



# Global Fund for Children

## Spring 2026 Impact Report

As we move through 2026, we're proud to share a snapshot of what partnership looks like in practice. In this report, you'll see how community-led organizations in Ukraine are maintaining safe spaces for children and families in the face of ongoing conflict. You'll also hear directly from our partners about how our trust-based approach drives growth through the lens of our 2025 Grantee Perception Report, and hear about two corporate partners who are giving back to their local and global communities.

*None of this would be possible without your support. Thank you for rallying behind children and young people around the world.*

## Standing with Ukraine: Community-led Resilience in the Face of War

As Russia's war on Ukraine enters its fourth year, the children and young people who have grown up amid conflict continue to demonstrate extraordinary courage and resilience. Across the country, young people are going to school, finding moments of joy, supporting one another, and imagining a future beyond conflict. **And at every step, GFC's community-based partners are there**, not as outsiders parachuting in, but as trusted members of their own communities who know exactly what their neighbors need.

Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, **Global Fund for Children has sent more than 170 emergency grants totaling over \$3.3 million** to support 76 community-based organizations across Ukraine and neighboring countries, including Hungary, Poland, Moldova, and beyond. Because of our flexible grants, partners can respond to shifting needs in real time - whether that requires installing a generator to keep the lights on during a blackout, or renovating a building to create a long-term safe space for displaced children.

Children taking part in an art therapy class at Lyceum Educator, photo provided by Lyceum Educator



**GFC's work in Ukraine centers on the young people who are most at risk of being left behind:** children whose education has been disrupted, children and youth living with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ youth navigating both the dangers of war and the added burden of discrimination. In all these spaces, our partners know what is needed. GFC walks alongside them with the resources and support they need to lead – and this makes all of the difference.

In the city of Vinnytsia, the **We Are Close Crisis Center** was built on the belief that every mother and child deserves safety, dignity, and a community that surrounds them with care.

Through trauma-informed safe spaces, the Center offers psychosocial support, legal aid, and protection services. During prolonged power outages, their doors stay open. When families have nowhere to turn, We Are Close is there.

**GFC's flexible funding has helped the Center maintain its infrastructure and expand its capacity to serve more families, even as the demands on their team have grown.**



*The two-year grant we received from Global Fund for Children effectively saved our center from closure and **enabled us to support hundreds of women, children, and young people in crisis.** Without this support, we would not have been able to continue our work."*

*Yulia Diakun, Crisis Centre Manager, We Are Close.*

Because of GFC's support, children and their families are receiving the emotional and physical support and services they need to stay safe and heal.

We Are Close is one of many community-led partners across Ukraine through which GFC is creating the stable, safe environments that children need to learn, connect, and thrive.

Click [HERE](#) to read more on GFC's work in Ukraine.



Photo: A child supported by GFC partner We are Close Crisis Center

# The Results are In: GFC Gets Top Marks as Trusted, Valued and Supportive

At Global Fund for Children, our partners are not just recipients of funding – they are the experts, the leaders, and the driving force behind the change we seek in the world. That's why every few years, **we commission a Grantee Perception Report (GPR) through the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP)**, a nonprofit research organization. The GPR gathers candid, anonymous feedback from our partners on everything from our funding approach to the quality of our relationships. It benchmarks our results against 300+ other funders, giving us an honest picture of how we're doing compared to our peers. **Across the board, GFC received top marks in our impact, grantmaking, relationship, and communication with our partners.**

Three key themes that emerged from the survey are:



**Partners feel genuinely understood.** Across the board, GFC's partners highly rated our understanding of their work, their communities, and the challenges they face. Among funders similar to GFC in size and approach, **GFC scored in the top 2% of funders for awareness of the challenges partners face**, a reflection of the trust-based, relationship-driven approach that sits at the heart of how we work.



**Better together: the power of peer learning.** GFC's convenings consistently stood out as one of the most valued aspects of our partnership model. **Partners rated their convening experience at or above 6.5 out of 7 across every measure** – including gaining knowledge and skills, building solidarity with peers, and feeling re-energized and inspired in their work.



**GFC goes beyond the grant.** 97% of GFC partners surveyed received some form of GFC's nonfinancial support – such as capacity building, communications assistance, peer learning, and convenings. **GFC's special combination of flexible funding, coupled with in-person and virtual strategic support, greatly strengthens the capabilities of the organization and furthers the impact on their community.**



GFC partners at a capacity assessment session as part of the Thriving Through Play initiative



## A Closer Look: What GFC's Partnership Made Possible for Warrior Zulu Nation

The data from our partners speaks for itself, but behind every data point is a real organization whose work has been transformed by what GFC partnership makes possible. From flexible funding and emergency grants to convenings, trainings, and peer connections, **here's a closer look at what that support looks like in practice.**

Based in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, **Warriors Zulu Nation** became a GFC partner in 2021 as part of the HEEL Initiative, promoting healthy masculinities across Central America. Brothers Kelvin and Juan Carlos Enamorado used their lived experience of growing up in Chamelecón - a community historically affected by gang violence- to start Warriors Zulu Nation, utilizing breakdancing to give boys and young men who are at risk of being recruited by gangs a safe place, a creative outlet, and a new pathway.

