



# 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



Center for Girls Foundation (CFGF) is located 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.

The team of the Center for Girls Foundation envisions a world where women and children are safe to live their lives in equality, with dignity, and humanity.

# Center for Girls Foundation 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, the Center for Girls Foundation continues to fight tirelessly for the rights and safety of women and children.

**C**enter for Girls Foundation's mission is to empower women and children, reduce instances of gender-based violence (GBV), and raise awareness about human trafficking issues. CFGF 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 toward human rights for all, regardless of

gender, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status.

**F**ounded in 1997, the Center for Girls Foundation has made a profound, positive impact on the lives of thousands of women and girls. CFGF 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.

In 2023, the Center for Girls Foundation was committed to elevating the organization's work to enhance knowledge and the ability to act efficiently in the face of the issues they are trying to tackle.

They endeavored to achieve this in giving importance to the role of children, women, communities and local government organizations.

Whilst working on gender equality, gender-based violence and human trafficking in operations in 2023, the Center for Girls Foundation is thankful for all of the roles carried out by children, women, communities, and the essential support from the government and local governmental organizations to eliminate inequality.

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Reports concerning violence against children, women, and domestic abuse are efficiently forwarded to the relevant authorities and managed in accordance with the unique requirements of those impacted by these issues.

The Center for Girls Foundation will persist in fulfilling these responsibilities and prioritize the involvement of all sectors.



**Nunnaree Luangmoi**  
Founder and Director  
Center for Girls Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nunnaree Luangmoi'.

# OUR IMPACT

## Community Empowerment and Development of Local Mechanisms for Children Protection

### Kindernothilfe (KNH)

**Goal** | CFGF initiated the local child protection mechanism in accordance with the Child Protection Act B.E. 2546 and the directives of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The primary objective was to stimulate local government organizations to set up child protection centers at the sub-district level. CFGF, as one of these centers, plays a crucial role in advancing child welfare protection within communities and ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

**Project** | In 2023, project implementations continued consistently with three target groups: communities, local administrative organizations (LAOs), and child representatives in the target area of 17 sub-districts. This aimed to establish a coordination mechanism for prevention and protection to ensure child safety from violence.

**Impact** | In 2023, the project organized activities for children to participate in and develop their capacities. A total of 69 individuals participated, including 35 representatives from communities, 21 from shelters, and 13 from schools.

Awareness among community and sub-district-level committees about the unacceptable nature of violence against children has increased, leading to interest in establishing support mechanisms to help children, creating vigilant communities, and reporting incidents of violence against children in all forms.

Collaboration with 19 LAOs led to the establishment of child protection community centers at the sub-district level.



# OUR IMPACT

## Social Empowerment for Gender Equality

### Diakonia

**Goal** | In partnership with Diakonia, CFGF promoted gender equality and reduces violence against children and women by working with various target groups, including women leaders, ethnic groups, government agencies, civil society, and local administration organizations. CFGF aims to enhance their knowledge and understanding of gender equality and empower them to work together to drive the initiatives.

**Project** | In 2023, CFGF hosted awareness campaigns on different important days, involving community leaders and women leaders as a network for surveillance and reporting incidents, alongside with public announcements on community radio to raise awareness among the people in the community.

The direct target groups from January to December 2023 include the participation of women, men, government agencies, civil society, and ethnic groups.

**Impact** | The target demographic of men and women gained awareness and knowledge about gender-based violence, equipping them with the tools for action - including, basic counseling, referring cases, and reporting them. This signifies a shift towards addressing gender-based violence actively instead of remaining silent. The perception of gender-based violence as a private matter has transformed. Participants now recognize it as criminal behavior, requiring reporting. Women reported an increased status and bargaining power within their families. This indicates that their participation in public spheres and active engagement in gender-based violence issues are recognized and valued.



# OUR IMPACT

## Enhancing Knowledge & Skills on Human Trafficking and Violence Against Women Prevention

### UN - Women

**Goal** | Organized by the CFGF in collaboration with the crucial support from UN-Women, this comprehensive training initiative focused on empowering women and fostering a safer environment. Involving participants from 7 sub-districts—Wiang, Sathan, Sri Don Chai, Rim Khong, Krueng, Bun Rueang, and Huai So—is detailed, the campaign was to drive understanding and combat the grave issues of human trafficking and violence against women.

**Project** | The participants were 226 women and girl representatives from 104 villages across 7 sub-districts in Chiang Khong Province, including individuals from ethnic groups such as Hmong, La Hu, and Tai Lue. The training aimed to equip participants with a deep understanding of critical topics related to human trafficking and violence against women. Participants from conflict-affected areas learned to identify the vulnerabilities faced by refugees and internally displaced persons, who become easy targets for traffickers looking for desperate individuals.

