

PROGRAM OFFICER

Tara Sun Vanacore

EDUCATION

MA, American University
BA, Middlebury College

LANGUAGES

Mandarin

REGIONAL CONSULTANT

Piyanut Kotsan

EDUCATION

MA, University of Leeds
BA, Mahidol University
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LANGUAGES

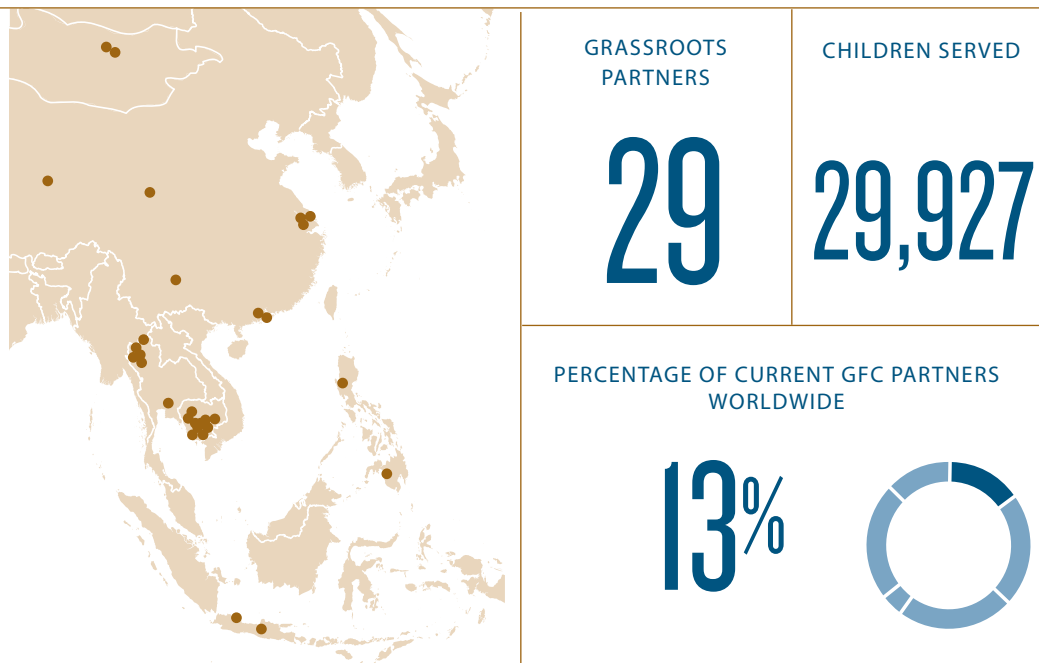
Lao, Thai

EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA

While The Global Fund for Children continuously measures its impact on children's lives—increasing the number of children receiving scholarships, improving school attendance figures, enhancing knowledge about HIV prevention—another vital aspect of its grassroots partners' work is their ability to mobilize collective action and influence public policy. Many of our partners' leaders could teach a master class in community organizing.

In October 2015, Iswanti, director of GFC partner **Yayasan Mitra ImaDei** in Jakarta, Indonesia, traveled to Washington, DC, to present on a GFC-led panel at the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit. During her presentation, Iswanti shared a photograph of a young girl named Ella holding a megaphone at a rally to end child labor. Soft-spoken and unsure of herself when she joined ImaDei, Ella—a domestic worker—is now outspoken and fearless.

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COUNTRIES Cambodia (9), China (8), Indonesia (2), Mongolia (2), Philippines (2), Thailand (6)

Regional statistics are current as of January 1, 2016.

GRANT INVESTMENTS

\$36.2M

GRASSROOTS PARTNERS

619

COUNTRIES

78

SNAPSHOT



On a visit to GFC partner Khemara in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, GFC program officer Tara Sun Vanacore (center) poses with a young girl and her grandmother. The girl, who has AIDS, lost both of her parents to the disease as well. Khemara provides community-based care to children affected by HIV/AIDS, including nonformal education, scholarships, food, health education, and medical check-ups.

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In addition to the vocational and educational training that she received at ImaDei's center, Ella learned to stand up for her rights. Her ability to bargain and negotiate will serve her well throughout her life.

ImaDei measures its impact by the number of youth who are in school. There, they can play, learn, and enjoy the childhood that they are entitled to rather than working for unscrupulous employers. But the organization is also proud of the partnerships it has formed with faith leaders, women's organizations, the International Labor Organization, and local government representatives. In 2015, the local government adopted and replicated one of ImaDei's environmental initiatives.

Partners across the region excel at this kind of collective action and advocacy. **Hong Kong Unison** regularly lobbies for the right to education and employment for ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. Through publishing white papers, conducting

research, and holding public forums, the organization helps to hold the government accountable to the United Nations, as well as to local residents.

And on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, GFC partner **Jom Hean Anagod (JHA)** increases trust with community members and government officials in Takhmao in a way that few are able to. Notably, JHA was the keynote speaker at a government and NGO alliance meeting held at the city hall in 2015. JHA used this platform to advocate for access to medical, legal, and employment services for its beneficiaries and to counteract stereotypes of the street children with whom it works.

Small, locally based organizations like our partners are uniquely positioned to deliver essential, life-changing services to the vulnerable children in their midst—but their ability to enact change on a larger scale makes them even more valuable to society as a whole. We're proud to support our partners in all their efforts, large and small.

