



# GLOBAL FUND FOR CHILDREN

## 2025 Midyear Impact Report



For more than 30 years, Global Fund for Children has worked hand-in-hand with local leaders to build a world where all children are safe, strong, and valued. Through investments of nearly \$80 million of flexible funding in more than 1,300 community-led organizations, GFC has helped bring about lasting change towards combating exploitation and gender-based violence, increasing access to education, pioneering youth-led grantmaking for climate adaptation, and more.

*Since July 2024, Global Fund for Children has granted **\$10 million** in flexible funding to **403** community partners in **41** countries.*

This month marks both the end of GFC's Financial Year on June 30, and halfway through the 2025 calendar year. At this moment, we are looking back at what your support has helped make possible so far this year and ahead at exciting new initiatives on the horizon.

## **#I Stand with Children: Emergency Response**

When the US government cut foreign aid funding in February, Global Fund for Children responded right away. As a first step, we contacted our partners around the world to assess the impact of the cuts and then started distributing emergency grants. In total, GFC distributed nearly \$500,000 grants to 28 partners impacted by the cuts.

While the funding cuts impacted GFC partners in every region where we work, we saw an acute need arise in Ukraine, where US government funding has had an outsized impact on the humanitarian aid network and where GFC continues to support a cohort of organizations working with internally displaced people.

In Ukraine, GFC's emergency relief grants helped vital partners keep their doors open—covering essentials like rent, heating, and the salaries of essential staff who run safe spaces for children, as well as fund critical recovery efforts following the shelling in Odesa, ensuring safety and stability for the community.



Here are a few examples of what emergency funding made possible:

- **Innovation Action NGO:** covered office rent, key staff salaries, and delivery of 75 integration and development activities—ranging from art therapy to English classes—supporting the emotional wellbeing and social adaptation especially for vulnerable children.
- **See With Your Heart:** was able to pay teachers and coordinators for the “School for Everyone” online program that supports 90 teenagers and young people with severe developmental disabilities, ensuring continued care and education.
- **Fight for Right:** used the emergency grant to provide staff support, psychosocial services, and emergency aid for children with disabilities in frontline areas.

Read more about the We Stand with Children emergency response:

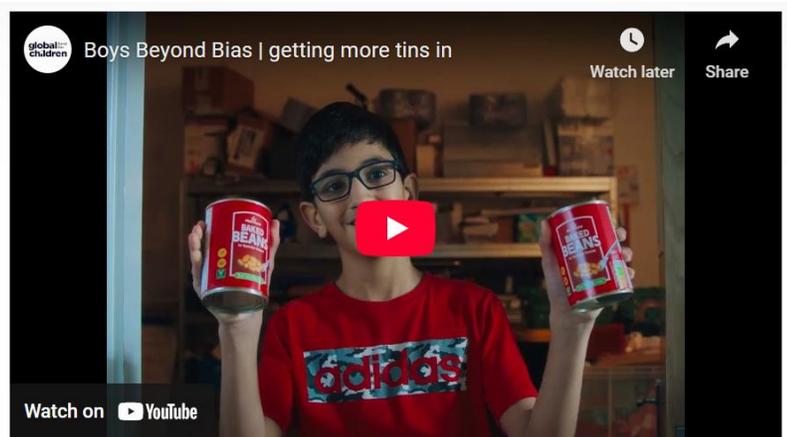
<https://globalfundforchildren.org/we-stand-with-children/>

## Boys Beyond Bias: Update on our Healthy Masculinities Campaign

In early April we launched the #BoysBeyondBias campaign and four short films that were co-created with boys and young men from GFC’s partners in Bradford, England.

This campaign is part of Global Fund for Children’s recently expanded programs with young men and boys focused on developing healthy masculinities and gender justice in the UK, Central America, and the US. The short films are aimed at dismantling negative narratives about boys and young men.

One participant, 16-year-old Jacob from Worth Valley Young Farmers Club, said: *“I think it was important to make the film to show communities and individuals that the stereotype of today’s youth isn’t always true and to show that the youth is a key part of our world. I believe social action encourages friends to join in and give it a go, because they see some of us older lot as role models and they see us doing it and think well if they’re doing that I can do that too.”*



Watch the films and read more: <https://globalfundforchildren.org/boys-beyond-bias/>.

## Looking Ahead:

We are proud to share three new initiatives in development and launching over the coming months that build on Global Fund for Children’s expertise and expand our impact into new regions and focus areas.

### **Resistir Gozando (Joyful Resistance)**

Global Fund for Children is raising resources for a new youth-designed initiative that will provide long-term, flexible support to LGBTQIA+ youth-led groups across Latin America. *Resistir Gozando* comes out of recognizing both the significant progress made in Latin American towards protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ communities and youth, and the challenges LGBTQIA+ children and youth still face today. Through safe spaces, creative advocacy, healing-centered services, and intergenerational dialogue, *Resistir Gozando* will strengthen the capacity and leadership of young people who are boldly reimagining their communities.

To bring this initiative to life, Global Fund for Children aims to raise \$800,000–\$1 million over three years and has an initial goal of \$150,000 to launch the initiative. The full concept note is available here: <https://globalfundforchildren.org/our-collaborative-funds/>

### **Thriving Through Play**

In partnership with LEGO Foundation, Global Fund for Children is launching Thriving Through Play this year to promote the mental health and well-being of children in Kenya and Uganda through the power of play. A three-year initiative, Thriving Through Play specifically aims to support children, aged 6–12, in crisis-affected settings, such as refugee settlements and host communities.

Global Fund for Children staff recently completed a participatory scouting journey resulting in the selection of nine new community-led organizations, which will join our existing cohort of 11 alumni partners in East Africa. The Thriving Through Play cohort of 20 partners is a diverse group of community-led organizations that bring valuable community knowledge and innovative approaches to play-based mental health programming – including mentorship, dance movement therapy, school-based counselling, art, music, and storytelling.

We look forward to sharing more about these incredible partners and Thriving Through Play’s impact!

### **Survivor Activist Fund**

This year we launched a new participatory, survivor-led grantmaking fund in Europe to provide financial resources and trauma-informed support to





survivor activists and survivor-led grassroots groups and organizations engaging in activism to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSA/V).

Geographically centered in France, Romania, and Spain where there is a strong presence of activism and feminist networks, the Survivor Activist Fund will be fully survivor-led in design and implementation with engagement with local communities and a particular focus on reaching the most marginalized activists. The fund will work to shift power within the wider CSA/V movement to survivor activists, increasing their resources and strategic influence to effectively and sustainably create change.

**Thank you for supporting Global Fund for Children!**