**Impact** | The program resonated deeply with participants, fostering a sense of collective empowerment. They emerged not only equipped with knowledge but also motivated to champion change within their communities. The training instilled in them:

- **Awareness as a Weapon:** Participants gained the ability to identify red flags of trafficking and violence, empowering them to intervene and report potential threats.
- **Building Resilience:** They learned practical skills to safeguard themselves and others, including refusal strategies, self-defense techniques, and digital safety measures.
- **Amplifying Voices:** Equipped with knowledge about legal recourse and support mechanisms, participants became advocates for survivors, encouraging them to speak up and seek help.
- **Rippling Effect:** The training ignited a sense of responsibility within the participants, motivating them to share their knowledge and empower others within their communities.

# OUR IMPACT

## Women's Economic Empowerment for the Gender - Responsive Covid-19 Socio - Economic Recovery in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand

### UN - Women

**Goal** | Organized by the CFGF in collaboration with UN-Women, this program was formulated to provide a package of economic empowerment services for vulnerable ethnic minority women and youth severely affected by the socio-economic impacts of the COVID- 19 pandemic.

**Project** | Chiang Khong District is a city located on the Thai-Lao border with a population and environmental ecology diversity. With societal and cultural fluctuations, it results in both positive and negative changes. Causing various impacts on people in Chiang Khong District, especially the female population. However, in the past, women have lacked opportunity and had little chance to participate in expressing issues and solutions in public and at the policy dialogue level. Through meticulous activities and targeted engagements, our overarching aim is to elevate women hailing from diverse ethnic backgrounds, equipping them with the requisite tools, knowledge, and resources indispensable for nurturing their economic autonomy and fostering positive contributions to the respective communities.

**Impact** | In 2023, the Women's Economic Empowerment Learning Center was opened with support from UN Women and is established through collaborative efforts with the Chiang Khong district women's network and is consistently used as an educational space for women to engage in activities, a focal point for selling various products to the local community and tourists, and further serve the goals of the project.

A number of workshops were held, teaching ethnic women the knowledge of embroidering, tailoring, design and Hmong costume tailoring skills.

In addition, the Chiang Khong Nightfall Bazaar Fashion show was hosted, showcasing the creativity of local and ethnic women who had received the design and embroidery training.

Other workshops involved career assessments and development training to allow La Hu and Hmong young women the opportunity and skills to pursue their aspirations. A financial literacy and saving practices workshop was held in July for ethnic women and female youths to equip them with financial skills.



# OUR IMPACT

## Women's Economic Empowerment for the Gender - Responsive Covid-19 Socio - Economic Recovery in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand

UN - Women

**Impact** | Furthermore, a meeting was conducted in collaboration with government agencies, local government organisations, and civil society networks. The aim was to identify ways to promote and support the development of plans for working with women to recover the economy following the COVID-19 situation and ways of establishing and supporting job opportunities and careers for women.



# OUR IMPACT

## Responding to Emergency Cases

### Individual Donations

**Goal** | CFGF fundraised to ensure we can respond quickly in times of crisis and are able to provide the help that members of our community need. We act as 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** | CFGF is notified when cases of violence against women and children or human trafficking occur in the working areas. Our network consists of community leaders, local government officials, individuals in the private sector such as restaurant owners and tuk-tuk drivers, and members of the community who know they can rely on us. We provide assistance such as 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 coordinating referrals to other organizations as well.

**Impact** | In 2023, 209 women leaders gained understanding on gender equality principles, protecting their rights, gained skills to report and refer cases of GBV to service providers at village and sub-district level. In 2023, there were a total of 20 cases of GBV reported to CFGF. All cases were provided assistance according to the needs of the victims. Male leaders were shown to have developed understanding and positive attitudes towards gender equality and took part in the anti-GBV network of Chiang Khong. In 2023, two more women were elected as community leaders. In 2023, a survey was conducted and found that 57 women played a role of community leaders. In addition, the Hmong Women's group within the Ethnic Women's Network of Chiang Khong initiated a vocational development project specifically designed to empower Hmong women in their community. This project focused on capacity building, providing the women with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for themselves and secure resources. As a direct result of their enhanced capabilities, they successfully obtained a seed fund of 60,000 THB from IMPEC, demonstrating their increased potential for self-driven initiatives.

# OUR IMPACT

## Gender Equality and Ending Gender-Based Violence

UNFPA

**Goal** | Strengthening the network capacity of ethnic groups (such as Hmong, Lahu, and Tai Lue) and LGBTIQ+ groups to provide knowledge and understanding of basic human rights.

