hosted an awareness training **sponsored by KNH**. We convened many different sectors and focused on **community-level child protection**, coming together to prioritize the work to protect children in our community.

“Every human being has dignity and equal rights. No one should be subjugated to violence in any form.”

Nunnaree Luangmoi
Founder, Center for Girls Foundation



Above: The Center for Girls Foundation team meets with Ms. Sukanya, advisor to the mayor of the Wiang Khong subdistrict and Chairman of the Executive Committee to discuss initiatives in the subdistrict aimed at improving the lives, and building awareness about the rights of women and children.

Stories

Sukanya was born and raised in Ban Sopsom, Chiang Khong District and as the mayor, she oversees 5 villages in the Wiang Chiang Khong District.

Coming into this position was both very exciting and challenging for Sukanya. As a local leader, Sukanya is dedicated to promoting people's quality of life and creating a suitable and safe environment within her community.

For Sukanya, the safety and wellbeing of children is one of her biggest priorities. After working with the Center for Girls Foundation around child protection, she agrees that it is the municipality's duty to protect children. Sukanya is continually focused on promoting the development of children of all ages and genders through both education and strengthening of child protection laws.

She works closely with the Center for Girls Foundation and the sub-district's child protection committee, and has helped develop the Wiang Chiang Khong District's child protection center that is responsible for reporting incidents and cases of violence against children, helping and assisting children who have been subjected to violence, and planning awareness campaigns aimed to promote understanding among parents. Sukanya believes that violence against children is not a personal issue but a problem that everyone has the shared responsibility of eradicating.

As a mayor, Ms. Tipruaksa is dedicated to continuing to work hard to ensure the protection of children as well as promote the knowledge and skills necessary to protect the entire community from all forms of violence and exploitation.

**MS. SUKANYA
TIPRUAKSA**
MAYOR OF WIANG
CHIANG KHONG
DISTRICT



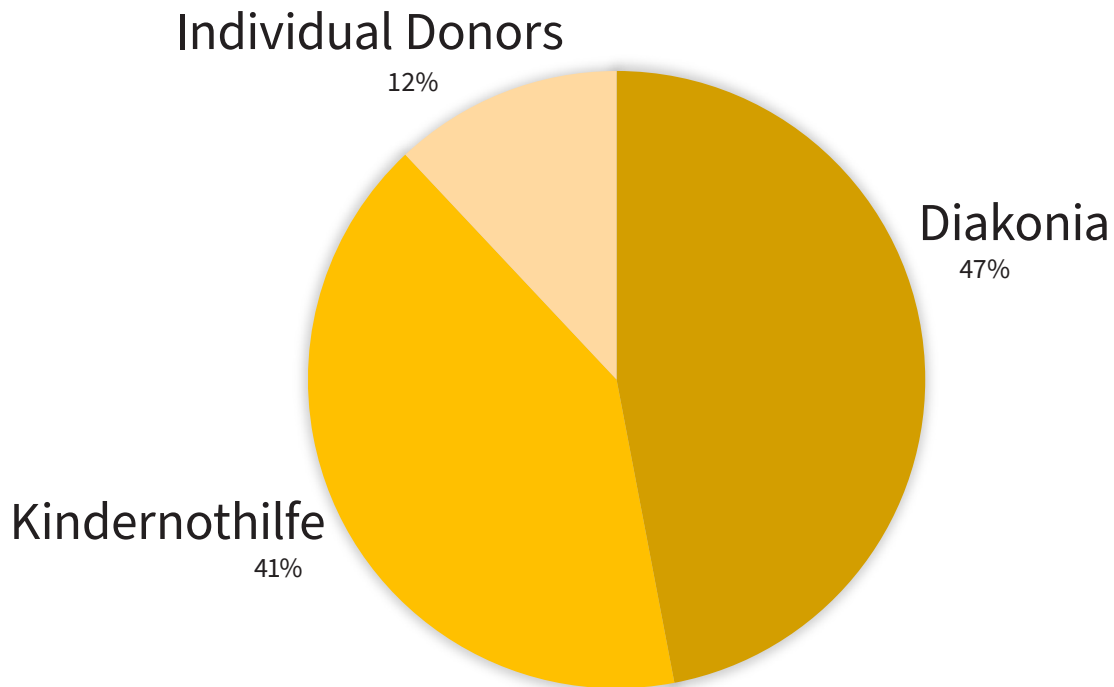
"I believed that just being born as a woman in Hmong culture was wrong. I didn't know what to fight for because I felt that I just had to accept my destiny. I believed that if I fought for my rights, most people would think I was wrong or weird, and that I was going against my culture's traditions.

I feel so lucky to work with Center for Girls Foundation, and I thank them for coming to my village, and for talking with and looking after Hmong women. It makes us feel that we are a part of a positive change in our community and that we have rights equal to men.

I am now confident to speak up. I am confident to talk to my husband, and his parents about my rights. I do this because it is *my* future, and my future generation's future. It's not wrong to fight for my rights.

I will keep fighting and protecting my rights as a woman."

PARTICIPANT
IN CENTER FOR
GIRLS FOUNDATION'S
PROGRAMS



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**This year, Center for Girls Founation's total
amount raised was:**

(THB)

2,415,578^{.89}

(USD)

68,371^{.90}



Words from Our Community

"I would like to thank the Center for Girls Foundation for hosting activities in my village and giving me the opportunity to be the youth representative of my village. This opportunity has given me a chance to help my friends, to receive a scholarship, pursue my education, and develop my potential to do other projects."

Youth Leader

"My friend's parents were forcing her to get married, so I called Center for Girls Foundation to come and help my friend. My friend received help from the Center for Girls Foundation and now has the opportunity to continue her studies."

Teenage Girl

who brought an emergency case to Center for Girls Foundation



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



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Center for Girls Foundation