



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jerry Irvine
(202) 222-0811
irvine@globalfundforchildren.org

The Global Fund for Children Receives Over \$500,000 in Funding from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation

*GFC to use funds to focus on the plight of unaccompanied minors in Africa,
Central Asia, Central America, and Eastern Europe*

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2008 — The Global Fund for Children (GFC) is pleased to announce that the Howard G. Buffett Foundation has awarded GFC a grant of \$537,361 to support innovative community-based organizations that offer programs and assistance to unaccompanied minors—children who find themselves outside a home environment and without the care of parents or extended families. Unaccompanied minors are among the most vulnerable groups in society. The work will take place in Africa, Central America, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe.

“Through the generosity of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, we will be able to dramatically increase our support of innovative community-based organizations that have a huge impact on these unaccompanied minors,” said Maya Ajmera, GFC president and founder. “Grassroots organizations are the true foot soldiers on the front lines in the global effort to reach the world’s neediest children. These groups are providing structure and assistance to children previously unsupported by mainstream society.”

Funding from the Howard G. Buffet Foundation will allow GFC to inaugurate its grantmaking program in **Central Asia**. GFC will work with organizations that serve children and youth who have been involved with trafficking or forced labor or who live on the streets. GFC will focus its initial activities in **Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan**.

In **Africa**, GFC will concentrate its grantmaking on organizations that work with child soldiers, AIDS orphans, and children in post-conflict societies. Specific countries of initial focus are **Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda**.

In **Central America**, GFC will make grants to organizations that work with street children and child laborers or those that give children and youth the skills and security they need to become productive citizens. GFC plans to focus its grantmaking in **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama**.

In **Eastern Europe**, GFC will partner with grassroots organizations that assist street children, minor victims of trafficking, and children and youth at risk of discrimination as a result of the ethnic groups to which they belong. GFC will focus its work in **Bosnia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine**.

The Global Fund for Children utilizes a unique venture philanthropy approach to its grantmaking. GFC’s program officers are constantly seeking out community-based organizations that offer innovative ideas and programs that better the lives of the most vulnerable children and youth. GFC funds these organizations at a

crucial point in their evolution by providing strategic grants and strengthening services, allowing them to broaden their reach and serve more children.

About The Global Fund for Children

The Global Fund for Children's mission is to advance the dignity of children and youth around the world. GFC pursues its mission by making small grants to innovative community-based organizations working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and youth. To date, The Global Fund for Children has given 1,933 grants valued at more than \$10.7 million. These grants have served 323 community-based organizations in 66 countries. More than 1 million children have benefited from the work of The Global Fund for Children. www.globalfundforchildren.org