Organizing the learning process of Promoting Gender Equality for Women Leaders.

**Project** | This initiative is about fostering a positive perspective on gender equality, empowering individuals to express themselves and play active roles in society. The Kong Roi Nam Som campaign aimed to develop knowledge and abilities to work towards promoting equality between genders, while also reducing prejudices that result in unequal views between genders. Additionally Cross-Mekong run was a campaign in November in collaboration with public and private sector networks. Joining forces with the Chiang Khong District Running Club and the community to end violence against women and girls.

**Impact** | Run Kham Kong 2023, a campaign to end gender-based violence, launched successfully on Dec 2-3, 2023, through collaboration with local agencies, CSOs, residents, and runners from Thailand and Laos.

50 Ethnic network representatives in Chiang Khong received human rights training.

There are 208 new members of Kong Roi Nam Som from 102 villages in Chiang Khong district, including women and LGBTIQ+ participants who participated in the workshop and training.

The signing of a memorandum of agreement between UNFPA and Chiang Khong district ensures that Chiang Khong District, in collaboration with the leadership within its seven subdistricts, will actively drive forward the vital work in these areas.



# REVIEW IN 2023



Jan

CFGF is relocated to a new office and hired additional staff. Efforts made to enhance the capabilities of project staff and share experiences in child protection work. Tools developed for **monitoring and evaluating project progress** in collaboration with organizations funded by **Kinder Not Hilfe**.

Start implementing **The Women's Economic Empowerment for the Gender-Responsive COVID-19 Socio-economic Recovery in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand Project**, funded by UN Women.



Feb



Mar

Organize **International Women's Day activities** in collaboration with women's networks in Chiang Khong district to celebrate, honor, and support women working for society and organizations that support women's roles.

A research framework is developed with the participation of Hmong women on **Hmong's beliefs and practices in accepting married daughters back home** after divorce. Supervise **interns from the Faculty of Social Sciences**, Thammasat University.



Apr



May

CFGF participate in the '**She's Possible**' campaign by **Central Department Store and Robinson Department Store** to receive donations from the **Central Retail Group**.

Organization Director Participates in Workshop Presenting CFGF's **Gender Equality Work** and Experiences in Collaboration with **Diakonia** in Cairo, Egypt. Supervise scholars from the University of Minnesota, USA.



Jun



Jul

The commencement of implementation of the **Gender Equality to End Gender-Based Violence Project**, funded by **UNFPA Thailand**.

CFGF celebrated its **26th Anniversary** by announcing its gratitude to supporters and networks via CFGF's social media platforms. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to empower and develop children and women.



Aug



Sep

The **WEE Center**, a learning and product sales center for women's groups and the community is officially opened.

Community leaders and committees from 7 pilot communities in Chiang Khong District gather for the workshop to **summarize and draw lessons from collaborative efforts on gender equality and child protection**.

Organization officers collaborate with Chiang Khong District Chief to attend the **Strengthening Climate Resilience in the lower Mekong sub-region GEDSI-strategy development workshop** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

CFGF received continuous funding from **Diakonia** to carry out the **Gender Equality project** among male community leaders.



Oct



Nov

CFGF carries out **campaign on 16 days activism to end gender-based violence**.

CFGF hosts **Kham Kong Run** (Run across the Mekong River) campaign to end gender-based violence.



Dec

# OUR STORIES

## Hua Sae-Wue - A Community Volunteer

Hua Sae-Wue, is a 29-year-old stateless Hmong woman residing in Kiew Doi Luang Village, Chiang Rai Province. Despite the challenges of statelessness and navigating life as a young mother of two, Hua embarked on a remarkable journey of self-discovery and empowerment.

As a stateless individual, she struggled with limited access to education, employment opportunities, and basic rights. Additionally, societal expectations confined her by traditional gender roles within the Hmong community, restricting her voice and decision-making power, particularly within the household. This further compounded her economic dependence on her husband, hindering her ability to contribute to the family income and achieve financial independence.

Surrounded by a network of supportive women in her Hmong village, Hua began to blossom. Notably, her husband's unwavering support for gender equality further empowered her to step outside traditional norms and pursue self-improvement. This combined support system emboldened Hua to not only advocate for her own rights but also seek opportunities for growth. Through a vocational skills training program offered by the Center for Girls, Hua gained valuable skills, paving the way for financial independence and overcoming the limitations imposed by her stateless status. Inspired by this experience, Hua joined the Mae Ying Chiang Khong Council, signifying her dedication to empowering other women and contributing to the collective well-being of her community.