Warriors Zulu Nation has become one of GFC's stand out partners - using every available opportunity to raise their profile and funding to build greater impact to decrease violence and harmful gender norms in their community.

Over the last five years, GFC has invested an average of \$27,000/year in Warriors Zulu Nation, which includes both unrestricted grants and funds dedicated for specific purposes at key moments, such as an emergency grant after they lost USAID funding.

At each step, Warriors Zulu Nation has leveraged GFC's support for even greater impact. For example, in 2022 GFC gave them a \$1,300 grant to participate in the Central American Donors Forum, where they met Organización para el Desarrollo Empresarial Femenino - a development organization which later became one of Warriors Zulu Nation's key donors.

With unrestricted funding from GFC and support from ODEF, Warriors Zulu Nation invested in a new physical space they call Casa Warriors. The move from a small rented office, to a fit for purpose space has been a great improvement for their programs. Today Casa Warriors serves a core group of 50 young people with dance and art workshops, academic support, and dedicated reflection spaces that foster dialogue - all towards advancing gender justice for the community.



In addition to money, GFC has provided non-financial support including organizational strengthening workshops, virtual trainings, and peer convenings. These engagements have led to greater impact – such as unique collaboration opportunities with their peers. During the HEEL Initiative convening in 2024, Warriors Zulu Nation collaborated with two other organizations in the cohort to create a theatrical production addressing healthy masculinities and gender justice, which was performed in public spaces and youth centers in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Through the collaboration, they also developed a youth engagement methodology that continues to be shared with organizations across the region.

After five years of GFC’s investment – with both cash and nonfinancial strategic support – Warriors Zulu Nation’s budget has grown 182% allowing them to expand their infrastructure, programs, and staff capacity. They have reimagined their programmatic approach – moving from reaching 1,700+ children a year primarily through one-off activities, to serving a core group of 50 regular attendees through structured, long-term programs, and a broader group of approximately 500 young people, through short term engagements such as performances, reflection circles, and festivals. Lastly, they have leveraged partnerships and funding opportunities leaving them well-positioned to navigate risks and challenges ahead.



*“From the outset, GFC’s support – particularly through flexible, unrestricted funding – has enabled Warriors to prioritize not only project implementation, but also essential processes of organizational strengthening, collective care, governance, strategic planning, and long-term sustainability...It is a partnership that has cultivated trust, strengthened collective aspirations, and affirmed that, even amid profound challenges, investing in community leadership and trust-based cooperation can transform realities and sustain long-term processes of social change.”*

*– Juan Carlos Enamorado, Co-Founder and Executive Director,  
Warriors Zulu Nation*

Warriors Zulu Nation is just one of many examples of how GFC’s trust-based approach and unique methodology leads to stronger organizations, and ultimately safer and stronger children and young people.

# Investing in Community-led Change: GFC's Corporate Partners

GFC's corporate partners believe in the potential and power of community-led change. Each with a unique approach to engaging with GFC, **our global network of corporate changemakers are making a difference in the lives of children and young people around the world.**

## Meet our newest corporate partners:



Black Tomato is an award-winning luxury travel company that believes travel is about more than destinations – it is about engaging with communities as global citizens. By making a donation to GFC for each trip booked, they have made investing in young people a core part of how they do business.



Ivy House, one of the UK's leading leadership development organizations, believes that better leaders make a better world. Throughout their partnership, their team has held a crowd funding campaign to raise money for GFC and provided pro bono coaching services to the GFC Team.

Both Black Tomato and Ivy House see their partnership with GFC as a way of living their organizational values, and offering important benefits for their employees through connections to GFC's work – virtually and in-person – including unique experiences like joining the 2026 GFC Learning Tour to Kolkata, India to see the impact of community-led change up close.

**Is your company a good match for Global Fund for Children's corporate engagement program?** Reach out to Rebecca Rubenstein, [rrubenstein@globalfundforchildren](mailto:rrubenstein@globalfundforchildren), to start making an impact through partnership.

**Thank you for your commitment to young people in Ukraine, Honduras, and everywhere in between who are making a difference in their communities!**

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