REGIONAL FOCUSES

➔ EDUCATIONAL ACCESS & QUALITY

From the open plains of Mongolia to secluded villages in the Philippines, rural areas have few schools, and those that do exist struggle to retain students and provide quality education. Whether urban or rural, children face barriers to education, including the cost of school fees, lack of proper identification documents, and discrimination.

➔ MIGRANT, REFUGEE & DISPLACED CHILDREN

Natural disasters and conflict result in the displacement of millions of people, and rural families are increasingly migrating to cities in search of economic opportunity. Uprooted from their communities, children in these circumstances are at increased risk for trafficking, violence, and discrimination.

➔ NATURAL DISASTERS

Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand are especially prone to natural disasters—all three countries were affected by the 2004 tsunami, and subsequent disasters in the Philippines and Indonesia have slowed recovery. In addition to leaving children orphaned and traumatized, natural disasters significantly impact the quality and availability of healthcare, education, and other services.

➔ STREET CHILDREN

In many Asian urban areas, children live, play, work, and sleep on the streets, begging and performing menial tasks to provide for themselves and their families. Because of their transient status, street children fall through the cracks of government services and often have no access to education or healthcare.



More than 2 million people have fled from Burma to Thailand to escape civil war and political violence. Whether living in refugee camps or on the streets, immigrant children do not have official legal status and are at significant risk for trafficking, crime, drug abuse, and forced labor.

Baan Nana provides undocumented and stateless children on the Thai-Burma border with scholarships, food, and a safe place to live. Baan Nana's shelter uses a family model to give children a sense of belonging, security, and identity—invaluable care for children who have otherwise been marginalized by society.

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: THAILAND

Thailand's 2014 military junta, coupled with political changes in neighboring Burma, has made it difficult for small nonprofits to grow and thrive. But significant challenges related to migration and statelessness, trafficking, and child protection create a vast need for organizations that offer direct services to children in the country. As a result, we have seen remarkable innovation and resourcefulness from our grassroots partners in Thailand—as well as a distinct need for the support and capacity-building services we provide.

GFC has a strong and growing presence in Thailand, with six active partners, many of which use the arts to help children heal from trauma and gain new skills. Four of these groups serve refugee and migrant children living along the Thai-Burma border. **Friends Without Borders Foundation** uses alternative media production—including books, videos, and music—to promote and protect the rights of refugee children, and to bring tailored education to conflict-affected children from Burma.

GFC's newest partner in Thailand is the **Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Abuse Center** (ATCC), a much-needed resource in the tourist city of Pattaya, which has an international reputation for child prostitution. ATCC protects survivors of human trafficking, providing them with comprehensive services. Medical care, counseling, legal services, food, shelter, education—every need is addressed to help children heal from trauma and rebuild their lives.

CELEBRATING EVERYDAY HEROES: MAJOR AWARDS

Our partners regularly receive international recognition for their critical impact on children's lives. Grassroots leader Phymean Noun was awarded the 2015 World's Children's Prize for her courageous work educating and defending Cambodian children who live and scavenge in Phnom Penh's garbage dumps. Past recipients of the award, often called the Children's Nobel Prize, include Malala Yousafzai (2014) and Nelson Mandela (2005).

Phymean opened her first school in 2004 in Phnom Penh's largest municipal dump. Today, through **People Improvement Organization (PIO)**, Phymean and her team run three outreach schools where nearly 1,200 children receive education in addition to nutritious food, clean water, and healthcare. PIO also provides vocational training to older youth to help them break the generational cycle of poverty.

"As long as children live among trash, I cannot sit back and do nothing," said Phymean, reflecting on her World's Children's Prize nomination. A GFC partner since 2010, PIO graduated from GFC's support in December 2015.

Teen's Key was among five GFC partners that received the inaugural With and For Girls Award, a global award designed to identify and support strong, community-based, girl-driven organizations.

Teen's Key empowers young women involved in




Phymean Noun, founder of People Improvement Organization. © Alexandra Ellis/World's Children's Prize

or vulnerable to involvement in the sex industry in Hong Kong. Through outreach, legal advice, health services, peer support groups, capacity-building workshops, and counseling, Teen's Key equips them with the tools they need to transform their lives.

"Teen's Key is a platform for these young women and girls to realize their own potential, rebuild their lives without judgment, and learn to be leaders with the support of their peers. We are proud that girls are leaders at Teen's Key, not only 'beneficiaries,'" said founder Bowie Lam.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: HELPING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN LEARN AND THRIVE



 *Early childhood education class in Agusan del Sur. © Cartwheel Foundation*

Growing up during one of the longest-standing conflicts in the world, children in the southern Philippines have faced violence and instability that disrupts schooling and family life. This is especially true for indigenous communities, which have become increasingly impoverished and marginalized due to the conflict.

Cartwheel Foundation ensures that indigenous children have access to quality education that both respects and nurtures their culture and identity. The organization offers teacher trainings and helps communities implement culturally relevant educational initiatives, including bilingual preschools and college scholarship programs. Last year, Cartwheel won the Best Practices Award from UNESCO for its early childhood and elementary education program in Agusan del Sur; this geographically remote and isolated program was funded almost entirely by GFC's grant over the past six years. This year, Cartwheel is transitioning the program leadership to the community—a prime example of grassroots sustainability in action.