Empowered by a supportive community, training, and her husband's unwavering encouragement, Hua transformed from a shy young woman into a vocal advocate for herself and others. The vocational skills program equipped her with the tools for financial independence, breaking free from societal limitations and economic dependence. Inspired by her own journey, Hua became a champion for gender equality and collective well-being within her community, actively contributing to the Mae Ying Chiang Khong Council and uplifting the lives of other women. Her exemplifies the transformative power of collective support, education, and self-belief in creating a ripple effect of positive change.

# OUR STORIES

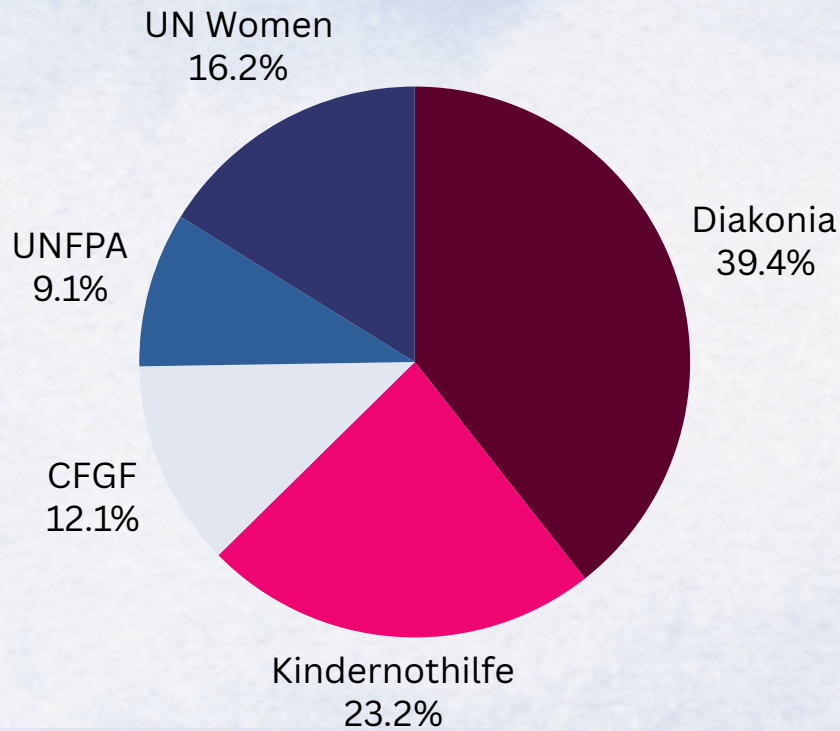
## Mali - A child advocate

Mali, an 18-year-old Hmong-Tai Lue girl, lives in Chiang Khong District. She grew up in a warm family with a mother who inspired and shaped her into a kind and helpful person. Mali recalls her childhood perspective on violence. She says that the most obvious form of violence she saw was the difference in upbringing between two groups of children. The first group received support and understanding from their families, while the second group was often scolded and pressured. This is the most vivid form of violence Mali experienced as a child.

Mali still sees violence against children happening frequently today. She gives an example of a situation that often brings her to tears: hearing the sound of neighbors arguing and the cries of a child trying to stop his father from using violence against his mother. Many times, Mali feels helpless. Although there are now laws and many agencies working to help with violence, violence in the family and community still happens repeatedly. Mali had the opportunity to join a project by following her mother to a training session organized in the community. After that, she was contacted by a staff member and asked to apply to be a child representative to drive the work on children's rights. Mali was already interested in this kind of activity, so she has been continuously involved in the project since 2022.

Participating in the project has made Mali more confident. She often volunteers to speak in front of the community on issues related to children. She wants to use the space that adults have given her to raise her voice and propose ways to address violence, including measures and supporting laws. She also wants adults to work together to create safe spaces for children. Mali further shared that her participation as a child representative in the project made her teachers see her potential. She was invited to join the "Friend Advisor" group, which provides educational guidance and a space to listen and support those who need help. Mali applies the skills and roles she learned as a leader to her role as a counselor. She listens, provides guidance on how to deal with problems, and helps find appropriate and correct solutions for those who come to her for help.

# COST & EXPENDITURE



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

**5,906,387.61 THB**

**161,632.84 USD**



# WORDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

I am so grateful to have had a chance to see how tirelessly the Center for Girls Foundation team work for their cause. I want to see children and women who are not afraid to use their voices, or better yet - a future in which they will not need to fight so hard for basic rights.

- A volunteer



“If female youth could be the agents of change, I think it would make the world a better place.

We need to listen to them.”

- Activist



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.

Please visit us on our website and follow us on social media by clicking on the icons. We would be happy if you share our work with your network.

