

# Adolescent Girls and Migration Project



## Capacity Development Grantmaking for Network Building and Advocacy to Champion Migrant Girls in Latin America

### Advancing the Rights of Migrant Girls

Global Fund for Children (GFC) works to protect and strengthen the rights of children and youth around the world and recognizes the extreme vulnerabilities migrant children, particularly girls, face. In Latin America, migrant girls flee their homes or communities to escape abuse and violence, many times encountering further victimization and trauma on their journey north.

GFC views gender equity as a fundamental human right that affects the ability of all children and youth to reach their full potential. Through the Adolescent Girls and Migration project, with support from the NoVo Foundation, GFC is partnering with leading migrant service and advocacy organizations in Guatemala, Mexico, and the US to build a transnational movement addressing migrant girls' needs and rights.

### Transnational Network Building for Advocacy

GFC believes in partner-led advocacy that equips children, youth, and their advocates to defend and demand their rights. To better protect migrant girls and strengthen their agency, grassroots organizations require knowledge, tools, and relationships that enable them to mainstream gender in migrant services, form alliances to serve migrants throughout their journey, and develop girl-centered advocacy for social change.

Leveraging its convening power, GFC brings partners together across borders to connect, learn, and grow with one another and to navigate complex social, legal, and humanitarian challenges.

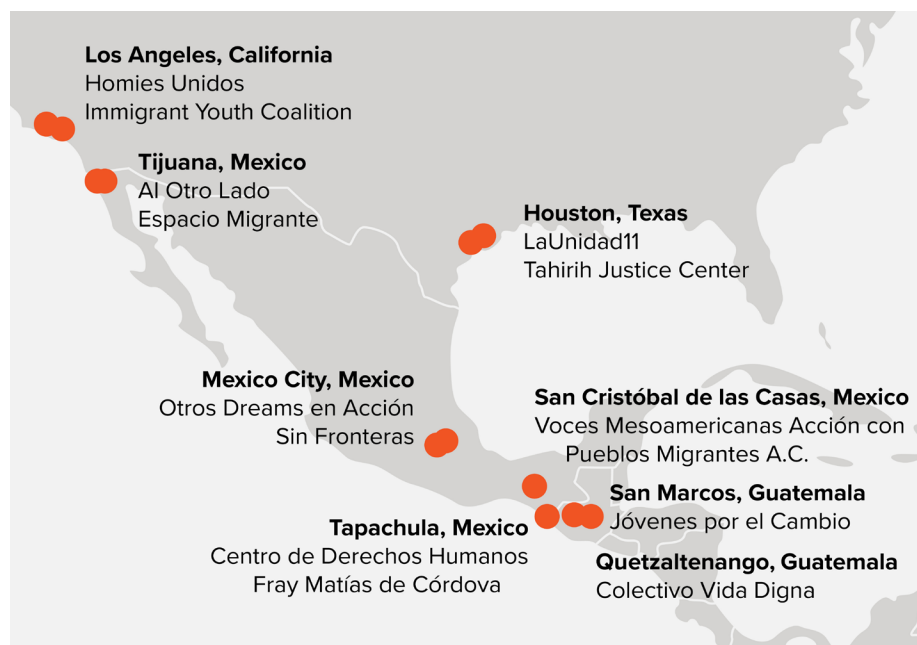
### Grantmaking for Capacity Development

GFC's unique model strengthens network partners' capacity to adapt to the migrant crisis as it unfolds. Through flexible core funding, partner organizations increase sustainability and innovation to face increased demand to respond to the unique needs of migrant girls. GFC also facilitates the opportunity to tackle critical challenges for growth through organizational capacity assessment, supplemental funding, and mentorship to strengthen institutional capacity in core areas like learning and evaluation, fundraising, and strategic planning.

***"The Tapachula meeting was very important for us, because besides knowing the struggles and realities of the migrants and the organizations in the Southern Border of Mexico, we realized that we are not alone, that there are people like us who dream of a better world. And that we can work together. Thanks to the meeting we are now developing transnational strategies for the protection of adolescent migrant girls in Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States. Now we are stronger."  
– Al Otro Lado***



## Our Transnational Network Partners



*"We have always worked with migrant girls and we did not know it . . .*

*Whenever they came to our organization, we saw them as part of a family or only as minors in need of protection. But thanks to this initiative we have learned to look at them, to understand them, to listen to them. Thanks to GFC we now understand that migrant girls are human beings with specific needs, dreams, and proposals."*  
– Sin Fronteras

GFC is proud to partner with organizations creating opportunities for and with migrant girls journeying north, who have been detained, have returned home, or remain in Mexico or the US and must adjust to a new life. Since the launch of this project, partners have created or expanded more than 20 community-based initiatives directly benefitting migrant girls and youth.

### Emerging Cross-Border Partnerships

In August 2018, GFC organized the first project convening in Tapachula, Mexico. There, Al Otro Lado, a binational legal services organization located in Tijuana and Southern California, met Colectivo Vida Digna from Guatemala and learned about its work supporting indigenous migrant women and girls.

Several months later, an Al Otro Lado staff attorney visited Vida Digna in Guatemala and formed a partnership to assist migrant children. The organizations co-developed "Know Your Rights" educational materials in Mayan languages to ensure indigenous communities can access critical information about seeking asylum. When children and youth are unable to receive asylum and face deportation to Guatemala, Al Otro Lado facilitates family reunification with Vida Digna, whose dedicated team member helps families prepare for the return of their child.

As Vida Digna grew its work with migrant girls, it recognized the many ways they suffered gender-based violence and launched a psychosocial support program in 2019 that draws upon Mayan indigenous knowledge and values. Vida Digna also creates a personalized education plan with each girl and grants scholarships so they may continue pursuing their dreams of studying and a better future.



### Join us!

Learn more, follow project updates, and find ways to support migrant girls' rights by visiting [globalfundforchildren.org](https://globalfundforchildren.org) and following #LibresYPoderosas on social media.